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"CHIMES OF NORMANDY" IS BRILLIANTLY DONE

Opera Staged by New Trier Dramatic and Music Groups Is Splendid Success

BY CRITIC

Two of the finest dramatical and musical performances ever presented at New Trier, were given Friday and Saturday nights, when the musical organizations of the high school played "The Chimes of Normandy," a comic opera in three acts, by Robert Planquette.

Certainly the two performances were far from amateurish. Everyone of the principals seemed inspired with confidence and a desire to interpret their roles well and each member of the chorus was equally enthusiastic. Undoubtedly this enthusiasm and vim was felt by the audience for it responded heartily and sympathetically, as quickly to the laugh-provoking quips as to the stirring solos and choruses.

The honors must necessarily be divided among the principals but the difficulty lies in apportioning them justly. The role of the young hero, Henri, was

made a character of charming personality and skillful interpretation, by the acting and singing of Kurtis Brownell. His performance was of such outstanding force and grace as to border on the professional. Such splendid acting plus the beauty of a voice remarkably clear and well-controlled, make him, indeed, the hero of the opera.

One of the most difficult roles was that of Gaspard, the insane miser played by Hardin Van Deursen. This role had the advantage of being a character part and gave an excellent scope for splendid acting, which Hardin fully supplied. His interpretation was marvelous and startling in the finesse with which he executed it.

Eleanor Calhoun Scores

Eleanor Calhoun, as Serpolette, was just the delightfully saucy, impudent, little mischief-maker who provides so much entertainment. Rarely is a person found whose face and gesture can express such countless lightning thoughts as did Eleanor's. Since her appearance in "Robin Hood" her voice has developed beautifully.

Germaine, the lovely heroine was sung by Virginia Marshall. She gave the role an interpretation of appealing charm and grace. She proved herself a singer of fine ability her voice having a rich bell-like quality, unusual indeed.

The part of the cowardly young fisherman, the villain, was sung by Ridgeway Daggy. An excruciatingly funny character role, very well-played, still having some truly beautiful solos, which "Bob" Daggy sang in a splendid tenor.

Charles Troy played exceedingly well the part of the Bailli elderly amorous, conceited, affording much genuine amusement to an appreciative audience.

Some praise is due Auguste Babize, John Panushka and William Gibson for a few bits of humorous action.

Many of the most stirring moments were supplied by a chorus of 60 girls and boys, members of the New Trier glee clubs unusually well-trained. Their fine work is due the excellent coaching of Mrs. Cotton, Miss Stanwood and Jimmy Griffin. Mrs. Cotton, not only directed her orchestra, but acted in the capacity of general music director. Miss Stanwood and Mr. Griffin cooperated in dramatic coaching the combined efforts of these three unsurpassable coaches resulting in the two excellent performances of last Friday and Saturday.

CIRCLE TO MEET

The Ridge Avenue circle will meet Monday afternoon, April 19, at 2 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. James Panton, 690 Garland avenue. Mrs. Thomas Windes will be the assisting hostess.

Mrs. C. C. Kidd, 1005 Fig street, entertained 16 guests at luncheon and bridge at the Ouilmette Country club on Thursday of this week in honor of her guests, Mrs. E. V. Wells, and Mary Alice Smythe, of Oakland, Cal.

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