

Musical Instrument of the Past Has Found Favor With Prominent American Composers.

The viole d'amour is a musical instrument which had become practically obsolete until Charles Martin Loeffler, the American composer, wrote a part for it in his dramatic poem, "La Morte de Tintagiles." The instrument had not been recognized since Bach placed it in his orchestration of "St. John's Passion" and Meyerbeer employed it to accompany an air in the first act of "Les Huguenots." The unique feature of the viole d'amour is its system of sympathetic strings. Beneath its seven strings which are sounded with a bow, are stretched seven steel strings supposed to vibrate with the bowed ones and enhance the power of the sound. The strings are tuned strictly in the key of D major, the lowest string being the D, one tone below the Violin E string. Berlioz speaks of the instrument's "sweet, seraphic tone," It is said to be remarkably adapted to playing chords, arpeggios and harmonics.

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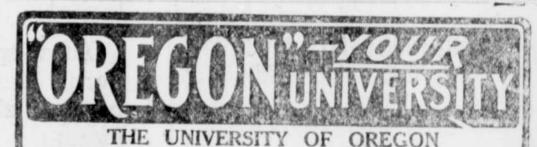
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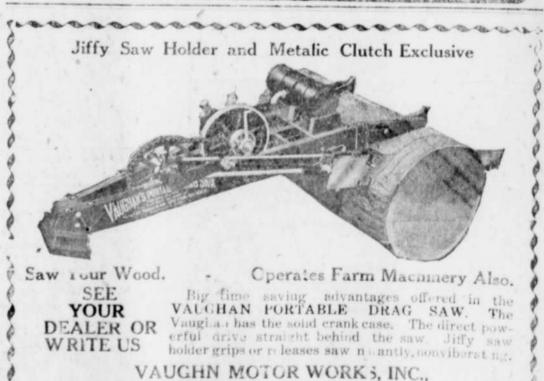
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