

PRAISES CHORUS IN "KING DAVID"

Music Festival Opened Auspiciously; to End With Brilliant Programs on Saturday

By Rutheda L. Pretzel

The auspicious opening of the Chicago-North Shore Music festival at Patten gymnasium last Monday evening bears out the discovery that there is a tremendous increase in popularity of the festivals each year. The week closes with two performances on Saturday, May 23. In the afternoon children from north shore schools will sing airs from Gilbert and Sullivan operas: Jeanette Vreeland, soprano, will be heard in groups of solos, and the Chicago Symphony orchestra will play three selections, directed by Dr. Frederick Stock.

In the evening, the brilliant week ends with Walter Widdop, famed English operatic tenor, and Eleanor Reynolds, German contralto, in solos. The festival chorus, the A Cappella choir and the orchestra will be heard. The entire program for Saturday afternoon and evening, and for Thursday night, May 21, when Florence Austral, Wagnerian soprano, sings, is listed on the music page of this issue.

Lily Pons Satisfies

Lily Pons, petite French soprano, won many new admirers with her singing on Monday night, but some disappointment was noticeable. Coloratura sopranos, unfortunately, do not sit on the high pinnacle they once occupied, and vocal gymnastics seem oddly futile nowadays. Miss Pons was heard in the time-worn

"Caro Nome" aria from "Rigoletto." "The Bell Song" from Lakme, and several encores. The quality of her voice is more beautiful than Galli Curci's, or of any other coloratura we think of at present. It has a "wave" even on the highest pin-point tones, and it is always musical and full of lilt. As yet Miss Pons is technically unstable, for the texture varies and the tone is often flat or sharp. Much of this can be forgiven because the voice has personality, and one hopes that as she grows older she will develop more rigid control.

Chorus Remarkable

The most thrilling event of the evening was the remarkable singing of the chorus in Honegger's monumental modern work, "King David." Even a hasty perusal of the score, or a first hearing of the work would impress one with its taxing demands on voice and musicianship. The chorus had been trained with particular care, and the result was astounding. The tone was of the best quality, the ensemble was perhaps better than it has ever been, and through all the difficulties one sensed the confidence of each member in what he was singing. The interpretation was so sympathetic, so delicately appropriate to the text, and so unified that it lifted one beyond the dimensions of music.

Under Dr. Stock's baton, the orchestra and the chorus worked together with splendid teamship. The soloists, Jeanette Vreeland, soprano; Eleanor Reynolds, contralto, and Dan Gridley, tenor, gave their best efforts to the ungrateful solos penned for them by Honegger. Paul Leyssac, as the narrator, was so outstandingly capable that he shared many of the honors of the evening.

A review of the entire festival week will appear in next week's issue on the music page.

SON BORN

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Jannotta, 512 Roslyn road, Kenilworth, announce the birth of a son, Edgar Dalzell, April 27, at the Evanston hospital. Mrs. Jannotta returned to her home last week-end from the hospital.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Soul and Body" will be the subject at the services in the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Wilmette, Sunday morning, May 24, at 11 o'clock. Sunday school convenes at 9:45 o'clock.

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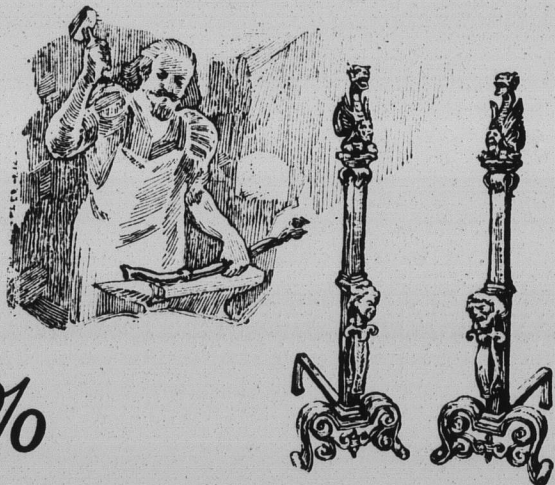
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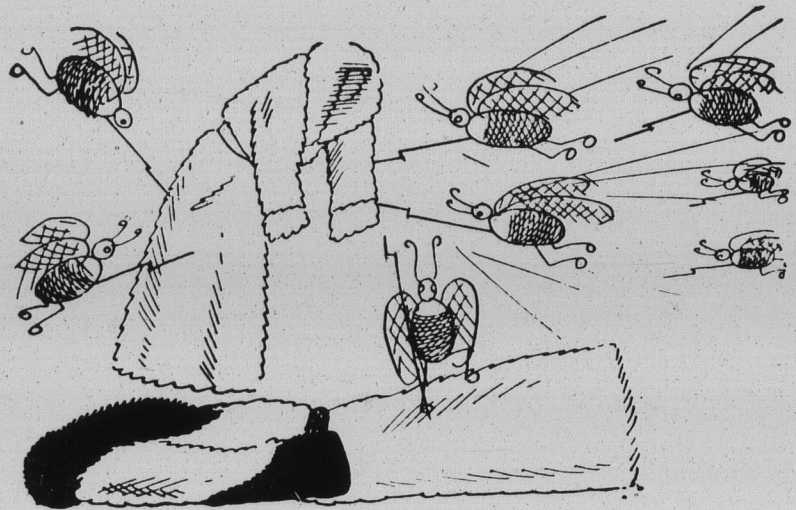
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