

Music News and Events

Little Symphony Presents Finale of Current Year

by Rutheda L. Pretzel

The Little Symphony Orchestra of Chicago gave its farewell concert of the season Thursday, March 1, at New Trier High school, and it is with genuine regret we of the North Shore bid it adieu. The ensemble has been so satisfactory this year, and the orchestral tone so rounded and rich that all five concerts have been particularly enjoyed.

The New Trier Township Orchestral association, which has sponsored these concerts for the last six years, has already secured several hundred patrons for next year's series, yet, in order to insure funds for paying the orchestra, more patrons are needed. Checks should be in by April 1, the association announces, so that the contracts may be closed. There is no feeling of "duty" in attending these concerts. One goes for the pure pleasure of hearing good orchestra music intelligently and beautifully played. George Dasch, conductor, deserves and has received much credit for his excellent musicianship and capable directing.

Brilliant Array of Stars

Carlos Salzedo, said to be the greatest harpist that ever lived; Miss Doris Doe, contralto of pleasing voice and vivid personality; and Gita Gradova, a pianist of astounding artistry and virtuosity, have appeared with the orchestra this season.

Last Thursday Benno Rabinoff, violinist, was added to the list. Although Mr. Rabinoff is a young man of twenty-four years, he does not seem to have the drawbacks in tone and technique one would expect. He is not only well schooled in technique, but has a mature, thoroughly beautiful tone and a sensitive feeling for phrasing. He was heard Thursday evening in Mendelssohn's Concerto in E Minor for violin and orchestra, one of the most universally admired numbers in the literature of the violin. Mr. Rabinoff scorned the too sentimental vibrato, playing with a clear, even tone that was exquisitely refined. His bowing is expert, and his fingers accurate. One would say that on the whole his tone is warm, rich and pure. In response to the prolonged applause, he played Ackron's "An Impression," for the solo violin, and he put so much into it that one could not conceive of an accompaniment that could better the performance. In the Mendelssohn concerto the orchestra gave Mr. Rabinoff exceedingly good support, leaping ahead or holding back as he willed, for it must be admitted Mr. Rabinoff took an artist's liberties with the tempo.

Orchestra Superlative

As for the rest of the concert, which consisted of Beethoven's Overture to "Leonore"; Moszkowski's Malaguena from "Boabdil"; a suite from "Carmen"; and Rossini's Overture to "William Tell," it was on a high plane. Every number was gracefully executed. Grieg's "The Last Spring," was put on as an extra because of the enthusiastic applause, and at the end of the program, when everyone insisted upon an encore, Mr. Dasch, smiling happily, offered a scherzo written by himself, "Vacation Days." The composition delighted with its color and rhythm, and it left one hoping some of Mr. Dasch's works will appear on next year's program.

Appear in "Beggar's Opera" Here



Sylvia Nelis
as
Polly Peachum



George Baker
as
Captain MacHeath

North shore opera patrons are to enjoy their own performance of "The Beggar's Opera," which is to be presented at New Trier auditorium this Saturday evening (March 10) by an English company now engaged on a transcontinental tour in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the first presentation of the opera in February, 1728.

The company, including a ladies' orchestra, is the same which visited America a few seasons ago and enjoyed a successful engagement at the Olympic theater in Chicago.

The performance at New Trier auditorium is given under the auspices of the New Trier Orchestral association. Tickets are on sale at the various banks and drug stores along the north shore.

"The Beggar's Opera" has perhaps the most remarkable history of any work ever produced upon the English speaking stage. Written by John Gay in 1727 and first produced at the Lincoln Inn Field's theater in London January 29, 1728, the opera was intended as a satire on the politics and criminal laws of the day and as a burlesque on Italian opera which had just been introduced into England. Actually it is not an opera at all in the modern sense of the word but rather a musical play and as such it served as a basis for the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and the modern musical shows, none of which have ever equalled it for enduring popularity, genuine charm and melodious music.

The basic reason for the longevity of the play is doubtless that the work is founded not upon the things of the moment but upon those which exist eternally in human life. In the prologue the Beggar himself boastfully informs the audience that not one person in his opera is honest; "there's not an honest man or woman in it, but all is human."

Flonzaley Quartet Gives Last Concert in Marshall Series

Appearing in the Mary Marshall North Shore Concert series Tuesday evening, March 13, at the Evanston Woman's clubhouse, the well known Flonzaley string quartet will be heard in the following program:

Quartet in C major, Op. 33, No. 3 Haydn
Allegretto con moto e con malinconia grottesca Schulhoff
Allegro giocoso alla Slovacca
Quartet in C major, Op. 59,
No. 3 Beethoven

Since its first public appearance in October, 1904, the quartet has played in more than 500 American cities, and has given over 1900 concerts on this side of the Atlantic. Its major operations have been carried on here, but each season it makes a short tour in Europe. Its foreign appearances, which include London, Milan, Venice, Rome, and Paris, bring its European total of concerts up to more than five hundred.

Last season it played in 89 concerts in the United States, and this season will make its eighth visit to the Pacific coast. James Gibbons Huneker, the eminent critic, once said of the Flon-

Galli Curci, Paderewski in Chicago This Sunday

Two great artists will appear in Chicago Sunday afternoon, March 11. Mme. Galli Curci, whose coloratura soprano voice has sent music critics off in a paean of praise, will give a concert at Orchestra hall, Chicago, at 3:30 o'clock. At the same time Ignace Paderewski, one of the greatest figures in the pianistic world, will gather his enthusiasts to him at the Auditorium theater.

Maurice Ravel, French composer, will give a recital of his own works on Monday evening, March 19, at Orchestra hall.

GIVE CHAMBER RECITAL

The third of the series of chamber music concerts by the Gordon String quartet, under the auspices of the Chicago Chamber Music society, will be given in the James Simpson theater of Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Sunday afternoon, March 11, at 3 o'clock.

zaleys, "They play more like angels than men."

This concert will bring to a close Miss Marshall's series for this season.

American Opera Co. to Offer Repertory at the Studebaker

The American Opera company, singing in English and with a repertory of eight operas, all of them modernized for American ears, will make its debut in Chicago this month, opening at the Studebaker theater for a four weeks' run.

This new organization is an outgrowth of the Rochester American Opera company which presented some of the Mozart operas at the Guild theater in New York last spring and was hailed, at that time, as a great step forward in the realization of a native American operatic art.

Since that time the company has been reorganized to go forward "on its own" and has been making musical history in Washington and New York where it has been greeted with more than usual interest and approval.

In Washington it made its bow before President Coolidge and a distinguished company of official and social life, presenting "Faust," "Madame Butterfly" and "The Marriage of Figaro" on three successive evenings. The President and Mrs. Coolidge surprised all society by remaining to the end of the performance of "Faust" on the opening night, and congratulating Vladimir Rosing, producing director of the company, on the beauty of the production and the smooth performance.

Repeat New York Repertory

In New York the American Opera company has presented the same repertory which will be given in Chicago, namely, "Carmen," "Faust," "Madame Butterfly," "Pagliacci," "Martha," "The Marriage of Figaro," "The Abduction from the Seraglio," and Cadman's "The Sunset Trail" (the latter for the first time in Chicago as well as New York.)

The Chicago engagement is under the auspices of the American Opera society of Chicago, Inc., of which Mrs. Rockefeller McCormick is honorary president, Mrs. Archibald Freer, honorary vice-president and founder, Mrs. Albert J. Ochsner, honorary vice president, and Mrs. Louis E. Yager, president.

Significant among the American Opera company's performances is its entirely new interpretations applied to the ancient art of opera. To Mr. Rosing, its director, the "ensemble" is the thing. The "star" does not exist. A "Butterfly" who makes a sensational debut one evening will be found the next singing and acting with enthusiasm as an unidentified cigarette girl in the ensemble of "Carmen."

Musically the scores of the masters remain unchanged, but to the production as a whole has been added higher histrionic value than is usually seen—acting that applies to everybody on the stage and gives to the whole a form of realism and vividness somewhat new to America.

Announce Artists for Musical at Georgian

B. Fred Wise, tenor, and Anne Daze, pianist, will be the artists at the second of the series of spring musicales at the Georgian hotel, Evanston, Sunday evening, March 11, at 8 o'clock. The program will be given in the Louis XIV room of the hotel. The first of this series of musicales, held last Sunday, was given before a large audience by Clementine Schaeffer Waldron, soprano; Miss Dorothy Bell, harpist, and Charles Lurvey, pianist.