

MUSIC STUDY POPULAR WITH SKOKIE PUPILS

Classes in Music Appreciation Assembly Sings; Develop Group Activity

BY MUSIC CRITIC

At present Skokie grade school in Winnetka is one of the most musical public schools extant. Keeping pace with its leadership and pace-setting in other lines, Skokie is somewhat out in front in the administration to its pupils of this most democratic of the arts. The music program is based upon the philosophy that if the child gets to hear good music he will like it, the advantages attached to his liking good music and appreciating it being too numerous and weighty to discuss here.

Since the music program is centered in the appreciation of music, each pupil is required to complete a short course in this subject before being recommended for graduation from Skokie. This course is necessarily short, but is at least an early beginning. It is required in the eighth grade. In this course are illustrated all forms of music from the folk song and dance up. The appreciation has already been started on the same outline in the earlier grades. Correlating with this subject is a series of concerts to be given for the first time this year. They are given in the auditorium and are free to the school. The series consists of about fifteen concerts representing all types of music up to the symphony. Good artists are to be secured from Winnetka and Chicago, so that the music may have a presentation of the first order. Some of these concerts are to be offered free to the grade schools of the system the same day.

Hold Assembly Sings

For the participation of the student body in the music program, first, is offered the Assembly sings which take place once in two weeks. The Skokie orchestra is preparing to furnish much of the accompaniment for this sing-

ing, though the singing does not need much additional vitalization judging from the sings enjoyed already this year. Thus, each week, on the average, the school will have one assembly period devoted to either community sings or a concert.

The music organizations are very well filled. Before being eligible for graduation each pupil must have one unit in music in addition to his appreciation credit. This would indicate that the enrollment would necessarily be of the order of half that in the student body, but it is at present about equal to the number enrolled in the school, neglecting the duplications which exist. There are eight glee clubs with a total of about 225 voices. The orchestra boasts eighteen instruments. To these must be added the number taking piano, violin, and band instruments, which total about sixty. The band has not yet been organized but is taking shape.

Provide Lessons

The school owns a number of good violins which are rented out to students for a minimum price. Instruments for the band may be rented from the department, also, at a minimum price. The lessons in these instruments may be had in classes at as low a fee as fifty cents, or private individual lessons may be had.

Supporting the standards set by Thomas W. Surette, who serves the school in an advisory capacity, nothing but the best music is used, there being a great store of such which is attractive and appropriate for this age.

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The concert series to be offered free to the schools is made possible through the influence of Mr. Surette with the Boston Music Fund.

Each person leaving Skokie has had the opportunity of an intimate acquaintance with the best in music, either through participation in band, orchestra, glee club, or assembly singing, in listening, and in being helped to listen. There is much to be done, but we have a beginning.

GIVE MUSICAL PROGRAM

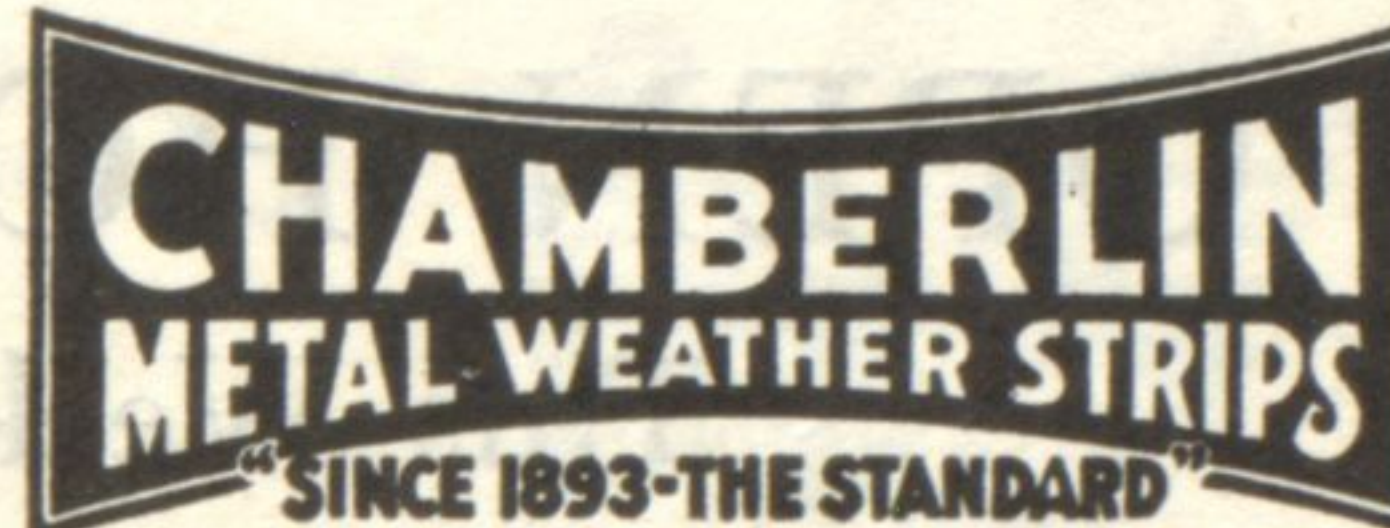
Mrs. Burton H. Atwood, and Mrs. Percival Hunter are giving a program of German and English songs, Wednesday evening, October 27, in the Neighborhood Room of the Community House, for the members of the Czecho-Slovakian club. All members are urged to be present, it is announced, as an usually good time is planned.

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