

Music News and Events

To Play Original Compositions at Cordon Club Apr. 6

The Chicago chapter of Pro-Musica will give a program of compositions written by American women at the Cordon on Monday evening, April 6. The three composers to be represented are Ethel Glenn Hier, Helen Sears and Mary Howe. All have spent some time at the MacDowell colony near Peterborough, N. H.

Ethel Glenn Hier is a resident of New York city. Her writings include works for voice, violin solo, piano solo, string quartet, string and wind ensemble, chamber orchestra and full orchestra. They have been interpreted by the Elschuco trio at Pittsfield, Mass., the National String quartet in Washington, D. C., the Barrere Ensemble in New York, and by numerous other organizations, including those in Chicago.

Helen Sears lives in Kenilworth, and her writings for piano, voice, for various combinations of ensemble and for full orchestra have been given in New York, San Francisco, Boston, Cincinnati, Washington, Chicago and neighboring suburbs.

Mary Howe is a resident of Washington, D. C. She has been represented on programs of the Worcester Festival, the Chautauqua Orchestral concerts, the Barrere Ensemble, the Baltimore Symphony orchestra, and has frequently been heard on Boston and Chicago programs. Besides piano pieces and songs, she has written for strings, chorus, chamber orchestra and full orchestra.

The "Mustel" organ, the only one of its kind in the United States, constitutes a unique item on the program for April 6. It has been furnished through the courtesy of Miss Sears. "L'Orgue-Expressif", invented by Victor Mustel, in the middle of the past century, and perfected by his sons and grandson, has been called the "Stradivarius of organs." It seems to have been used and appreciated by all the great French organists of recent times. When Cesar Franck took up his post at Sainte Clotilde, he had nothing but this tiny instrument, with which he filled the large church and for which he wrote two volumes of music. Mary King Waddington in "Italian Letters of a Diplomat's Wife", says, "M. Alphonse Mustel has just come from Paris with his beautiful organ . . . so much sound at times that it seems an orchestra and then again so beautifully soft."

Miss Sears will be represented on the program with a poem for soprano, violin, 'cello, piano and organ, with the assistance of Helen Abbott Byfield, soprano; Malvina Neilsson, violin; Goldie Gross, 'cello; and Agnes Hope Pillsbury, piano. Her "Elegy" for 'cello and piano will be given by Miss Gross and Miss Pillsbury, and "Summer Wind" for two pianos will be played by herself and Miss Pillsbury.

Alma Birmingham, pianist, will assist in presenting works of other composers.

NEW ORCHESTRA

A new symphony orchestra called the New York City Symphony orchestra, has just been organized in New York city. Theophil Wendt is the conductor.

Horowitz Is Next Symphony Soloist

Vladimir Horowitz will be the soloist with the Chicago Symphony orchestra at the Friday afternoon, April 10, and Saturday evening, April 11 pair of concerts. He will play Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto. On Tuesday afternoon, April 14, he will close the Tuesday series for the season, playing the Liszt A major concerto.

This week-end, the orchestra is being heard in Rimsky-Korsakow's overture, "The Russian Easter"; Bruckner's seventh symphony; and the Strauss tone poem, "Death and Transfiguration."

On April 10 and 11, the orchestra will be heard in Moussorgsky's fantasy, "A Night on the Bare Mountain"; and Gliere's third symphony, "Ilia Mourometz."

Lily Pons Proves to Be Popular as a Concert Artist

Lily Pons, 26-year-old prima donna, whose fresh voice and personal charm have made her the favorite of a dozen opera nights at the Metropolitan, is growing to be as popular in the concert field as in opera. In her recent recital at the Town Hall, New York city, she was given an ovation by a packed house.

Her program was made up of fifteen songs and airs, none as yet in her local opera repertoire, and the New York Times reported an enthusiastic audience. Madame Pons sang Zecchi's "Giovine Pastore", heard for the first time in New York, and vocal arrangements by Aslanoff of Liadoff's "Music Box" and Mozart's "Turkish March." Her list comprised airs of both the Queen of Night and Pamina from "The Magic Flute", sung in French; simple songs in Italian by Caccini and Scarlatti, two French vocalises by Saint Saens, Rachmaninoff's lyric "Georgian Song" and Delibes' richly humorous "Files de Cadix", as well as other songs.

She was accompanied by the former Metropolitan conductor Giuseppe Bamboschek.

Three Classics to Have First American Hearings

The New York Philharmonic-Symphony orchestra is to give their first American hearings of three virtually unknown classics, reports the New York Times. The works will be heard under the direction of Erich Kleiber in Fall. They are a recently discovered symphony by Johann Christian Bach, a "Divertimento Militaire", by Leopold Mozart, and a symphony in C major by Carl Maria von Weber.

The Mozart and Weber works were lately produced for the first time in Berlin at Mr. Kleiber's concerts at the Staatsoper, says the Times. The Weber work was composed in 1806 for the composer's friend and patron, the Duke Eugene of Wuerttemberg, who kept a small but carefully selected orchestra on his country estate.

The Mozart work was written by Mozart's father in the year of Wolfgang's birth, and is based on military calls and signals of the Austrian army of that time.

Bertha Ochsner, interpretative dancer, will give a recital at the Goodman theater on Monday evening, April 13.

Consecrates Life to Art of Schubert and Handel

Roland Hayes, negro tenor, will sing at Orchestra hall on Tuesday evening, April 7, under the direction of Bertha Ott.

Mr. Hayes, whose exquisite voice the world crowds to hear and praise, was born on a humble back-Georgia farm. While working his way through school he heard great singing, and consecrated his life from that moment to perfecting his voice so that he might make the art of Schubert and Handel his own. He has carried his voice to a degree of perfection beyond anything known in the world of singing. He has found in the classics a spiritual identification with the composers, and in the negro spirituals a rich musical treasury of his race to impart to the world.

This is Mr. Hayes' seventh tour of America. He has sung in nearly every capital in Europe.

Goossens Directs Cincinnati Music Festival Chorus

The twenty-ninth biennial May music festival in Cincinnati is scheduled for the first week in May. Six concerts are to be given beginning on Tuesday evening, May 5, and concluding on Saturday evening. Eugene Goossens, musical director of the festival, succeeds Dr. Frederick Stock, who is conducting the North Shore Musical festival in Evanston.

The chorus will sing the Brahms "German Requiem", and Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" on the opening night. On the second night Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand" will be heard, as well as Bach's secular cantata, "Phoebus and Pan." On Thursday afternoon the second act of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and the first act of Wagner's "Tannhaeuser" will be heard. The children's chorus will sing Pierne's "The Children's Crusade" on Friday evening. On Saturday afternoon Kaminski's "Magnificat" will be heard, with Editha Fleischer singing the soprano solo, and the orchestra will be heard in novelties. On Saturday night the festival will close with "Sea Drift", by Delius, and Honegger's "King David." The latter work is to be sung at the North Shore Music festival.

The soloists are Walter Widdop, tenor; Muriel Brunskill, contralto; Editha Fleischer, Grete Stueckgold, Jeannette Vreeland, Eleanor Reynolds, Coe Glade, Dan Gridley, Gay Harris, Herbert Gould and Fraser Gange.

Chamber Music Series to Close Sunday, April 5

The Mischa Mischakoff String quartet will close the series sponsored by the Chicago Chamber Music society on Sunday afternoon, April 12, at Orchestra Hall, with a program consisting of Beethoven's A major string quartet, H. Waldo Warner's "The Pixy-Ring", and Smetana's E minor string quartet.

TO APPEAR JOINTLY

Theodora Troendle, Chicago pianist, and Luella Centerbury, dramatic reader, will appear jointly at the Playhouse on Sunday afternoon, April 12, under the direction of Bertha Ott.

Mme. Matzenauer Suggests Aid for American Singers

Margaret Matzenauer, the Hungarian-American contralto, will be heard in a song recital at the Studebaker theater on Sunday afternoon, April 5, under the direction of Bertha Ott.

Madame Matzenauer, who is a member of the Metropolitan Opera company, believes that Americans can create something in their own country that will spare the young singers the necessity of going abroad to complete their education and secure the necessary routine and experience of opera. The first step, she claims, is the music school settlement movement, by means of which music is brought to far greater numbers of students than through the usual private instruction and conservatory. The next step concerns the repertory departments of schools, which are places for demonstration work and for the production of operas in the little theater and opera comique manner.

Madame Matzenauer is considered one of the world's finest vocalists and dramatic interpreters of song. For the past sixteen years she has been an important figure on the American opera and concert stage. Her program on April 5 is as follows:

- I. Von Ewiger Liebe Brahms
Sapphische Ode Brahms
Meine Liebe ist grun Brahms
Aria: "Ah mon fils" from the opera "Le Prophete" Meyerbeer
- II. Nebbie Respighi
Fioeca la neve Cimara
Canto di Primavera Cimara
Aria: "Voce di donna" from the Opera "La Gioconda" Ponchielli
- III. Over the Steppe Gretchaninoff
On Wings of Dream Arensky
Floods of Spring Rachmaninoff
Aria: "Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voix" from the opera "Samson et Delila" Saint-Saens
- IV. Aria: "Plainte d'Ariane" Cocquard
Les Papillons Chausson
Les Filles de Cadix Delibes
Drinking Song from the Opera "Lucretia Borgia" Donizetti

Civic Opera Stars in South America

Frida Leider and Maria Rafdl, sopranos, and Alexander Kipnis, basso, of the Chicago Civic Opera company, are engaged for the annual opera season at Colon, Buenos Aires.

Mr. Kipnis is to sing 35 performances, including appearances in "Die Meistersinger."

Before sailing, Madame Leider will sing at the Berlin State Opera and at Covent Garden in London.

Maria Olszewska, contralto of the Chicago Civic Opera company, is singing in Vienna before going to London for the Covent Garden season. She will have guest appearances at the Berlin State opera and the Munich festival.

Sonia Sharnova is on a concert tour now, and in summer she will sail for Europe, to remain abroad studying and resting until fall.

Wilmette Lyric Soprano Praised After Concert

Mrs. Edgar A. Fellers of Wilmette sang a group of songs in a recital given at Kimball hall on Thursday evening, March 26. She is said to have an unusual quality for a lyric soprano, and her numbers were excellently sung. Mrs. Fellers is a new resident of Wilmette.