NATIONAL SONG WEEK SIGNIFICANT EVENT

Nation Interested in Development of American Music; Emphasized in Schools

INTEREST IS UNIVERSAL

American Compositions Now Demanded by Opera Patrons

BY MRS. CHARLES L. BYRON

It is because "Music maketh glad the heart" that America celebrates her Seventh Annual National Week of Song during the week of Washington's birthday.

Several events propitious to the future of music in American have happened lately.

At a meeting called by the mayor of Philadelphia, Edward Bok assisted in launching a new music organization whose aim is to work to bring about a National Conservatory of music in this country, one which will put its stamp of approval upon native trained artists and thus eliminate the necessity of going to Europe for recognition.

Another ambition of the organization is to arouse public opinion generally and gain the assistance of officials in high places to establish a Portfolio of Fne Arts in the President's cabinet. The movement is gaining momentum.

Teachers Study Work

Last summer 6,000 public school teachers in Pennsylvania took special summer courses for nine weeks in music, and next summer it is estimated that there will be 10,000 enrolled. The primary object, the director of Public Instruction points out, is to bring good music into the lives of the masses.

Musical Composition is being stimulated in our land.

The Federation of Organists have just awarded a cash prize for the best composition for the organ.

It was gratifying to note that "The Opera in our Language Foundation" announces the choice of two American works for production next year; "Echo" by Frank Patterson, "Castle Agrazant" by Ralph Lyford.

To Produce American Operas

It is rumored that if the Chicago Civic opera company does not produce them that there is an "American Opera Company" in the musical atmosphere of Chicago and Cincinnati waiting to be born.

The North Shore Festival association offered $1,000 for the best orchestra composition in a prize contest which closed January 1. Seventy-two manuscripts came from American composers in all parts of the country. The judges, Rubin Goldwack, Philip Hale and Percy Grainger, will select the five compositions which they deem have greatest merit and on May 27 the Chicago Symphony will play them at a public hearing at which time the judges will choose the prize work. It will be played the last day of Festival and also at a regular Symphony concert next season.

American Composers "Here"

Percy Grainger comments: "we need not wait longer for the American composer. He is here. Some of his compositions are as striking as skyscrapers and as American as baseball."

The Festival program includes Muratore, Margaret Matzenauer, Famaki Miara, the Japanese soprano, and Luella Melins, an American coloratura soprano, whom Jean de Reske called "the American Patti."

There is a general increase in musical activities in the length and breadth of this land. New, symphonies, choruses, music schools and clubs are springing up every where. The West coast, particularly Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, shows a musical strength that is attracting musicians.

The World's Fair in 1925, scheduled for Portland, Oregon, contemplates plans for musical offerings of which any nation might be justly proud.

While speaking to thirteen hundred guests at the Chicago Chamber of Commerce last week, Harry Lauder said, "Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, and life to everything. Music with a wee touch of friendship in it, or just a wee spark of love in it. Aye! it just makes you bubble over!"

STATE VIGILANCE BODY HOLDS SESSION HERE

Community meetings for adults only in behalf of sex education in the home, training of children by their parents and civic decency, will be held in Winnetka Community House, Sunday evening, February 26, at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of the Illinois Vigilance association in its state-wide campaign for one-hundred per cent American Morals.

Mabel Craig Stillman, of Boston, social hygiene specialist, will address the meeting on the subject "Safeguarding Sex Life." This will be followed by a question box.

Dr. Philip Yarrow, Field Superintendent of the Illinois Vigilance association, will follow with a stimulating address on "Moral Dangers—Wheer Are We Headed?" Questions concerning the modern dance, movies, theatrical productions and publications will be discussed, and plans presented for improvement.

TALK ON FIRST AID

At a meeting of Boy Scout Troop, No. 2 in the Parish House next Monday evening. Dr. Frank W. Blatchford will be present to speak to the boys on First Aid and to give the First Aid tests to those members of the Troop who are looking forward to becoming Second Class Scouts.

THE CAUSE OF PEACE

Convalescing at Kennilworth, N. C. from wounds received in the Argonne, one American Legion man sent $1 to the Woodrow Wilson fund, and promised four more payments. Many Legionnaires are listed among the donors to the foundation.

CLOTHES FOR JOBLESS VETS

Lined up patiently for hours in advance, hundreds of tattered ex-soldiers received shoes, overcoats, and children's garments from the American Legion distributing committee in New York.

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