

### Orchestral Works of N. S. Composers to Be Given at Ravinia

The Ravinia Festival has commissioned three orchestra works from Chicago and North Shore composers for performances during the 1938 symphonic festival season opening at Ravinia Park on June 30th.

By coincidence all three of the composers are residents of Evanston, and two are on the faculty of the Northwestern University School of Music. All three have had works performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall, under Dr. Frederick Stock, and each according to his years has contributed various forms to the symphonic literature.

First as to seniority and output in large symphonic forms is Arne Oldberg, pianist and pedagogue and member of the Northwestern faculty. Mr. Oldberg's works have appeared numerous times in the programs of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and he is known as a brilliant theorist and composer. His latest work simply called "Fantasie," will be played during the six weeks season at Ravinia, by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the date and conductor to be announced later.

Second of the composers commissioned by the Festival Association to write for the Festival is young David Van Vactor, flutist of the Chicago Symphony, whose compositions are being heard with greater frequency all the time. At 32 he is busily engaged in playing the flute, teaching (at Northwestern) and composing. As a composer he is fond of writing for unusual combinations of instruments. His best known composition is probably "Passacaglia and Fugue" which now ranks in the permanent repertoire of the Chicago Symphony. His new "Suite d'Orchestre" will come to its first performance during July at the Ravinia Festival. Mr. Van Vactor may fairly classify as a Ravinia product as he ushered there as a boy during the halcyon days of the Ravinia Opera.

Third and youngest of the three, and first to have his commissioned work played, is Gardner Read who is in his twenty-fifth spring. Mr. Read's recent transcription of his "Passacaglia and Fugue" Opus 34 for Organ, (played in its original form by Carl Weinrich at the Second Annual American Music Festival, Westminster Choir School, May 6, 1937) will come to performance the first week of the Ravinia Festival under the direction of Dr. Artur Rodzinski.

Mr. Read will leave for Munich on a six week Cromwell Fellowship immediately after the world premiere of his work, which is completed and now in the hands of Dr. Rodzinski.

Mr. Read's short but brilliant career has been somewhat a series of awards—in 1932 a scholarship for outstanding work in composition, to the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan. The same year brought him a scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester headed by Dr. Howard Hanson. Graduated in '36 and with his Master's degree in his pocket, he added a scholarship to the MacDowell Colony in Peterboro, New Hampshire, where he completed his first symphony, which added to his laurels by winning the \$1,000 prize in the contest sponsored by the Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York for a major work by an American composer.

The fellowship was renewed the following summer, and in the summer of 1938 he received the Cromwell Fellowship to the summer music festival at Munich.

Mr. Read's Symphony No. 1 in A minor, Opus 30, was presented by the New York Philharmonic society, with John Barbarolli conducting, in November 1937, and other compositions have been played by the Rochester, Cincinnati and Chicago Symphony Orchestras. His latest works are numbered in the 50s.

The "Passacaglia and Fugue" originally numbered 34, for Organ in its present transcription for Orchestra is No. 34A. Composed originally at the MacDowell Colony at Peterboro during July and August, 1936, the transcription was made at Evanston, Illinois during March and April 1938. Mr. Read states that the style and handling is based on Bach.

### National Guard to Stage Big Military Show in Chicago

Military elephants, representing the lumbering "tanks" of Hannibal's great army of ancient history, are coming to Chicago for the big Military Show of the Illinois National Guard next week in Soldier Field. The pachyderms will be a feature of the spectacular pageant, "Fifteen Famous Armies of History." The show, to be presented on the nights of Saturday, June 18, and Sunday, June 19, will be a stirring display of the citizen soldiers of Illinois on parade and in action.

For many weeks the soldiers of the Guard have been rehearsing the many and varied events of the spectacle, which will be the greatest military demonstration to be presented anywhere this year. A cast of more than 5,000 soldiers, hundreds of horses, eighteen war planes and all of the other modern weapons and machines designed for the defense of America will provide more than two hours of thrills for the spectators.

Major General Roy D. Keehn, commander of the 33d Division and attached troops of the Illinois National Guard, explained that the purpose of the show is to give the citizens of Illinois a visible and practical demonstration of the appearance and military efficiency of the state's citizen soldiers. The event will mark the culmination of the armory training year and will be a preliminary to the annual 15 day field training period at Camp Grant, Rockford.

In charge of the show as manager, is Colonel Charles C. Haffner, Jr., commander of the 124th Field Artillery. He is also the author of the spectacular pageant of famous armies, which will include, besides Hannibal's elephant corps, Egyptian chariots, Caesar's artillery, medieval knights in armor, arquebusers, a bedouin camel corps,

Washington continentals, Sherman's mid-west "foot" cavalry and seven other famous armies. The pageant will lead up to a breathtaking demonstration of modern military might, "The Battle of the Argonne," in which war planes, infantry, field artillery, cavalry, anti-air artillery and tanks will be seen in a mighty crescendo of sound and action.

Earlier in the program there will be fancy mounted drills, precision drills by crack infantry companies, a colorful mass demonstration by the sailors of the Illinois Naval Militia, an impressive parade of massed infantry regiments and a demonstration of new mile-a-minute tanks. Throughout the program martial and other appropriate music will be played by a massed band of 200 pieces and by other regimental bands.

The performances will begin at 8 p.m. each evening. In the event of rain on Saturday an additional performance will be given Monday

night, June 20. Any proceeds of the show will be divided among the units of the National Guard to be used for athletic and other recreational activities. Tickets may be obtained from any National Guardsman or at any State street department store at the advance sale prices of 50 cents for reserved seats and 35 cents for general admission.

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