

Music News and Events

BOOK GREAT ARTISTS FOR CIVIC CONCERTS

Claudia Muzio and Mary McCormic Among Stars to Be Heard at Aragon This Winter

North side and north shore dwellers who have enjoyed the "Uptown Civic concerts" of the past years are looking forward with anticipation to the Uptown Civic matinees, an elaboration and improvement on the old "concerts," which will begin Sunday, January 29, in the Aragon Ballroom at Lawrence and Broadway, Chicago, and will continue for four Sundays thereafter, each matinee starting at 2 p. m.

These matinees will be presented under the auspices of the Central Uptown Chicago association to establish the Uptown district more firmly than ever in the minds of greater Chicago residents as a distinct cultural and economic district within the boundaries of the metropolis, and also to afford residents on the north and northwest sides, and the north shore, an opportunity to enjoy entertainment of the highest quality—singing, instrumental and symphonic music, dancing and monologue—at a moderate price.

Hear Muzio January 29

The first of the matinees will consist of a song recital by the world famous Claudia Muzio, soprano star of the Chicago Civic Opera company, and hailed by music critics as the greatest singer of her type in the United States. She will be heard January 29.

The next matinee, on February 5, will feature Vera Mirova, Russian interpreter of Far Eastern dances, together with Francis Macmillen, who has been called the greatest violinist of American birth. Both Mme. Mirova and Mr. Macmillen have appeared recently in recitals in the loop, and both have been awarded the most extravagant praise by the music critics.

Book Mary McCormic

On February 12, Mary McCormic the American singer whose appearance with the Paris Opera company has been such a triumph that her contract with that organization has been renewed for five years, will appear on the program with Jose Echaniz, Cuban pianist. Senor Echaniz, although in his early twenties, has been applauded by music critics as one of the greatest pianists of the day, and one who is destined to reach the very top of his art within a very short time. His engagement for the Uptown Civic matinees is the result of the furor he created at the Uptown Concerts last year.

Landowska Arranges Tour in European Countries

The following concerns Wanda Landowska, the celebrated harpsichordist, who some weeks ago gave a recital at New Trier under the direction of the Winnetka Music club. She sailed recently for Europe in time for an appearance in Berlin:

Mme. Landowska will make a tour through thirteen different countries including Egypt, until May next. Then she will take part in the Bach Festival at Strassburg, lasting five days. Mme. Landowska will take to the Festival not only her harpsichords, but also her pupils, harpsichordists and singers. With them she will play on two and three harpsichords, for only with her pupils and followers can the spirit of perfect unity be reached. This is the aim and the leading spirit of the Art Centre which she has founded at Saint-Leu-la-Forêt, near Paris.

Artists in Concert Series



Mary McCormic



Claudia Muzio

Claudia Muzio, soprano of the Chicago Civic Opera company, and Mary McCormic, soprano, who made her debut in Chicago and is now a great favorite with patrons of the Paris Opera company, will be among the artists to appear in the Uptown Civic concerts to be given this winter at the Aragon Ballroom, Chicago. The concert series begins January 29 when Muzio will give the program.

BRILLIANT CONCERT Critic Has Lofty Praise for This Church Quartet

Woman's Symphony Orchestra, Mme. Laginska Directing, Wins Plaudits in Goodman Theatre Program

By R. L. P.

The Woman's Symphony orchestra gave the second concert of their second season Sunday evening, January 8, at the Goodman theatre, Chicago. Ethel Leginska, hailed as the world's foremost woman orchestral leader, conducted. Mme. Leginska is a dynamo of energy and fire, cutting out rhythms with swift, knife-like thrusts and swoops. Naturally the orchestra catches some of her own brilliance.

The overture to Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," was excellently played, with the spirit and daintiness to make it quite delightful. Beethoven's "Eroica" symphony fared well, except that the "Funeral March did not reach the dignity and depth it could have sounded. Yet the Scherzo more than made up for that deficiency. It was played at a breath-taking tempo with beautiful accuracy and verve. A first performance was given of a "Symphonic Intermezzo," by Radie Britain. It was good orchestra writing and the audience called out the composer many times to acknowledge applause.

Ruth Ray, Soloist

Ruth Ray, concert master of the orchestra, was heard in Tschaikowsky's Concerto for violin and orchestra. Her playing was poised, her interpretation deliberate, and the extremely difficult technical parts were gracefully handled. With Chabrier's "Rhapsodie Espana," the orchestra concluded the program on a note as dashing and colorful as Mme. Leginska's conducting.

The orchestra gives its next concert on February 5, with Esther Lundy Newcomb, soprano, as soloist in six nursery rhymes for soprano and orchestra, composed by Mme. Leginska.

There are seventy-seven players in this orchestra, a few of them being men, since few women players have been available for the more unusual

instruments. As soon as a fund is raised for the purpose, women players for these instruments will be secured from other parts of the country. The orchestra makes a charming appearance, for the women members are in comely dark blue georgette dresses. The whole atmosphere of the orchestra is one of ease and charm.

Thus reads the introductory paragraph of an article in The Music News (Chicago) by the pen of Charles E. Watt and bearing the title, "Some Lovely Christmas Music—and Who."

The choir personnel of the Wilmette church consists of Edith Trewartha, Rose Lutiger Gannon, John B. Miller, and Emmons C. Carlson.

Mr. Watts elaborates upon his statement with laudatory comment concerning the individual artists in this group. Quoting a paragraph:

"Miss Trewartha has one of the most charming of the younger soprano voices in this city (Chicago), Mrs. Gannon and Mr. Miller have been long accepted as among the most artistic and efficient church singers in Chicago, and Mr. Carlson, whom I have never heard before, is the possessor of a glorious voice, as well as a radiant personality, both of which fit into ensemble with the other three perfectly."

"Oldtime Favorites" to Feature Vesper Recital

Those who for the past several seasons have enjoyed the monthly Vesper recitals at the Wilmette Baptist church will be keenly interested in the Vesper program to be given January 15 when the church organist, William Harrison Barnes, will give a program of "Oldtime Favorites" in organ compositions.

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MELTZER SCHOOL TO SPONSOR ENSEMBLE

Students of North Shore School and Others Invited to Comprise Musical Group

The announcement comes this week from the Meltzer School of Music which has its Winnetka branch in the Community House and Wilmette branch in Carleton Kaumeyer's Wilmette Music shop that it will sponsor the organization of a large ensemble for its students and all musical amateurs of the north shore to be known as the North Shore Music league. Membership is open to boys and girls from six to sixty and it is hoped that players of band and orchestral instruments will respond in such numbers that there will be formed here an organization of one hundred instrumentalists.

Edward J. Meltzer, who holds degrees in arts and music from Northwestern university, and under whose direction the Northwestern band was developed from a small ensemble of twenty to a concert band of seventy players, will personally conduct the rehearsals of the league.

Divide Into Units

"Such an organization can be rehearsed with all the members present at one time," said Mr. Meltzer, "but we plan to divide the organization into smaller units so as to give more special attention to each instrument. Our aim is a membership of one hundred and we shall limit the personnel to that many for the balance of this term, which will close some time in May. The various divisions provide for a clarinet section of twenty, twenty saxophonists will form a small band of their own, there will be a brass choir of a like number, the banjo-mandolin club, and a unit of the remaining instruments such as violin, piano, drums, flute, oboe, and bassoon will comprise the remaining sections with twenty players each. Out of these units we shall also be able to have a concert band of fifty and an orchestral of a like number.

Training in Many Forms

"Although the inspiration for the league was our desire to provide an opportunity for ensemble training and experience for our students of the wind and fretted instruments, we shall also welcome as members others who have had sufficient training to enable them to play moderately difficult band and orchestral music. There will be training in all forms of playing and the music will include folk songs of the various nations; classics by such composers as Handel, Beethoven, Wagner, and Tschaikowsky; as well as the more popular songs of the day such as "When Day Is Done," "Among My Souvenirs," and "Dancing Tambourine."

The first meeting will be held in the Winnetka Community House January 14 and the second at the same place January 28, both at 10 in the morning. Prospective members may register at these times, but it would be better if they would do so before the first meeting they expect to attend so that we may have music for them. They will bring their own music stands. I hope that every interested musician on the north shore will co-operate in making these ensembles serve their purpose which is to demonstrate the value and the joy of playing in a large well-conducted ensemble."