



# SOUVENIR

Winter 2023-24

## Maud Powell, Pioneer American Violinist, 2d edition

*“[T]he books belong in the library of every violin lover.” —Tully Potter*

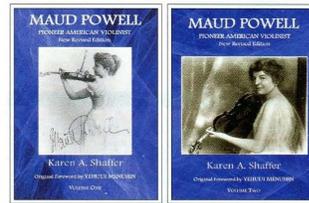


*“... she practically invented the ‘American violinist’ and surmounted the hurdles placed in the way of women to bring good music to remote corners of North America and even South Africa.”*

*“This new edition is vastly better and more informative than the original, with fascinating details of Powell’s indefatigable touring.”*

### Reviews

#### BOOKS



#### Maud Powell: Pioneer American Violinist Karen A. Shaffer

349PP & 401PP ISBN 9798803490531  
MAUD POWELL SOCIETY \$25/VOLUME

If, like Karen Shaffer, you are going to devote a good chunk of your life to a violinist, Maud Powell (1867–1920) is a good choice. Though a pupil of Dancla, Schradieck and Joachim, she practically invented the ‘American violinist’ and surmounted the hurdles placed in the way of women to bring good music to remote corners of North America and even South Africa. She might seem as tough as old boots but her heart gave out at 52 – had she lived to, say, 60 we might have had concerto recordings.

As it is, we have enough 78rpm tracks to fill four CDs from this doughty lady who was the Victor company’s first ‘Red Seal’ violinist. They show that she could play

virtually anything, but only Bériot’s Seventh Concerto is at all extended. No Sibelius or Tchaikovsky Concerto: she unveiled both to America and was first to play the Dvořák in New York. She premiered works by Aulin, Bruch and Saint-Saëns in the States and might have introduced the Elgar but found it empty and pompous – and Novello asked for \$1,000.

Shaffer first wrote about Powell in the 1980s, collaborating with Neva Garner Greenwood (who died before publication); but she was denied access to important documentation that has since become available, and the Internet has brought other dimensions. This new edition is vastly better and more informative than the original, with fascinating details of Powell’s indefatigable touring. I think she misses one Powell US premiere: Lalo’s G major.

The two volumes are not consecutively paginated and each has the same index. Volume Two has a discography. More than 100 half-tones are reasonably reproduced – my favourite is the full-length portrait of Powell with violin on page 61 of Volume Two. The price is amazingly low and the books belong in the library of every violin lover.

TULLY POTTER



Maud Powell c.1900

# Maud Powell, Pioneer American Violinist

New, Revised Edition

Karen A. Shaffer

Two Volumes, Richly illustrated

Available NOW in paperback on

Amazon.com (worldwide)

Visit: [maudpowell.org/home](http://maudpowell.org/home)

## — Readers' Comments —

It has been a while since I last read the first edition, but this has made me fall in love with Maud all over again. I'm impressed once again with your lovely, evocative writing style throughout, such as your descriptions of the places where Maud grew up and travelled. . . . I also appreciate the wealth of information about the history of music, of violin playing, of instruments, of European and American culture, etc. that is folded into the story. . . . You are protecting all that firsthand, eye witness information from slipping through the cracks of dusty history to oblivion, and brought it all into a powerful, coherent whole.

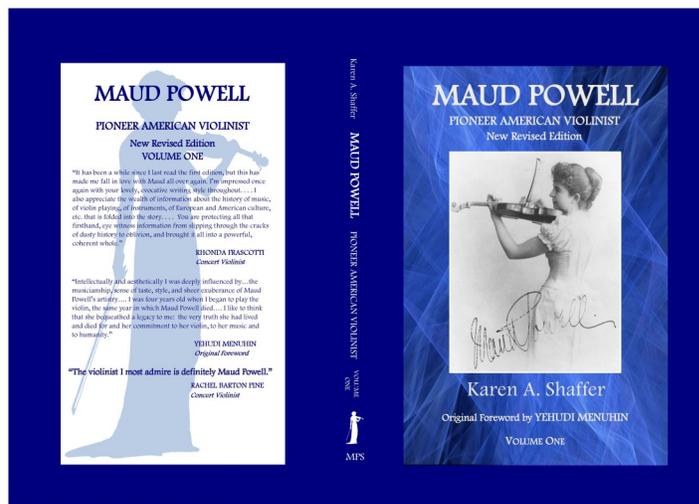
— Rhonda B. Frascotti, Concert Violinist

These two volumes are magnificent books! I learned so much from your new biography of Maud and I applaud you for the herculean task you have undertaken these many decades to amass the splendid collection of details about her amazing life. Your writing is beautiful and engaging so that the history of this time and this great artist comes alive.

— Jody Gatwood, Concert Violinist

Congratulations on a fabulous new second edition of Maud Powell's biography. I am so impressed with the new material. . . . I have learned more about American music history from your Maud Powell biographies than from most singular histories of American music.

— Robert Hanson, Composer/Conductor



Volumes I & II Published April 2022 by  
The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education

## What's New?

Over 100 images, original formal & informal photographs.

Insights and anecdotes from Maud and Godfrey Turner's draft memoir, including the story of how they met, their extraordinary partnership, and new tales of her favorite violin and bow.

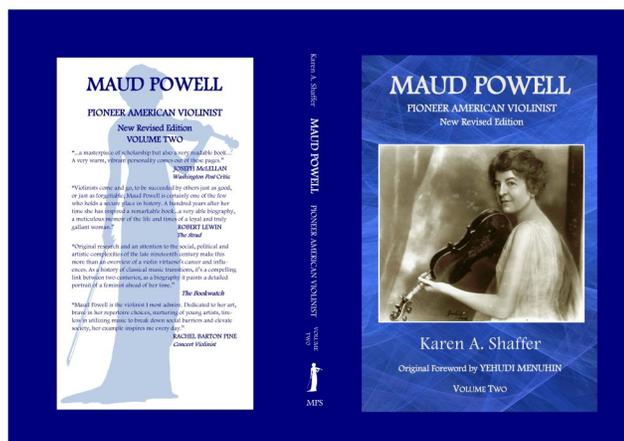
The dramatic story of Powell's American premiere of the Sibelius violin concerto and correspondence with Sibelius.

The complete story of Maud Powell's American premiere of the Tchaikovsky violin concerto and of her world premiere of Coleridge-Taylor's violin concerto.

Powell's friendship with Gustav Mahler, Antonin Dvorak, Amy Beach, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Henry Schradieck, Susan B. Anthony, and many more.

Maud Powell's World: Important timelines of Maud's era — including Women in Music & the Arts, Woman's suffrage and rights, Establishment of orchestras and concert halls, Establishment of Music Instruction in North America, Music Conservatories Founded by women, Science & Technology.

Appendices: Concertos premiered. MP's transcriptions, original compositions, music analyses, works dedicated to her. Complete discography. Extensive notes. Achievements of The Maud Powell Society.



Maud Powell is the violinist I most admire. Dedicated to her art, brave in her repertoire choices, nurturing of young artists, tireless in utilizing music to break down social barriers and elevate society, her example inspires me every day.

— Rachel Barton Pine, Concert Violinist

## “Maud Powell and Jean Sibelius, Legacy of a Friendship”

Maud Powell’s American premieres of the Tchaikovsky and Sibelius violin concertos remain among her most enduring and best-loved contributions to the violin repertoire. Her biographer, Karen Shaffer, was given the opportunity to highlight the story of Maud Powell’s friendship with Sibelius formed during her daring premiere of the Finnish composer’s daunting violin concerto. **Karen’s article appeared in the January issue, 2024, of *The Strad*.**

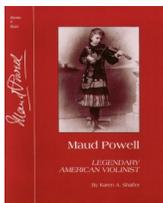


Coleridge-Taylor, left, Maud Powell, third from the left, Norfolk Music Festival, 1910

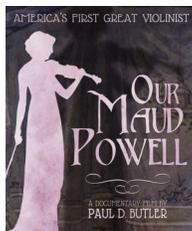
The complete story is told in Karen’s new, revised edition of *Maud Powell, Pioneer American Violinist*. For those among you who have read Karen Shaffer’s updated, two-volume biography of Maud Powell, you already know the story of her role in the ultimate success of the Sibelius Violin Concerto in D minor (see Chapter 24). But for readers of *The Strad*, the international violin magazine, Karen’s feature article in the January issue is proving to be a revelation. From her first encounter with the score in 1906, Maud Powell understood the greatness, originality and elemental beauty of the concerto. She premiered it in the US with the NY Philharmonic, shocking and bewildering critics. Not put off by some negative reviews, she continued to champion the work, introducing it to audiences throughout the country. **The Powell-Sibelius story is one of a valued friendship that gave the world one of the most popular violin concertos of all time.**

## Maud Powell Energizes Young Violinists

In Autumn 2023, we sent 150 books for young readers – *Maud Powell, Legendary American Violinist* – to the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) in Elgin, Illinois, hopefully inspiring a new generation of young musicians with Maud Powell’s life and art. We also sent the books to the 408 Fine Arts Factory in Peru, IL and to the Aurora Historical Society for distribution to young people. More books are available from the Maud Powell Society upon request.



## “Our Maud Powell” Inspires All



Paul Butler’s excellent documentary “*Our Maud Powell*” is still available on DVD for \$20 through the Maud Powell Society and remains a high point of inspiration for all who view it.

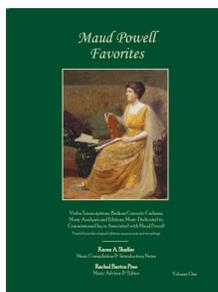
## Pamela Blevins Presents . . .

*Signature* founder/editor Pamela Blevins introduced the life and music of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) to eager listeners at the Transylvania County Public Library, Brevard, NC, on October 17, 2023. Her presentation, entitled “**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, A New World Is Coming,**” featured images and samples of his lyrical, dramatic, passionate music which captivated her audience.

Born to an English mother and an African father, Coleridge-Taylor grew up in London. He played the piano and violin and was hailed by Charles Villiers Stanford as one of his most gifted composition students at the Royal College of Music. His cantata “Scenes from The Song of Hiawatha” cantata trilogy became more popular in England than Handel’s “Messiah.” Maud Powell made his acquaintance in 1898 while in London. She was one of the first to perform his “Gypsy Song” and “Gypsy Dance” in England as well as America. After their meeting at the Norfolk Music Festival in Connecticut in 1910, Coleridge-Taylor composed his sole violin concerto for Maud Powell, which she premiered at the 1912 Festival.

The more complete story of Maud Powell’s friendship with Coleridge-Taylor is set out in the new, revised biography *Maud Powell, Pioneer American Violinist*, available worldwide via Amazon.com. The story of his setting of “Deep River” and Maud Powell’s transcription of it is in *Maud Powell Favorites* and the music can be heard on the *Naxos* reissue of her recordings.

## Maud Powell Favorites upon request



We are making efforts to get *Maud Powell Favorites* into the hands of violin players, students and teachers by **offering it upon request with a donation of any denomination to the Society.** New interest has been aroused in Maud’s transcriptions of Coleridge-Taylor’s “Deep River” and J. Rosamond Johnson’s “Nobody Knows the Trouble I See.”

Numerous performances have been given throughout the country and can be found on YouTube. Of course, **Rachel’s CD “American Virtuosa: Tribute to Maud Powell,”** is the gold standard for performances of the music in *Maud Powell Favorites*.

— A New Discovery —



Just uploaded on The Maud Powell Society website — a newly discovered, fascinating article by Maud Powell revealing the hard reality of her life on tour.

Catalog No.: MPA 0049

**A DAY ON THE ROAD**

**Maud Powell Relates Experiences That Show What the Musical Artist Has to Contend with En Route**

**Published in *Musical America*, April 10, 1915**

[www.maudpowell.org/MaudPowell/CollectedWritings](http://www.maudpowell.org/MaudPowell/CollectedWritings)

— Noted in brief —

- **WHAT'S NEW** on The Maud Powell Society web site? **Maud Powell/Collected Writings** includes **Maud Powell's program notes, articles and many interviews with more to come. Powell's updated Discography & a Chronology of Recording Sessions are at Maud Powell/Recordings. Maud Powell's known concert dates can now be found under "Maud Powell"/Tour Schedule. Our web address remains [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org) .**
- **Signature** editor **Pamela Blevins' biography *Ivor Gurney and Marion Scott, Song of Pain and Beauty***, details the life and work of these two important figures in British music. To purchase: Contact Pamela Blevins at [pblevins@erols.com](mailto:pblevins@erols.com) or 828-884-8500 or use [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) .
- To obtain Maud Powell's recordings, order any of the four CDs, ***Maud Powell, The Complete Recordings (1904-1917)***, Vols. 1-4 (Naxos 8.110961, 8.110962, 8.110963, 8.110993) online *via* The Maud Powell Society's web site, through the "Publications" page at [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org) .
- ***Maud Powell Favorites***, an edition of rare violin masterworks including Powell's transcriptions is now available with your donation of any amount. Violinist Rachel Barton Pine's ***American Virtuosa, Tribute to Maud Powell***, Cedille records (CDR 90000 097), can be ordered from The Maud Powell Society. The CD includes selections from *Maud Powell Favorites*. Visit "Publications" at [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org) for more information.
- All issues of ***Signature, Women in Music*** are published and available free on the *Signature* web site: [www.maudpowell.org/signature](http://www.maudpowell.org/signature)

***DON'T MISS*** —

**"The March of the Women"** Parts I and II in ***The Strad*** (January & February issues 2024) highlighting all-female string quartets from the late 19th to mid-20th century. Music critic, biographer, poet **Tully Potter** illuminates the long-hidden achievements of women in forming their own chamber ensembles beginning with the time when women string players were hardly accepted on the concert stage. Potter's depth of scholarship is astonishing. His lively survey is packed with detail, brightened with rare images. I know of no other books or articles that provide so much information and historic perspective on these indomitable, gifted women.



Maud Powell was the first to form and lead her own professional quartet with male players in 1894-95. Image from Maud Powell's scrapbook.



**Check out The Maud Powell Society Facebook Page and Youtube Channel!**

***Souvenir* is the Newsletter of the Friends of The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education**

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**Web:** [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org) and  
[www.signaturewomeninmusic.org](http://www.signaturewomeninmusic.org)

**Please help us to preserve Maud Powell's Legacy. We have a lot of archival work yet to be done — placing letters, music and photographs on the website, cataloging hundreds of images and more. We welcome your participation. DONATIONS via check or Paypal will help us fulfill our mission!**  
[www.maudpowell.org/](http://www.maudpowell.org/)

# *A Message from the Maud Powell Society's President*

January 2024

## *Dear Maud Powell Society Friends,*

**Maud whacked us with her bow this past year!** We had a work stoppage due to the chaos ensuing from a flooded basement (a water pipe break) and all the necessary restoration work. Meanwhile, Pam faced a severe sinus infection along with kidney stones while I simply got Shingles. All significantly curtailed my plans to promote the new, revised biography of Maud Powell.

**Happily the year redeemed itself with Tully Potter's gratifying review of the new edition of *Maud Powell, Pioneer American Violinist* for *The Strad*, December 2023 issue.** Recognizing its historic significance and that Maud Powell set the standard for American violin playing, he pointed out that the biography belongs in every violin lover's library.

In October, I was pleased to be invited to write about Maud Powell's exciting **American premiere of the Sibelius violin concerto**, still one of the most popular of all violin concertos. The article was published in the **January issue of *The Strad***, much to my delight. The complete story is in the updated biography, of course.

At this point, we are looking toward the final chapters of preserving the Archive before it moves on to the Library of Congress. I am working to put as much on our website as possible. Why? **Because our Maud Powell website itself is being preserved by the Library of Congress with accessibility worldwide for all time. It will endure!**

My plan is to finish typing and cataloging the many letters to and from Maud and to publish them on our web site. PLUS, a great deal of work is ahead to catalog the hundreds of images in our archive — ensuring that the names, dates, and sources are correctly labeled — something only I can do. Over the years, we have been doing what we can to digitize the original artifacts and images in the archive so that they can be readily accessible via our website.

**We may be moving into last tasks, but we still need your support.** This is the Society's 38<sup>th</sup> year, founded in 1986. Friends like you have made all our work possible. I hope you are proud of all that we have achieved together. Maud Powell's name is known throughout the world once again and her life and art continue to inspire one and all.

**I invite you to see what is new on our Maud Powell web site, acquire the new biography, and to continue to share with me this magical journey with Maud Powell. Most of all, I thank you for being such a vital part of all that we have accomplished — inspiring people throughout the world with Maud Powell's artistic and humanitarian legacy.**

Our Maud Powell Society Friends are an integral part of all our endeavors. We are grateful for your encouragement, your enthusiasm and your support through the years.

As always, we welcome your donations to The Maud Powell Society to enable our work to preserve Maud Powell's legacy to continue. We rely exclusively on donations from individuals like you for our support. We made no appeal during the pandemic years, so your contribution is especially welcome at this time. **Tax-deductible donations of \$15, \$25, \$50 help keep us going while larger contributions sustain the Maud Powell Society's existence.**

Please use the **Paypal** button on our website: **[www.maudpowell.org/](http://www.maudpowell.org/)** to make a donation **or send a check** to The Maud Powell Society, 68 Grandview Ave., Brevard, NC 28712. The Society is a non-profit Section 501 (c) (3) organization and donations are generally tax deductible in the United States.

Please join us in our mission to uplift countless generations with the inspiring life and art of Maud Powell.

*With warmest good wishes,*

*Karen*

*Karen A. Shaffer, founder/president  
The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education*



**Your tax-deductible contributions make all of our work possible.  
You can Donate via Paypal at [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org)**

Dear Karen:

I am happy to be a part of the Maud Powell Society’s endeavors to preserve and promote Maud Powell’s vital legacy. I am proud of the achievements of the Maud Powell Society for Music and Education and pleased to support its work! Here is my contribution in support of all the good work you are doing in reaching more people than ever before with the inspiring message of Maud Powell’s life and legacy.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution. I have made my check payable to The Maud Powell Society. Please be sure to send me the next Friends’ newsletter. YOU CAN DONATE via PAYPAL at [www.maudpowell.org](http://www.maudpowell.org).

Trustee \$2,500 annual donation \_\_\_\_\_

A position of honor, trust and service held by one who is committed to the purpose of The Maud Powell Society and willing to lend their name, financial resources and advice to forward its mission.

**DONATIONS OF \$200 OR MORE**

**WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF MAUD POWELL, PIONEER AMERICAN VIOLINIST**

Friend \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ (honoring Maud’s 150th!)

\$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to **The Maud Powell Society, 68 Grandview Ave., Brevard, NC 28712**

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**The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education**



The Maud Powell Society’s purpose is to educate the general public about the life and art of Maud Powell and her contributions to American musical life as well as to the art of violin playing. In addition, the Society is established to further Maud Powell’s musical ideals by sponsoring educational projects and programs to promote music in education and public awareness of the contributions and achievements of women in music. Founded in 1986, The Maud Powell Society is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, operated exclusively for charitable and literary purposes. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.