

Music Department

(Inasmuch at National Music week is observed from May 6 to 12 a reprint of a very interesting article is hereby given. The history of music will be resumed next Sunday.)

Home Night in National Music Week

"Show me the home wherein music dwells," said Longfellow, "and I shall show you a happy, peaceful and contented home."

Music Week may be used as a stimulus toward more making of music in the home by family and friends, with results such as Longfellow has outlined. In this way the Music Week Committee may bring about a literal realization of the slogan, "Music for Everybody—Everybody for Music."

Each a campaign for home music can best be brought about through the efforts of a special committee. The idea should be transmitted to all the households through publicity in the local papers. This publicity should, first, set forth the value of home music and, second, should contain concrete suggestions for its development. Material for the former use is to be obtained without charge from the National Music Week Committee, 45 West 45th St., New York City. It includes an article on "Home Music" by Mrs. John F. Lyons, former President of the National Federation of Music Clubs, and a copy of a talk on "Music for the Home."

It should be emphasized, however, that it is possible to have family music in the home with merely the equipment that is already available therein and without any of the material that is listed below. The following suggestions are so arranged that they may be carried out in any order. The National Music Week Committee has learned from experience that local groups in many cases need most of all to know where they can get the actual material necessary for carrying on particular activities in which they are interested.

1. Home Singing. A delightful form of home music of which Americans have not made enough of late is that of singing around the family piano or organ or to the accompaniment of smaller instruments. A novel form of singing, with the leadership by radio, is described later. Full suggestions for such home singing are found in the pamphlet, "Community Singing and the Community Chorus," to be obtained without charge from the National Music Week Committee. From the same source comes "Stories of America's Songs," which will add interest to the singing.

2. Instrumental Groups. Family instrumental ensembles, such as we hear of in Europe, may be organized for Music Week with the aid of new material that American ingenuity has devised. An example of such material for the use of intimate music groups is a series entitled "Instrumental Quartet Repertoire," by J. E. Maddy and T. P. Giddings, and issued by the Willis Music Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. This edition provides an elastic, interchangeable repertoire for various combinations of orchestra and band instruments. It enables any neighborhood instrumental group of no particular experience to find material that it can play. Many of the numbers are arrangements of familiar community songs, thus providing for a linking up of the home singing with the instrument group. Other editions that might be used for similar merging of voices and instruments are the Complete Instrumentation of the "Golden Book of Favorite Songs," published by Hall and McCreary Co., 430 South Wabash Ave., Chicago, and the "Laurel Band Book," published by C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Ave., Boston.

3. Learning New Instruments. Music Week may be the occasion for the "debut" in the home of some member of the family as the player of an instrument which he has never played before or of one who has never played any instrument. Father or Mother may possibly choose the piano, and may learn to play their own accompaniments for simple songs by the use of "Everybody's Look-and-Play Piano Book," to be obtained from the Look-and-Play Music Co., Park Ave., New York City. Sister might select the ukelele and master it with the "Simplified in Ukelele Playing," to be obtained from the National Music Week Committee. Little Brother may prefer the harmonica, and should send for the instruction pamphlet, "How to Play the Harmonica," to be obtained from the National Music Week Committee. If the local Music Week Committee wishes to promote harmonica groups on a broad scale, it should write to the Committee for the pamphlet, "Harmonica Bands For Boys and Girls." From the same source may be obtained suggestions as to simple instruction material on banjo, mandolin, guitar and other fretted instruments, as found in the pamphlet, "Fretted Instrument Clubs."

4. Radio. Home music making may be combined with listening to good music over the radio by inviting in the neighbors for a "Music Hour in the Home." In other words, the host will tune out from the radio program when some non-musical feature is scheduled. That period will be filled with home music-making in some of the forms herein suggested. The local Music Week Committee could well prepare a list of the most meritorious musical broadcasts for the week.

5. Phonograph. The above suggestion applies equally to the talking machine, with the additional advantage that the household may have entire choice as to the music that they wish to hear thus mechanically produced. Interchange of records among families in a neighborhood may be utilized to build up special phonograph programs, particularly those built around some definite subject. One of these is "Giving Opera with the Phonograph." A pamphlet of that title is to be obtained from the National Music Week Committee. Catalogues containing suggestions of this sort may be secured from the educational departments of the Victor Talking Machine Co., Camden, N. J.; Columbia Phonograph Co.,

1819 Broadway, New York City; and Brunswick, Balke-Collender Co., 623 South Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

6. Musical Games. A local Music Week committee may secure publication in the newspaper of material for a "questions and answers" game that is found in the pamphlet, "Quiz Yourself on Music." This may be had from the National Music Week Committee. A second series of questions is devoted to American music. Another game may be devised with the use of the pamphlet, "Musical Quotations," from the same source.

7. Music Memory Contests. It should be easy to adapt for home use the music memory contest idea, and the Music Week committee might make ready to supply the necessary information. This data, along with a suggested list of compositions for the contest is found in a pamphlet, "Suggestions for Music Memory Contest Procedure," to be obtained from the National Music Week Committee. A simplified variation of the memory contest is found in a musical game, "Gramma Dreams," to be obtained from the Playground and Recreation Association, New York City.

8. Toy Symphony. A chance for the family's ingenuity to show itself is in the providing of novel instruments for a rhythm orchestra or toy symphony—some of these to be found in the kitchen or elsewhere about the household. The family's piano comes to the center for this enterprising rhythmic diversion, as explained in the booklet, "The Toy Symphony," to be obtained from the Committee.

9. Condition of Instruments. A reminder as to the need for keeping in good condition the musical instruments in the home may be issued in preparation for Music Week. Especially should the piano be in tune if the home music making is to be effective. A leaflet on "The Care of the Piano" may be obtained from the National Music Week Committee. The same scrutiny as to the condition of the phonograph may also be made at this time. Where there is an instrument in the household that has been lying idle for some time, let the Music Week be an incentive for its former player to take it up again.

10. Parents and Music Study. These preparations for Music Week should give the parents a natural opportunity to become better acquainted with the music study of their children, whether it is in the form of private lessons or of the public school work. "Pre-school Music Aids Child," is the title of a leaflet describing a course for mothers in the preschool music training of their children. It is to be obtained from the National Music Week Committee, as is a copy of the publisher's announcement of a book on this subject, "A Musical Message for Mothers." The tying-up of child music study with records for phonograph and reproducing piano is described in a booklet entitled, "Music For Children," obtainable from the Child Study Association of America, 509 West 121st St., New York.

11. Home Sing by Radio. Local committees for Music Week may assist a nearby broadcasting station to carry out the idea of community singing in the homes with the leadership broadcast by radio. This was done by a station at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in co-operation with the playground Commission. The innovation was described thus by the Assistant Playground Director, Mrs. Clara Nichols, who was the song leader:

"The 'Home Sing' night was an experiment. I had a chorus of eight women from the Women's Club and a male quartet as assistants. I had a little talk on the value and recreative qualities of music in the home, and then I announced the songs just as I do every night on the playground during the summer. Our group led the list in the number of verses announced—that is, that ever comment occurred to me—story about the song or the composer or a joke about the way the people sang it."

"After my first number, telephone calls began coming in asking how it was coming across with requests for songs not on our program. The daily paper, the night before, had printed the list of songs in the order in which they would be sung and asked that listeners be ready to join in as the songs were announced. Postcards were received saying that groups of neighbors had assembled and had joined in the singing, having heaps of fun."

This plan might be supplemented by a reproduction of the texts of the songs in the paper so that the people might more readily sing the words of the chosen numbers. Failing that, the committee might possibly create a tie-up with a local merchant who would distribute free a song sheet bearing his imprint. If copyright songs were used, permission would have to be given by the respective publishers for their reproduction on such a sheet or in the paper. In the choice of songs, use might be made of a recommended list of twenty given, with descriptive notes, in "Stories of America's Songs."

III. How Home Night is Organized. At Kent, Washington. "We have had Home Night ever since our Music Week was instituted six years ago, and 1927 was the most successful of all. We find that it appeals to all classes of people, has promoted a feeling of friendliness, aroused a spirit of co-operation, and, what is best of all, holds the interest of our young people."

"Music Week in Kent is given under the auspices of the Women's Improvement Club, assisted by the Music Study Club (a department of the Commercial Club). The population of Kent is between 2,000 and 3,000. Home Night is always on Monday so as to arouse interest in following programs. A committee of three or five is appointed for this particular night. The chairman must be enthusiastic, astute, tactful and broadminded. About eight homes are selected in different parts of the city. The same homes are not used two years in succession. No discrimination is made in the choice. Large,

small, pretentious or modest, it makes no difference. No invitations are given. Care is taken that every one knows the homes are open to all. People are supposed to go to the nearest one. No refreshments are served.

"The program consists of eight numbers (varied) and of even length so that there shall be no waits. Nothing but worth while music is presented. (Some students give their lessons from the operas.) Everyone starts promptly at the appointed time in each home. This must be done. Everything must be like clock-work to avoid confusion. The talent is taken around in progression by autos. The Commercial Club gets the autos and provides drivers. The last part, taking the talent around, is rather puzzling at first. If there are eight homes, the program will consist of eight numbers of equal length, or they may be double numbers if short. At a given hour the performers, drivers and cars are assembled at a given place. The cars are numbered, or rather given a number. The drivers are given a slip upon which the names of the homes to which they are to go are written in the order in which they shall go. Every slip must of course, be numbered differently and start with 'one.' The slip also has the name of the person who is to be taken. All cars are started so their occupants will be ready at their first home to start at 8 o'clock. Cars should be routed to save doubling streets as much as possible."

MRS. F. B. CHURCHILL, Chairman of Music.

ANOTHER FLYER DOWN
MITCHEL FIELD, N. Y., May 3.—(AP)—Lieutenant Royal V. Thomas was forced down here at 11:55 tonight after remaining in the air 35 hours 33 minutes and 24 seconds in his single-headed effort to establish a new endurance flight record.

The inter-county council of the American Legion for District No. 2 was held at Sheridan Friday evening with the majority of the posts located in the five counties represented. Charlie Gill, president of the Yamhill county Pow Wow, called the meeting to order and then adjourned this meeting for the council gathering. E. J. Bayliss, district executive committee man, presided and introduced post commanders and state officials who were present. A noteworthy feature of the meeting was the fact that every post reported considerable activity during the past year and there is to be no let up.

There was some discussion concerning resolutions which may be introduced at the convention to be held in Medford; but this consisted mainly in explaining them. It was decided that the inter-county council would meet in Salem on Friday, July 13 at which time it is hoped every post in the district will be represented.

Following the business session the Sheridan Post and auxiliary served refreshments and then the remainder of the evening was devoted to dancing.

The regular meeting of Capital Post No. 9 of the American Legion will be held Tuesday evening May 8. Commander "Fod" Malins says that a number of very important matters of business are scheduled for discussion. In all probability the most important of these will be relative to inviting

MUSIC WEEK PLANS IN CITY ELABORATE

Today marks the opening of Music week which will be observed throughout the United States May 6th to 13th.

Interesting programs will be given each afternoon of the week, and concerts at the churches will feature the opening evening.

The general committee for the observance of the week in Salem includes: Mrs. Walter Denton, chairman, Miss Elizabeth Levy, Miss Frances Virginia Melton, Miss Lena Belle Tartar, Mr. Harry M. Styles, and Miss Gretchen Kreamer.

Organizations cooperating with the general committee are American association of University Women, Daughters of the American Legion auxiliary, Women's club, B. and P. W. club, Willamette University, Marion County Federation of Community clubs, MacDowell club, Chapter A. B. and Chapter G. P. E. O.; American Legion, Cherris, Elks, Ad club, Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions clubs; Chamber of Commerce, Chemawa Indian schools, and newspapers, churches and theaters of the city.

Surrounding communities: Woodburn, Brooks, Silverton, Stayton, Monmouth, Dallas, Independence, Jefferson, Turner, Aumsville, Pratum, Fruitland, MacCleary, west Salem, Kelzer, Rickreall, Eola, Zena, Brush college, Spring Valley, Lincoln, and Fairview, are also arranging programs for the week.

The concert given by Miss Lucille Ross, Miss Dorothy Pearce and Miss Iva Clare Love will be the musical event of tomorrow evening.

Veterans' Column

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the American Legion of Oregon to convene in Salem for the 1929 convention.

Stayton. —(Special)—The American Legion Post closed a lease last week with the Masonic order for the park. The lease extends for two years and the Legion will clean and fix up the park and hold a series of dances in the pavilion during the summer. Plans are being formulated for some sort of a celebration here on July 4. The Legion and the Women's club will cooperate in this and further announcements will be made later.

The rumor has spread rapidly that Capital Post No. 9 might be held in Medford; but this consisted mainly in explaining them. It was decided that the inter-county council would meet in Salem on Friday, July 13 at which time it is hoped every post in the district will be represented.

Probably there has been very little said about the Capital Post Drum corps for the past few weeks but that does not signify that the members are idle. When the Redwood Motor Caravans banqueted in Salem this week, the drum corps played and made a decided hit. In fact the corps makes its appearance at a great many civic functions and in addition practices are held each week. They are preparing for the national convention and will leave nothing undone in these will be relative to inviting

National Music Week

Opportunities

Longfellow said---

"Show me the home wherein music dwells, and I shall show you a happy, peaceful and contented home."

Have Music in Your Home

"Be Contented"



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