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CONCERT SHOWS WORK OF MUSIC DEPARTMENT

High School Music Department Groups Give Delightful Program for Public

By R. L. P.

The music department of the New Trier High school gave a concert on Saturday evening, April 30, at the school, the first of its kind. The school glee clubs, orchestra and band participated in the program.

Frederick E. Clerk, principal of the school, introduced Mrs. Marion B. Cotton, head of the music department, and said the aim of the department was to give students some basis of musical appreciation, an opportunity for expressing themselves musically, and that the department tries to discover special talent and develop it under expert direction.

Mrs. Cotton, whose efficient work, loyal support, and charming personality has made the department progress so astonishingly within the last few years, told a little of the struggles of the department for growth during the last ten years. She commended her helpers in the department, and introduced each of them to the audience: Miss Susannah Armstrong, in charge of classes in harmony, said that originality in four-part writing is the aim of the class; Joseph C. Schumacher, director of the band, stressed the co-operation taught the boys by such group work; and Miss Adelaide Jones, teacher of musical appreciation, said that her course acquaints students with the finer things in music, and teaches them to learn to listen so that they may later listen to learn. Miss Winifred Mickey was introduced as the accompanist, and Mrs. Cotton especially spoke of her loyal, sympathetic work, and her talent. Miss Olive Grover, who supervises staging, and who is a teacher of art, read a clever poem on education, ending "the waves of our sending station are expressed by one word—co-operation!"

Mrs. Cotton asked the support of the parents in keeping up the morale of the department. She said the students were "pretty young and pretty busy," and that what they have accomplished has been so because they have talent, and parents and friends who believe in beautiful things.

The orchestra, under Mrs. Cotton's direction, played the Overture from "Don Juan," by Mozart, and later the Overture from "The Merry Wives of Windsor." The tonal quality was remarkably sweet, both numbers were capably handled and done in a brisk, good spirit.

The girls' glee club sang "Hymn to the Evening Star," and a musical setting to Tennyson's "The Lady of Shallot." The tone was very lovely and smooth, and because breath was well controlled, the phrasing was done with a nicety that was wholly charming. Mrs. Ada Tillie Allen sang the solo parts with exquisite appeal, especially in "The Lady of Shallot." The entire setting is very high, but Mrs. Allen rose to high C's gracefully. The girls in the chorus enunciated the words clearly, entrances were clean-cut, and the expression was well throughout.

The boys' glee club appeared in two songs, "Send Out They Light," by Gounod, which was flexible and well shaded; and "Rolling Down to Rio," by German. The latter was a rollicking tune that the boys sang heartily and with a delightful swagger. Their last number was a favorite song, "The Bells of Saint Mary's," inspiring with its swing, sway and sweetness.

Hardin Van Deursen of Winnetka, who graduated from New Trier several years ago, sang Franz' lovely German Lied, "Aus Meinen Grossen Schmerzen," with great feeling, and finished musicianship. His second number was the "Porter Song" from "Martha," of which he caught the merry spirit.

Under the direction of Mr. Schumacher, the high school band played two numbers, the first of which was Rossini's Overture, "Semiradime." It was a bit too long and difficult, but was fairly well played. In Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever," conducted by Homer Flentye, the band got the stirring rhythm, and attacked it with a vim. It made one want to stand up and cheer the boys. The evening closed with the band playing the school song, and the students standing up proudly, singing with a will.

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