

MUSIC

EDITED BY JOSEPH M. QUENTIN.
PORTLAND music lovers are awaiting with keen interest the initial concert of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, which will occur at the Heilig Theater, November 12.

After months of preparation and deliberation, it is pleasant to know that the new symphony orchestra deal has been consummated. At first it was supposed that a musical director would be obtained from the East, but this would have meant the creation of a large guarantee fund. An ingenious plan was meanwhile evolved by the local musicians whereby the musical director is elected from the orchestra by vote of the members for each concert. There is said to be plenty of available material in the city for this. M. Christensen has been chosen to direct the orchestra at the first concert. It is safe to say that the progress of the new musical venture will be watched closely all over the Pacific Northwest, and a critical audience is looked for at the opening concert. The officers of the orchestra are gratified with the prospect, however, as the personnel consists of 50 picked musicians from the theaters, cafes and clubs of the city, including in the membership men who were formerly connected with Eastern symphony orchestras, such as Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York and the late Theodore Thomas orchestra.

The new Portland Symphony Orchestra concerts will afford the most favorable opportunity for these artists to appear to the best advantage, and no effort will be spared to make the concerts first class.

The principal work to be given at the first concert will be Dvorak's "New World" symphony, a composition which is a great favorite in Eastern musical centers, and which is estimated to rank second to none in modern orchestral literature.

Miss Minnie Simpson Baker, of Walla Walla, Wash., and recently married to Mr. H. H. Baker, of this city, has been engaged to sing in the forthcoming production of Klaw & Erlanger's "Ben Hur," and her many friends in this section are much gratified to see her recognition. Miss Baker, who is the possessor of a pleasing soprano voice and has appeared with marked distinction at local concerts in a number of roles, was followed in a letter home written as follows: "I went on the stage of the New Amsterdam Theater to have my voice tried, and found there many other applicants desiring to sing. Ultimately, four girls were selected to fill the vacancies, and then one of the men in charge said they only wanted one. But to sing, but to sing, but to sing that day. Hearing this, I stepped forward and asked to be heard, and after I had sung to them, one of the men said: 'You take her. She has a great voice.' I was at once engaged for the opera company in 'Ben Hur.' The rehearsals begin October 2, and the four October 20. Miss Baker was also engaged at Whitman College music department, and she sang with success in several church choirs in Walla Walla, among them being that of St. Paul's, Protestant Episcopal Church. She is a descendant of the late Colonel Jacob Baker, a revolutionary hero of Philadelphia, who, in the 18th century, left an estate now valued at many millions of dollars, on a 99-year lease, in the heart of that city. The estate has for 20 years been in litigation in Pennsylvania, and is expected very soon to be decided in her favor."

Miss Zeta Hollister and Miss Gertrude Hoeber are to be the soloists for the Ladies Aid Society at the First Congregational Church, Wednesday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock. Miss Hollister has a good soprano voice, and Miss Hoeber is a skilled violinist. The public is invited.

Miss Leah Slusser has returned from her vacation at Seaside, Or., and has resumed her work as soprano soloist at the Westminster Presbyterian Church for the third year. She is also teaching vocal music at Pacific University.

Miss Marie Brobst, who is spending the winter in Portland studying piano, gave last Wednesday, under the direction of Frank Miller Chapman, at the Walden Y. M. C. A., two piano numbers with success, and for her encore chose two Chopin waltzes, a Hungarian march and a violin caprice.

Frank G. Eichenlaub and Mrs. Beatrice Hilden-Eichenlaub are back in town after a vacation spent at Trauma Cottage, Seaside, and ramblings along other portions of the Oregon coastline.

The programme for this afternoon's meeting of the Monday Musical Club is: Piano solo, "Left-Handed Solo" (Lesso); "The Swan" (Debussy); "The Dove of Peace" (H. L. Case); "The Holy One of Israel" (H. L. Case); William Conley will sing the tenor solo, "Evening and Morning" (Max Spickler), and the choir will sing "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis" (Fields). The organist, Lucien E. Becker, will play these selections: "Symphony VI—First Movement" (Widor); "Melody in F" (Rubinstein); "Minuet, A. Minuet" (Bach); "Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 3" (Chopin); "Christmas Pastoral" (Merkel); and "March for a Church Festival" (Beethoven). The next organ recital at this church takes place November 5.

Miss Elizabeth Ross has recently returned here from the East, where for the past two years she has been teaching in a music college in Durham, N. C. Miss Ross during her residence in this city was presented by Mrs. Imogen Harding Brodie, in a vocal recital, and also a graduate of the Arents Vocal studio, of New York City, where she studied for two years.

Miss Dorothea Nash, the pianist, is busy completing preparations for a course of illustrated lectures which she will deliver throughout the season on "Music, Its Understanding, Appreciation and Historical Development." Her first lecture occurs Tuesday morning.

Next Sunday afternoon, at Christensen's Hall, Eleventh and Yamhill streets, Mrs. Beatrice Dierke, Portland's eminent premier pianist, will give the first piano recital in which she has taken part here in about four years.

Paris and Emil Liebling, of Chicago, is planning to give, with the assistance of her husband, several musical recitals throughout the season. Mr. Liebling has had experience in orchestral work with the Theodore Thomas and Minneapolis symphony orchestras, and is a capable solo violinist.

The Apollo Club, a well-known organization of male voice singers, is busy in the midst of its season's work, and has a largely attended and busy rehearsal last Monday night at Elgers hall on the occasion of the opening of its fourth season. The officers state that there are vacancies for singers in the first bass and second bass sections of the chorus and that it is likely that these vacancies will be filled partly by applicants who have been on the waiting list for vacancies for the past year or two. It is also stated that the personnel of the club is slowly changing to a younger element of singers, due to the fact that several of the older members find the calls of business increasing and limiting their leisure time. Other members have removed to the suburban districts of this city and find it difficult, once they are home, to come to Seventh and Alder streets to attend rehearsals. On the whole, this little change in personnel ought to mean better and fresher voices for the chorus and will therefore have the beneficial effect. The first concert of the season by the Apollo Club will take place during the first week in December, when it is expected that the soloist on that occasion will be Mr. Newton, the Spokane tenor, who at one of the previous concerts of the Apollo Club made one of the best successes ever won in this city. Associate members are being looked up by the business committee.

This is to be "pink rose" day at the East Side Baptist Church, East Ankeny and Twentieth streets. At tonight's services a cantata depicting actual experiences in the slums of New York will be sung by the chorus choir under the direction of Dr. J. W. McMichael, who will be assisted as follows: Duet, "Only a Flower," sung by Mrs. Strayner and Mrs. Warden; male quartet, "Lullaby," by Mrs. Strayner, Mrs. Mordien, Mr. Bishop and Dr. McMichael. Mrs. Albert Ehrkott will read the story and the choir will render several choruses. The public is asked to bring pink roses, to be distributed among the sick and invalids.

The trustees of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra have voted to suspend concerts for the season of 1911-12, and to begin rehearsals and financial work immediately for the seasons of 1912-13 and 1913-14. A portion of the symphony orchestra players will be kept together and will appear in public as the Spargur

David P. Nason, a violinist and choral conductor, is another newcomer who has decided to make this city his home for the future. He is desirous of forming a new choral society for the rendition of oratorios, possibly with accompaniment supplied by the Portland Symphony orchestra, and has called a meeting of singers willing to join the new chorus at Elgers hall Thursday night at 8 o'clock. All interested are invited. Mr. Nason says he has had considerable experience in conducting choral societies in different cities, and that his recent locations have been at Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma and other places. His credentials show that he is a talented violinist and that he studied nearly two years with the celebrated Willy Hess, Berlin, and played first violin in a noted orchestra in that historic city. Many people in this city have said recently that the time is ripe for the formation of a choral society for the rendition of oratorios, with orchestral accompaniment, and early last month it was rumored that rehearsals would be called soon of the Portland festival chorus which sang with much success two or three seasons ago under the direction of W. H. Boyer. But nothing definite has been heard in this direction up to now. Mr. Nason's announcement that he is to lead the choral society field in this city is awakening much interest.

Mr. and Mrs. John Philip Sousa, the famous Sousa and two of the soloists who are on tour with Sousa's band, Miss Nicola Zedler, violinist, and Miss Virginia Root, soprano, were featured in an informal reception and buffet luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keefe in the Elgers building last Wednesday night after the completion of the Sousa concert at the Elgers theater. Those who in public life is better known as Miss Olga Steeb, a celebrated pianist, at the request of her guests, played, with great skill and interpretation, "Chaconne" (Bach-Busoni) and "Midsummer Night's Dream" (Mendelssohn-Liszt). Mrs. Keefe was showered with compliments. Among the other guests were: Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Craig, Mrs. Julia Marquand, Mrs. A. D. Wilbey, Mrs. Susie Fennel Pipes, of Eugene; Dr. R. E. Wright, Harry J. Eilers and Gustav F. Eilers.

Continued success is attending the work of organizing the newly formed Orpheus male chorus, and a very satisfactory rehearsal was held last Tuesday night at Elgers hall, when a portion of the new music was sung, with good results. Members are still being received, and all young men who have good natural singing voices are asked to file their names as applicants for membership with the voice committee any Tuesday night at Elgers hall. The business committee is now busy on the acquisition of lists of associate members, and elaborate plans for the first concert are being worked up. The boys sing with great spirit, and the good fellowship of the club members is highly commendable.

Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer has prepared an excellent musical programme for the Ateneum services tonight at the Temple Beth Israel. The ritual service, written for the day, will be given by the Temple quartet, Mr. Courson presiding at the pipe organ. Charles Duncan Hoff will play the celebrated "Kol Nidre," Max Strauss' arrangement for cello, "Elegie" by Brahms, played by a strong quartet composed of L. Peis, L. Leo Samuelson, Charles Duncan Hoff and Edgar E. Courson. Mrs. Bauer, Mrs. M. B. Boyer and Mr. Ban will sing the beautiful Horatio Parker anthem, "The Lord is My Light." Tomorrow, the Temple Quartet will sing most of the day's intervals, an elaborate service by Schlesinger, interspersed with solos and anthems. Pleasant comment is heard about the fine instrumental selections, played at the recent New Year services by Frank G. Eichenlaub, violinist, C. D. Raff, cellist, and Edgar E. Courson, organist.

Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer will take place in the near future at Roseburg, Or., participated in by Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer, soprano, and Miss Leonora Fisher, organist.

Miss Harriet Enna and Dr. Emil Enna will appear in recital at Vancouver, Wash., Tuesday night under the auspices of the First Presbyterian Church. Miss Enna will appear in this city October 15, under the auspices of the Enna Amateurs, on the occasion of Mrs. Hattie Wise will be the assisting soloist. Miss Enna gave a song recital at the Shrine banquet given in honor of the Imperial potentate, and last Sunday night sang at a recital for the Danish societies.

The first concert of sacred music this season at Grace Methodist Episcopal Church took place there last Sunday night, under the direction of Miss Leonora Fisher, and was quite successful. The ensemble work of the choir, with organ accompaniment, was notably good.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pipes, of Eugene, have made this city their home, and will live in their new house on the Willamette riverfront near Charleston street. Mrs. Pipes is better known as Mrs. Burge Fennel Pipes, a talented violinist.

The personnel of the Treble Clef Club for this season is as follows: Soprano, Mrs. Sanderson Reed; Mrs. Helen Lytle; Miss Delta Watson; Miss Jane

A strike to place among the men musicians in the orchestras of the Salem and Empire Theaters, Salem, Mass., and the theater manager, with the approval of prominent officials of the Musicians' Union, replaced the strikers by engaging orchestras composed of young women.

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Orchestra in several subscription concerts to be held in Seattle this winter. Among the conductors who are considered as possible successors to Henry Hadley, who recently resigned as conductor of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, are: Ossip Gabrilowitch, the celebrated Russian pianist and composer; Modest Atschulev, conductor of the Russian Symphony, of New York; Arnold Volpe, of New York, who asked a very high salary; Boris Sokoloff, director of the Imperial Conservatory at St. Petersburg; Elliott Schenon, of New York; Signor Trindelli, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Sam Franka, lately of New York and now in Germany. That is to say: These high musical authorities have stated that they will accept the position as conductor, if the salary is high enough. But the Seattle folks pay the salary and finance the deal, through concert receipts and subscriptions by guarantors?

In Eastern newspapers, new pictures are being shown of Madame Emma Eames and her new husband, Emilio de Gogorza. Curiously enough, the picture of Madame Eames, repeated as looking much older than the classical, ethereal looking young woman with whom Portland folk so much in love, on the occasion of her last concert here. She not only looks taller than Gogorza, but quite matronly.

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Oscar Hammerstein in an interview published in London, says that he is very much pleased with the fine quality of English vocalists in this city. He proceeded Mr. Hammerstein, "I have found in the British singer a rare combination of what I call the essential qualities for great singing, namely, voice, heart and brain; the ability to sing, first of all, the gift of heart-expression, and the talent to use the two foregoing qualities. Moreover, the English language as it is spoken here approaches nearer in its intonation and vocalism to the romance languages. It is not guttural like the German, nor is it nasal like the American. The matter of producing a grand opera in English is now engaging my attention. In my opinion, England has long concealed the fact that she can produce vocal artists of the highest quality."

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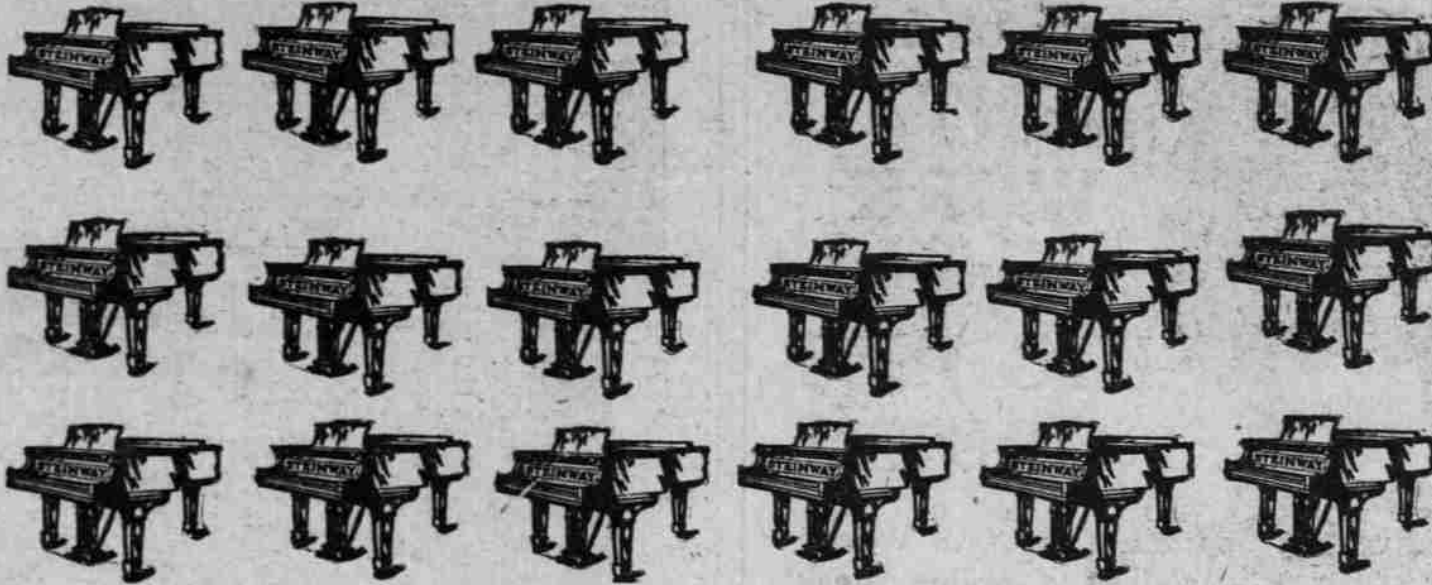
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