

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

ERNA B. SALM

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Cover Feature

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 1995: ERNA B. SALM

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Erna Salm as Leisure Wordler of the Month for December, 1995. This event is sponsored by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Erna Salm was born in Darmstadt, West Germany, where she received her elementary and high school education. She enhanced her musical talents at the Darmstadt Academy for Music by studying with Wilhelm Hutter and Friedrich Rehbock. After receiving her teaching degree she continued her training at the Staatliche Academy for Music in Berlin, studying with Leonid Kreutzer and Arthur Schnabel and achieving her "Konzert Degree." Subsequently, she left Germany during the Hitler period, was invited and accepted a scholarship to study in Rome, Italy with maestro Alfredo Casella.

In 1939 Erna and husband Arthur with their young child left for America where she supported the family by giving piano lessons. She made her house a musical center in Chicago with her 'House concerts' which became a highlight in the musical life of the city.

The Salm family eventually consisted of three daughters and one son. Daughter Susan, an accomplished cellist, has shared many a duo presentation with her mother in many parts of the world, including Leisure World.

While in residence in Chicago, Erna was accepted as a student of the renowned Rudolph Ganz. Subsequently, she and Professor Ganz were music professors at Roosevelt University.

Erna has traveled to many areas of the world including Europe, Israel, Mexico and India. A specific highlight of one of these trips was the invitation by the Mayor of Darmstadt for Erna to present a concert in her birthplace in 1992. She received terrific reviews and letters of commendation.

Madame Salm has given of herself in the musical and cultural life of Leisure World and has been a participant in Hadassah, ORT and B'nai B'rith activities. When asked about her most important and personally satisfying things or accomplishments, Erna responds with "my friends, my children, my music."

It is only fair to conclude with the words of Dr. Frederic H. Young of the Towers after an Erna Salm concert in 1992 — "She is a community treasure in our midst. May we hear her for many recitals to come."