

MUSIC, DRAMATICS AND KINDRED ARTS

Soprano and Tenor to Open Artist Series

THE Elwyn Concert bureau has been showered with compliments for the brilliant array of talent booked for its artist series which opens Saturday, October 15, when Mrs. E. Bruce Knowlton, soprano, and Nicola Zerola, dramatic tenor, at the Auditorium, where all of the seven concerts in which 12 artists are to be presented, will be held.

The other 10 artists are Cyrena Van Gordon, contralto of the Chicago Opera association; Alice Gentle, dramatic soprano of the Seattle Opera company; Arthur Rubinstein, Polish pianist; Paul Atkinson, tenor of the Metropolitan; Kathleen Parlow, famous violinist; Olga Steeb, pianist; Edna Thomas, mezzo; Sascha Jacobson, violinist; Arthur Middleton, bass-baritone, and Alberto Salvi, harpist.

In Nicola Zerola of the Metropolitan opera, Portland will hear a dramatic tenor new to the Pacific coast, who comes heralded as a worthy successor to the late illustrious Enrico Caruso, whose place he filled in many instances at the New York opera house of continental Europe. In the East he is known as a great artist of the concert platform as well as the operatic stage.

Zerola sang in Rochester, N. Y., recently and the critics there unreservedly declared his voice of the kind that arouses tumultuous applause. The upper voice was compared with that of the great Tarnagano, and when he tossed off the high Cs and struck one climax after another, the audience went wild with enthusiasm.

Mrs. E. Bruce Knowlton has a brilliant voice and a personality that is at once completely captivating. At the Metropolitan she is the favorite prima donna.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Bruce Knowlton arrived in Portland last week from St. Paul and were so well pleased that they have opened a studio and intend to become permanent residents. Mr. Knowlton is the St. Paul Musical academy, conductor, composer and teacher of piano and voice, and Mrs. Knowlton is a pianist. As composer Mr. Knowlton favors major works, such as oratorios, cantatas and choruses for male, women's and mixed voices. Among his compositions are "The King" oratorio, the cantatas "Brunnhilda" for mixed quartet, chorus and two ladies; the cantata "The Fratres" for ladies' trio, accompanied by string quartet alone, and several others that have been produced in the East. A grand opera, "The Monk of Toledo," is one of his creations and he has in preparation several oratorios, cantatas and choruses for male, women's and mixed voices.

The dinner musical was at the Campbell Hill, and during Mrs. Knowlton's formal recital many expressions of admiration were heard. Among the guests of the hotel and the friends Miss Sheehy invited to meet Miss Nelson were a number of gifted musicians who extended the heartiest welcome to this new soprano. For her songs Miss Nelson drew upon the classics, dramatic and lyric types of literature for the voice, including a repertory which is comprehensive and which does not avoid the difficult. Her versatility was shown in numbers of such widely varied character as Arnie's "Last with the Pellicle Mite," "Puccini's 'Visti d'Arte,' Hve's 'J'ai Pleure en Reve,' and Huntingdon Woodman's 'An Open Secret,' while her feeling for the tender and poetic was revealed in 'Heart, Have You Heard the News?' (Frank Hartling), 'One Little Hour' (Dichtmont), and 'Morning' (Clayton Johns). Miss E. Bruce Knowlton was Miss Nelson's able accompanist.

Phyllis Wolfe, well known soprano and vocal teacher, has recently been appointed director of music at the White Temple. Miss Wolfe will be organist this season, succeeding Silas J. Vann and Granville Morgan, tenor, will fill the place left vacant by the resignation of Water Gill. The other members of the quartet are Rosita Fowle, mezzo-contralto, and Axel Osterholm, basso, both of whom were with the church last year.

The choir of the First Congregational church, Joseph A. Finley, choirmaster, began its work Sunday, September 4. Rehearsals are held every Friday night at 8:15 in the choir gallery. Alto and soprano sections are full but a few good tenors and basses will be well needed. Application may be made to Mr. Finley, Broadway 2777. The chorus sings only at evening services. Plans are going forward for the rendition at the monthly special musical services of several cantatas and masses and "The Messiah" at Christmas. The same quartet as at the close of last year will sing. The members are Mrs. Dudley Steele, soprano; Miss Nina Dressel, contralto; Ernest Crosby, tenor, and W. E. Robinson, basso.

A studio tea of unusual interest was given Wednesday afternoon by Marie Louise Taylor in her studio at 714 Glisan street. Mrs. Taylor has just come to Portland from New York city, where she has been teaching piano for several years. The main feature of the afternoon was an interesting talk and demonstration of the unique manner of her teaching. Mrs. Taylor has a charming personality and has made many friends in Portland, both musically and socially.

Mrs. Rosa Courten-Red returned Saturday from her trip to California and will be in studio Monday.

MISS BLANCHE NELSON, English soprano, who has decided to locate in Portland. With Mrs. Ella Connell Jesse, pianist, she was guest of honor at a dinner musical given by Miss Frances Sheehy last Sunday evening.



Local Oratorio Artists Are Returning for Society Starts New Program

THE Portland Oratorio society is looking forward to one of the most enjoyable years of its history. Arrangements have been made with Hal White, manager of the Auditorium, to give a course of three entertainments Sunday afternoons at the Auditorium. The first will be a miscellaneous program of solo, quartet and chorus numbers. It will be given about the middle of November. The second, about January 15, will be a one and one half hour production of "The Messiah." The third will be a cantata, "The Rose Maiden." Three soloists arranged for so far are Miss Phyllis Wolfe, soprano, for "The Rose Maiden"; Robert Louis Barron, violinist, and Harold Moore, bass, for the first concert. Mrs. Ethel Maske has returned to Portland and will be the accompanist. Rehearsals will be held every Tuesday evening beginning next Tuesday, September 20, at 8:15 p. m. in the hall at 148 Thirtieth street, corner of Morrison. Chorus members will be welcomed.

"Much may be done with a Scotchman if you catch him young enough," writes an English cynic. Theo Karle, who is not an English cynic but a well known American tenor booked for a concert at the Auditorium, Saturday, October 2, says this remark is true of the singer. "Much may be done with a singer if you catch him young," is the way this gifted artist paraphrases and which he reasons out as follows: "Most people take up singing much too late in life. Catch the boy or girl early. Let them know and understand good music, and sing in time and tune before physical development has taken them to a point where defects cannot be remedied. Teach them to assist nature in the care of the most perfect organ ever produced—the human singing mechanism. Then when they grow up it won't be so hard, for their eyes and ears will be accustomed to seeing and hearing good music, and they will pitch a clear, good note properly, and evolve simple harmonies for it before the serious work of a professional career is undertaken."

Campbell's American concert band has been engaged to play at the Columbia County fair at St. Helens next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with Mrs. A. E. Denmore, soprano, as soloist, and on Saturday at the Multnomah County fair, when Mrs. Lucie Valair, contralto, will be the soloist.

The Child's First Book of Melodies, by Willa Eades Honsta, is being published by the Theodore Presser company of Philadelphia. The book is intended as an aid to the teacher in awakening musical feeling, and developing the child's power to understand simple musical ideas. Mrs. Honsta has specialized for years in children's work and has also evolved a system of foundational training in "Music Perception and Expression" that has been found very successful.

Dr. Emil Enna, pianist, assisted by Mrs. Herbert Gaar Reed, dramatic reader, gave a recital at Pleasant Home Saturday evening before a large house. Dr. Enna will appear during the month of September in recitals at Silverton and Sandy, and at the State fair at Salem on September 25.

The Portland District Music Teachers' association will hold its first monthly meeting at the Y. W. C. A. on Tuesday, September 20, at 12 o'clock. Members are urged to attend. Arrangements have to be made for the state convention which meets in Portland in November.



E. BRUCE KNOWLTON, composer and teacher, who has come to Portland from St. Paul.

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