

# Salem Philharmonic Orchestra Monday Night at Armory in Final Concert

By OLIVE M. DOAK

"Sing, brother, sing, that's why darkies were born" or something to that effect is the theme of a popular song—a consoling philosophy for there is no greater boon to humanity than music in some form, jazz, classic, religious, or folk music. Each to its devotees acts as a gloom chaser and sedative for trouble. To many it is an inspiration for greater accomplishments, and to all but a negligible few, music in some form is a necessary and vital part of their lives.

Each city has its representative musical organizations which are as much a part of the city progress as its chamber of commerce and its industries. The more advanced the city, the more highly developed its musical organizations, because such organizations thrive on the support of the public and therefore the advancement of the public is reflected in such organizations.

Monday night will demonstrate in part the splendid advancement that Salem has made in the past year in musical activity. The Salem Philharmonic symphony orchestra will present its third concert under the direction of Jacques Gerszkovitch and with it will be presented the Willamette university philharmonic choir of which Cameron Marshall is director.

This choir has taken on a civic color along with the symphony orchestra for it has been chosen by Governor Meier to represent Oregon in the world fair which is opening in Chicago in a few weeks.

Both organizations are in their infancy but each is a child prodigy. Of a group of about 50 players in the symphony orchestra there are 22 students, several of whom are grade school children, two of them 9 and 10 years old respectively, a larger number high school and junior high school students and the remainder students at either Monmouth or Willamette university. The Philharmonic choir has a complete personnel of Willamette students.

Many of the symphony personnel have had to overcome some severe obstacles to be able to take a place in the orchestra. Some have had no instruments, some have not had money to pay for lessons to musically equip themselves to play with the orchestra, others have families to support or live at considerable distance from Salem and find transportation a problem but these obstacles have been overcome.

One of the members of the orchestra took offense at a statement which intimated that many had had to sacrifice in order to take advantage of the chance to play in the Philharmonic orchestra. To call it a sacrifice to overcome any of the obstacles was ingratitude in the opinion of this young musician-business man. To have the opportunity to play in the orchestra was a "break" for which each should thank his lucky stars.

But why try to tell the public about the orchestra this same young man went on to say. "Everybody knows that we are just beginners and that we are far from perfect—we are working hard and improving each time but still we are a long way from understanding the music upon which we are working—it takes a long time to be able to understand the beauty and intelligence of classical music. We can't play like the large symphony orchestras that the public likes to talk about. We are just getting 'educated' in music and I don't think the public would care about going to school with us."

A splendid simplicity and sincerity on the part of this young musician. He has by the way taken up the flute at his odd moments between working very hard in one of the cogs of a large corporation. This was two years ago. He read first concerning music and studied musical instruments and instrumentation and came to the conclusion that the flute was his choice. After two years of persistent application he has a reputation in the orchestra for his superior interpretation of his instrument.

And if the public which does it is true, likes to talk about the splendid orchestras that it has heard in New York, or San Francisco, or Portland, or abroad, could but listen in on one of the rehearsals which is held several times during the week with one grand rehearsal each week, there is no doubt in my mind but that it would gladly come for each program and be delighted with sharing the education that these young people are getting and taking so seriously.

There is something fine in sharing the accomplishments of others and in reality the orchestra belongs to Salem for it is a civic organization, supported by the individual contribution of you and you and you. And those who are supporting a serious and deeply, almost reverently appreciative group of musicians who admit with fine intelligence that they are being "educated."

In the personnel is a dentist who finds time to give two hours a day to his violin for practice. Another works in an office a half day, plays in three orchestras and finds time to give several cello lessons. Another works all day, takes care of the duties of a family of four, and has never missed a rehearsal. Another sells papers to pay for lessons that will allow him to play with the orchestra and still another does housework for her music lessons.

In the orchestra aside from the large number of students there are bookkeepers, radio technicians, salesmen, music teachers, office workers and a farmer. The farmer lives at some distance from Salem and has to drive in for rehearsals and he has missed but a very few. A called rehearsal caught him off guard one night. He received the telephone message at 8 o'clock



Top left, Miss Edress Green, Dallas, first cellist; top right, Miss Hortense Taylor, principal second violinist; lower left, Heinz Eymann, first flute; lower right, Wesley Roeder, in charge of brasses; center, Director Jacques Gerszkovitch.

and dispensing with supper he arrived in time for rehearsal.

Here are a few personalities concerning the five people shown in the cut. Miss Edress Green, teacher in Dallas high school, took some cello lessons as a child but gave it up for some reason. Ten years elapsed and then came the symphony this last fall. She began practicing and now drives to Portland once a week, takes a cello lesson with Herbert Sorenson, seldom misses a rehearsal and finds time to give a cello lesson regularly to a small girl who could not otherwise have the lesson.

You will see her in her place Monday night, slim, dark, graceful and seeming to express in every movement the deep, sensitive beauty of her instrument. Then there is Wesley Roeder, young graduate of Willamette university whose hobby is bands, and brasses in the symphony. He plays and teaches them all but he prefers the trumpet. He has worked out some very nice trumpet work with both Willamette students as director of the university band for four years and with high school students as director of the high school band this year.

He is a slim young man, pleasing to meet, with quick enthusiasm for his work and for the orchestra. He majored in psychology in college having taken work in addition to Willamette in the University of Oregon and also the University of Washington. In each school he was a member of the University symphonies, having traveled in the tours made by the University of Oregon symphony. He has also and still does radio broadcasting and just now is playing each Friday night with the 162nd infantry band in Portland. As was said before, he "loves" bands.

This young musician is also a tennis enthusiast, having been captain of the Willamette team for two years. He is also particularly fond of "The Surprise Symphony."

And there is Hortense Taylor who has seen much of Salem. She is the daughter of Rev. Fred S. Taylor who was pastor of the First Methodist church here before being called to Portland. Miss Taylor is, according to those who work with her in the orchestra, a very talented young lady. She has won several violin contests in school tournaments. She has studied the violin for the past six years and is now an industrious student hoping to major in music although at present she is started as a freshman in Willamette on a language course.

She carries 14 hours in Willamette, gives three hours a week to the orchestra, takes a lesson each week and gets in plenty of practice on this. Just now she is playing with the orchestra of the university production of "The Bohemian Girl" which is soon to be presented in Portland. She also finds time to keep up sorority duties as a member of Beta Chi sorority.

Her position in the orchestra is principal second. Her choice in music—modestly she suggested that her experience was yet hardly sufficient to venture a criticism but she is very fond of the music of Handel.

It is said was the first to recognize this versatility of the flute and then made much opportunity sensitive. It can express such splendid versatility. "There was Mendelssohn was it not whom

the woodwind section of the orchestra what the violin is to the string section. The flute is

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## Officers are Installed by Rainbow

ORDER OF RAINBOW installed officers Saturday night with an impressive service at Masonic temple. A large assemblage of the interested public was present to witness the ceremony which placed Miss Ruth Johnson in the chair of worthy advisor. Miss Alta Johnson, sister of Miss Johnson, and Miss Margaret Savage had charge of installation. A group of DeMolay headed by Waldo Mills, master councilor, had charge of the coronation ceremony.

Those installed included: Miss Ruth Johnson, worthy advisor; Miss Iris Jorgensen, worthy associate advisor; Miss Margaret Hauser, charity; Miss Ruth Melson, hope; Miss Cleo Ritter, faith; Miss Marie Stutesman, chaplain; Miss Jane Fisher, drill leader; Miss Edna Savage, red; Miss Marjorie Humphreys, orange; Miss Laneta Bellinger, yellow; Miss Martha Sprague, green; Miss Ruth Eoff, blue; Miss Helen Worth, indigo; Miss Dorothy Murphy, violet; Miss Julia Johnson, music; Miss Frances Ellis, choir director; the Misses Jean Doolittle, Alice Speck, Betty Smith and Barbara Macdonald, members of the choir; Miss Eleanor Trindle, confidential observer; Miss Daisy Varley, outer observer.

## Leslie P. T. A. To Conclude Season

The last meeting of the year for Leslie junior high school will be held Monday evening in the school auditorium, beginning at 7:45 o'clock.

Mrs. Dan McLellan, president, will preside. Vocal numbers will be given by Miss Arburns Rudie. The address of the evening will be given by Judge J. U. Campbell.

Ada Chapter, Order of Eastern Star has invited Chadwick chapter of Salem to be its guest Tuesday evening in Independence.

## Birthday Party Will Be Festive Affair

Members of the St. John's Lutheran Ladies aid will sponsor a festive affair Thursday at the Y. M. C. A. when they entertain with the annual "birthday" party.

Mrs. A. C. Lane is chairman of the committee in charge and assisting her is Mrs. J. M. Mike, Mrs. C. Byrd and Mrs. William E. Hinz.

## Hal Hibbard Group Is Entertained

"Mantle" day was observed by the members of Hal Hibbard auxiliary at the home of Mrs. Henry O. Miller Friday afternoon. A feature of the afternoon was the memorial service presented.

At the tea hour Mrs. Miller was assisted by Mrs. Albert Jair, Mrs. C. T. Harrington, and Mrs. Lulu Humphrey.

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