

JOSEF F. EMONTS, CELLIST, WAS 70

Ex-Philharmonic Musician
Dies on Long Island

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Jan. 26—Josef F. Emonts, former first cellist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, died at his home here Friday of a heart ailment. He was 70 years old and lived at 1281 Little Neck Avenue.

Mr. Emonts, a native of Belgium, studied, under scholarships, at the Royal Conservatory and graduated with awards in cello, compositions and chamber music.

Mr. Emonts was a member of a trio that included Camille Saint-Saens, the French composer and pianist, that toured North Africa in 1921. It was reported that Saint-Saens, who was stricken in Algiers on Dec. 16, 1921, died in Mr. Emonts's arms.

When Mr. Emonts arrived in this country in 1925, he was engaged as first cellist with the New York Symphony Orchestra which later merged with the New York Philharmonic. He played with the orchestra for about 25 years and also was first cellist with the Firestone Symphony Orchestra for 21 years.

He retired from the Firestone orchestra in 1955.

Mr. Emonts played under such orchestra leaders as Bruno Walter and Arturo Toscanini, and was cello soloist under Walter Damrosch in the late nineteen-twenties.

Among Mr. Emonts's prize souvenirs were pieces of batons that Toscanini broke during rehearsals and performances.

He joined the music faculty of Adelphi University in 1953 and helped to organize its symphony orchestra. He was also active in the organization of the Massapequa Symphony Orchestra and the West Hempstead Symphony Society on Long Island and performed as a soloist at some of the concerts. He also taught cello for many years at his home here.

Mr. Emonts is survived by his widow, the former Elizabeth Sirois, and a daughter by his first marriage, to the former Mary O'Neill. That marriage ended in divorce. His second wife, the former Eleanor G. Stock, died.