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**Title:** “About the Pianist” by Allen Tanner

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## ABOUT THE PIANIST....

ALLEN TANNER was born in 1898 in to a large musical family of <sup>^</sup> Mt. Vernon in Southern Illinois. Endowed at earliest age with absolute pitch, he was taught the rudiments of Music by an Aunt, an accomplished pianist, acquiring also a general knowledge of Music from a cousin, Mabel Pavey, active for years throughout the state as a skilled and cultured musician.

WHEN SIXTEEN he was taken to Chicago, again by a relative residing there, whose interests were also musical. Soon he was awarded a scholarship to the classes of Victor Heinze one of the noted Leschetizky pupils, and it was not long before he <sup>played</sup> appeared in public. He was heard by Margaret Anderson, Editor of the renowned "Little Review", who was lavish in praise of his gifts, and art, drawing him enthusiastically into the famous group surrounding that now legendary avant-garde magazine.

DEPARTING SOON AFTERWARD for New York, he <sup>appeared in many recitals</sup> was immediately engaged by Rigo Bogislav (Mrs. Riccardo Martin) to assist <sup>vocal and piano</sup> her in joint recitals of unusual and rarely heard music. There followed invitations from Mesdames Alda, D'Alvarez, Leblanc-Maeterlinck and others, to participate in concerts of modern French and Spanish music. <sup>also</sup> He appeared also in <sup>that city</sup> solo recitals, playing in the distinguished musical salons of New York and throughout the East.

HIS GIFTS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION of several eminent musicians, and under the sponsorship of such as Myra Hess, Artur Schnabel, Paul Kochanski and Karol Szymanowski he soon left for Europe with an enthusiastic letter of commendation from Alexander Siloti, the pupil of Liszt and teacher of Rachmaninoff.

IN BERLIN he became a scholar of Leonide Kreutzer, going later to Paris where Mme. Chailley-Richez, an assistant to Cortot prepared him for lessons with that Master.

AFTER YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITY in the European music world, he returned to his native land in 1934, where he has since lived, played and taught and where he has taken up residence again permanently, *COACHING piano students in concert repertory.*