

Pauline Chotzinoff, 73, Widow Of Critic and Sister of Heifetz

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Pauline Chotzinoff, sister of Jascha Heifetz and widow of Samuel Chotzinoff, the pianist and critic who was music director of the National Broadcasting Company, died yesterday of cancer at her home, at 171 West 57th Street. She was 73 years old.

Mrs. Chotzinoff was highly regarded as a pianist, and was praised by Arturo Toscanini.

As the friend of many musicians and hostess of gatherings for musicians and composers since the 1920's she became well known in the music world for her charm and her considerable knowledge of music.

She was urged to play professionally but refused. Her daughter, Anne Grossman, said that one reason for her refusal to play publicly was her shyness.

Even at gatherings at her home she would play only for those she had known for a long time.

Mrs. Chotzinoff, who was born in Vilna, Lithuania, came to the United States in 1917 and became a citizen 10 years later. In later years she told how she became so rattled during the questioning when she became a citizen that when she was asked what the duties of the Mayor of New York were, she replied: "To see that everything is kept hotsy-totsy."

Another story Mrs. Chotzinoff told about herself was the time she found herself at a gathering seated next to Albert Einstein. To make conversation she said she had heard he was "interested in arithmetic."

The mathematician asked her if she was interested in mathematics, and she replied she had studied geometry.

"Plane geometry?" he asked. "Is there fancy geometry?" she replied.

During the 1930's she and her sister, Elza, who later married S.N. Behrman, the playwright, were photographed for Vogue.

Mrs. Chotzinoff is survived, in addition to her brother, sister and daughter, by a son, Blair, and four grandchildren—Robin, Jennifer and Marina Chotzinoff, and Lisa Grossman.