

The Harp-Guitar.

AN INSTRUMENT MADE BY RENE GRUNEWALD
WHICH IS FAST WINNING FRIENDS AND AD-
VOCATES.

The new American harp-guitar which is made by Rene Grunewald, the well-known manufacturer of the Grunewald mandolins and guitars, 818 Conti street, New Orleans, La., is considered by experts, soloists and amateurs as the acme of perfection. When played upon, it sounds like two instruments, the one carrying the air, the other the accompaniment. The music produced resembles, more particularly, that of the harp—the volume being fully double that of the guitar and the tone possessing great body, timbre and mellowness heretofore unattainable upon any instrument of this class.

The harp-guitar, while having the shape of the ordinary, has ten strings, six of them being identical with and tuned the same as those upon any guitar, and paralleling each of the four larger strings, an eighth of an inch to the left, looking from the bridge toward the head, is a smaller or treble string. Each treble is tuned an exact octave above its companion string.

The method of producing chords is precisely the same as upon the guitar, but the manner of playing instrumental selections is different, the air being picked on the double strings with the thumb, while the accompaniment, simple guitar-chords, is played on all other available strings with the fingers and thumb when unoccupied. A distinct contrast in tone color is apparent between the air and the accompaniment, the former in the softest passages being well defined, even in connection with a heavy accompaniment.

Thus the harp-guitar is a complete and independent solo instrument.

The effect produced by playing the air on double strings tuned an octave apart is appreciable, and this may be modified so

that the air will sound in a clear treble, bass, or plainly in octaves, with great volume, by simply engaging the treble of the parallel strings with the thumb and its larger companion with the first finger. This latter effect can not be produced successfully upon the guitar. One may at all times retain the left hand in one position, that for playing the common guitar-chords, and for this reason the playing is very simple.

When executing a selection upon the guitar, in order to reach the higher or treble tone required, one must move the left hand up and down the finger-board, and while so doing it is an impossibility to retain the fingers in the position for playing the simple chords or such chords as one would play, ordinarily, if singing the air. When above the fourth fret numerous other and difficult chords will be encountered; hence the reason that there are so few guitar soloists and that the music for the instrument must be adapted to, arranged or written especially for it.

All difficulty is overcome upon the harp-guitar by simply having a larger number of treble strings, and having them arranged convenient for execution, and by this means, amateurs are enabled to play popular airs with but little practice or exertion.

The Harp-guitar is patented in the United States and foreign countries. Rene Grunewald reports an active demand for this instrument as well as for his general line of "small goods." Dealers should not hesitate to write for catalogue and prices.