

PARENTS INVITED TO BIG MUSIC MEMORY CONTEST THIS SATURDAY

Frederick Stock and Chicago Symphony to Play Numbers For School Contestants in Finals at Orchestra Hall; Event Promises to be Most Impressive Program

The Women's clubs, the Parents' and Teacher associations and many of the leading educators in this country, have spent much time of late, discussing the moral and spiritual development of our boys and girls. They all seem agreed that there are many agents abroad in society today, that are destructive influences in the lives of our young people, and that while it is next to impossible to be rid of these evils, we must substitute something interesting and worth while, for that which is over-stimulating and commonplace. All of these people realize what a potent influence music may have in character building, and the question arises—"How can we ever satisfy a child's musical craving, by playing for him a simply and beautiful Minuet by Mozart, when he has been surfeited for some years with all the "over-excitement and misused syncopation of cheap and degrading jazz?"

Jazz Has Its Place

Good jazz has its place—all broad-minded musicians acknowledge that, but vulgar jazz, enhanced by a wailing saxophone and strongly accented with a loud drum, is not easy to replace with "Traumerei." To defeat these influences, and to compete with the commercialism of cheap popular music—those of us who are really eager to defeat all that is degrading, must make a concerted effort. If we want our children to appreciate the finest things in musical literature—we must make them acquainted with these great works of art. Theodore Thomas once said, "Familiar music is popular music." The great masses of

our civilization have looked askance at classical music and thought it was to be enjoyed only by the specially trained musician, simply because the general public have had little opportunity to become acquainted with the greatest works.

Prospects Are Brighter

At last it seems as though we could afford to feel just a little optimistic. The great orchestras all over the country are playing beautiful concerts for our children and the Popular concerts are reaching great numbers of our people who have never heard the symphony before. The Movie Houses that stand for better things, are supporting fine orchestras, with trained directors, who play the classics to crowded houses—and last but not least—the directors of music in our public schools are doing a big work. Probably the most vital piece of work ever attempted by this last named group, is the work accomplished by the Music Memory contest.

Music Memory Contests Country-Wide

Music Memory contests are being held in every wide-awake community all over the country, and are probably the biggest step in the direction of popularizing good music that has ever been taken. The great success of the idea lies in the fact that we are never too young or too old to love a game, and the contest idea appeals to a child just as strongly in Music as it does in Athletics.

At present the supervisors of music in twenty-eight of the suburbs of Chicago have organized in a "In and about Chicago Music Supervisors

Club" and have joined hands in preparing for a Music Memory Contest. Over twenty thousand children are at work. The students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and in the High Schools of these communities have been listening for many days to the

following list of compositions.

Phonograph Chief Medium

The talking machine has been the chief medium for use in this work, but whenever possible, the children have been given a chance to hear the

actual performance of some of the numbers. Before presenting this music in class, the teacher in charge has given them some idea of the type of the composition to be played, and a few facts of real interest concerning the composer.

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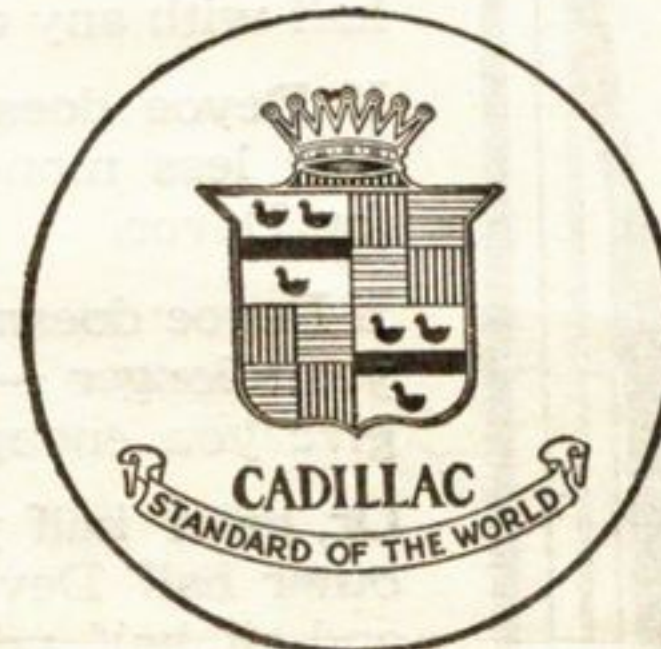
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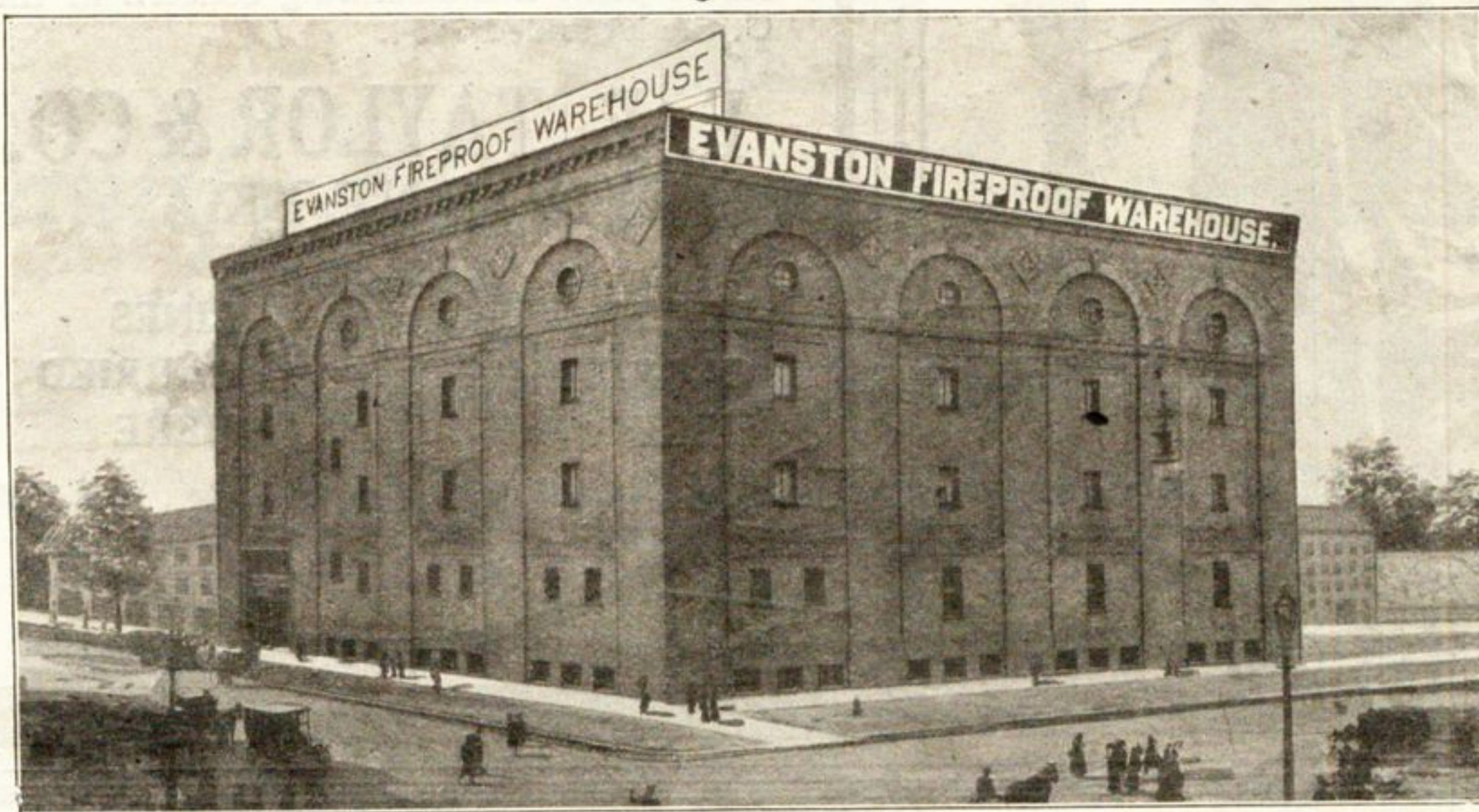
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