

Reviewer Terms Concert Memorable Valley Event

By KATHRYN DIEPENBROCK

What happened in our quiet little town of Medford Friday night, at the auditorium of our senior high school, when a group of 35 musicians had assembled under the baton of Richard Werner to show the world that it can be done?

To mark National Music week this group of people, young, or middle aged, professional musicians or non-professional high school students, or just folks from all walks of life from Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass and surrounding communities had come to show the people in Oregon that love and devotion for a worthy cause, the strong desire to win, to succeed is all it needs to make this a memorable day in the history of the city of Medford.

They had worked for months under the able leadership of Richard Werner. As guest artist, George Peckham, with his rich sonorous basso voice, assisted to present a very colorful, splendid program.

From the first waves of sound it was evident that this orchestra had spared no effort to make the evening a success.

Mr. Bruno Pellegrini was the very efficient accompanist for the soloist.

A happy choice of musical numbers made this a very enjoyable evening. It was more than just this. It was a fulfillment, the realization of a dream that had long been slumbering in the hearts of Richard Werner and many Medford residents.

The audience greeted the musicians with applause when the orchestra had assembled to open the program with Nicolò-Jomelli's "Ciaccona." A bit timid in the beginning and therefore not always so sure of timing their parts, the brave players soon overcame the first bit of "lamp-light fever," and gradually warmed up, led by their genial, smiling conductor.

The composition was a good opening number, often delightful in its simplicity, reminding of Mozart at times. The string instruments often developed fine tone qualities, also the wind and brass instruments did their full share to establish union.

The allegro of Mozart's Symphony in D Major was introduced in a lovely, spirited way and the violins showed splendid leadership, played the dainty embellishments skillfully. The andante began somewhat timidly but soon more and more tone quality was developed and continued into the minuet where more and more teamwork became evident.

Next Mr. George Peckham presented his Romanza, "Il Lacerato Spirito," from Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra." Seldom do we hear such an even flow of well sustained, beautifully formed tones as Mr. Peckham is able to produce. In all his singing there was a sweetness and fullness of sound, breath control and phrasing, which marked him as an artist of finest quality. Mr. Peckham sings the music with an easy command and with rare understanding.

During the intermission, Mr. Jennings Pierce came to the platform and addressed the audience giving expression to thoughts of his and of many in the audience in praising Mr. Werner's delightful leadership, the artistry of Mr. Peckham the worthy assistance of Mr. Bruno Pellegrini and the great united efforts of the orchestra members. He pointed out that symphonic philosophy has to be developed.

In Tchiakowsky's exquisite "Andante Cantabile" the players seemed a little afraid of expressing themselves at first, but soon rose up to the occasion, to the point where more of the depth and beauty of this great composition was transmitted to the audience. The end of this composition was so very delicate, so full of warmth, they all excelled in their delicate approach.

And now to Mr. Werner's splendid composition, "Petite Suite Ancienne." This work almost sounded to the writer like that of one of the old masters, a splendid sample of fine workmanship and of the creative powers of Mr. Werner. In the

"Siciliano," the firm development of fugue-like movements was bravely introduced by wood instruments, brass following the cellos, bass violas. The musicians seemed to play Mr. Werner's composition with a great deal of devotion and understanding. The orchestra also did some fine work in the Minuet, and next came the Gigue, with its rollicking tunes as conclusion.

Congratulations to Mr. Werner and to his fine musicians on this splendid achievement.

And now to the highlights of Mr. Peckham's numbers: Robert Schumann's "Widmung," which means "dedication." What warmth and depth, what tenderness shone through his rendition! His German diction was perfect.

His next number, very dramatic and shall we say, colossal in its ending, was a splendid opposite to the first selection.

At the last, before leaving the platform, the real homecoming spirit seemed to have taken hold of the singer and therefore of the audience, too. Mr. Peckham expressed how proud he was to have been called down here to his home town to help celebrate this rebirth of community spirit in music. He especially greeted the young players in the orchestra, spoke of his early days in Medford and particularly of one friend, a man in the audience, who had encouraged his early efforts as a singer. For this friend he then sang "The Horn," a French composition, in perfect French diction with very clever accompaniment—the echo of the horn. Mr. Pellegrini did a splendid piece of work.

Another encore was "Sylvia" which Mr. Peckham sang with sweetness and delicacy. Then he sat down on one of the chairs, saying he was tired, and sang "The Road to Mandalay." He really felt at home again—had all of his audience with him.

Last, but not least, Mr. Peckham paid tribute to his aged parents who were in the audience, by singing "The Lord's Prayer," putting his whole soul into it, "for the dearest people that are here." Thus ended a perfect evening.

Department Heads To Visit Medford

Mrs. Frank Pendergrass, Portland, department president of Oregon, and O. F. Gullickson, Portland, department commander of Oregon, United Spanish War Veterans, will make their official visits to Colonel Sargent camp and auxiliary Sunday, May 15, at Redman hall. The meetings will be preceded by a ham dinner with Mrs. Frank Widper and her committee in charge.

Mrs. James Cech, president of the local auxiliary, states that delegates to the department convention in Bend in July will be elected. All Spanish American war veterans and their families are invited to the dinner and meetings.

Tour Announced By Garden Club

Medford Garden club has planned a garden tour for Thursday, May 12. Members and invited guests are to meet at the entrance of Hawthorne park at 10 a.m. and transportation will be provided.

Each person is to be responsible for his own lunch, and the tour will be resumed at 12:45 p.m.

The tour will include the gardens of Mrs. Herb Grey, Mrs. H. C. Witham, Mrs. E. C. Farley, the Carlton garden on Old Stage road and the Lewis Nursery, Jacksonville.

Past Noble Grands To Honor Husbands

Husbands of members of Olive Rebekah Past Noble Grands club will be guests of the club members Thursday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. A potluck dinner will be served. The event will be held at the Girls Community club and also invited are visiting past noble grands and their husbands. A social hour will be conducted after the dinner.



Miss Lea Padgett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Padgett, Central Point, will be featured soloist in a concert to be given by the Eve Prentice Accordion band Monday, May 9. It will be held in Medford Senior High school auditorium beginning at 8 p.m.

Luces, Secretary Leave for Canada

Dr. and Mrs. James C. Luce, accompanied by Dr. Luce's secretary, Miss Jean Runtz, left Saturday for Quebec, Canada. Dr. Luce, who was accepted last year into membership of the Harvey Cushing society, an honorary group, will attend a meeting of the society at the Chateau Frontenac.

They will visit at Albany, N.Y., with Dr. and Mrs. Reinhold Kanzer, former Medford residents. Dr. Kanzer is there studying plastic surgery work. Miss Runtz will return from Boston, Mass., where the group will visit, and the Luces will continue on to Washington, D.C., before their return. They expect to be away about three weeks.

Officers Elected For Iris Society

Members of the Southern Oregon Iris society met May 2 at the home of Mrs. R. W. Smith, 519 Park street, and elected officers. Named were president, Mrs. O. V. Poe, Phoenix; vice-president, Mrs. Ray Coleman, Jacksonville; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. C. C. Sater, Medford.

A show will be held during iris season, the time and place to be announced later.

Color slides of the leading iris hybridizers of the United States, their gardens and many outstanding iris were shown.

Peckhams Honored At Party Thursday

Mr. and Mrs. George Maddox, 340 South Groveland avenue, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Burgess, Ashland, were hosts Thursday night for an after-concert party which honored Mr. and Mrs. George Peckham, Seattle. Mr. Peckham, who was featured soloist at a concert given by the Philharmonic Society of Southern Oregon, formerly lived here and the guests were about 25 of his long-time friends.

The party was given at the Maddox home.

Mr. Peckham's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Peckham Sr., who lived in Medford, were among the guests.

Medford Couple Visits Sons Last Weekend

Mr. and Mrs. George Maddox returned to their home on South Groveland avenue the first of the week after a trip north to visit their sons.

In Mapleton, Ore., the couple visited their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raoul Maddox, and attended the annual spring concert of Mapleton High school. Raoul Maddox directs the band and chorus for the school.

The Medford couple then continued to Forest Grove to see their younger son, Blake, play baseball with the Beaverton city team. He is a student at Pacific university in Forest Grove.

Local Woman Named Head Of Mothers

Mrs. Rex Note was elected president of the Department of Oregon, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., during a recent convention of the group held at Grants Pass library auditorium. This was the second annual meeting of the organization. Mrs. Richard Joneschat, Covina, Calif., third national vice-president, was installing officer.

Mrs. Note succeeds Mrs. Oliver Crorey, Grants Pass.

Other officers installed at the meeting were Mrs. Carl Ferris, Grants Pass, first vice-president; Mrs. Edwin Barnes, Roseburg, second vice-president; Mrs. Heinrich Schmidt of Riddle, third vice-president; and Mrs. Pete Talburt, Roseburg, fourth vice-president.

Mrs. Frank Gleaves, Medford, recording secretary; Mrs. Helen Watson, Medford, financial secretary; Mrs. Crorey, chaplain, and Mrs. Oliver Simon, Grants Pass, treasurer.

Mrs. Milton Hoff, Riddle, served as the installing chaplain. Mrs. Jeanne Williams of Washington state, third department vice-president, was a visitor at the sessions and Mayor Robert Martin of Grants Pass, spoke during the sessions. Mr. Joneschat gave a report of the late organization stating that there are now 146 members and several chapters are in the process of organization.

Chapters represented were the host group and Medford, Roseburg, Riddle, Cave Junction, Winston-Dillard and Glide.

Mrs. James Cech, Medford, department musician, furnished accompaniment for songs.

From here were Mrs. Note, Mrs. Fred Middlebush, Mrs. Helen Watson, Mrs. Mayme Seiler, Mrs. Cech, Mrs. George Ware, Mrs. Olaf Severson and Mrs. Gleaves.

A total of 200 operations is required to make a lead pencil.

The Presidio of San Francisco contains more than 1500 acres.

Sunday, May 8, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Lions' Auxiliary Elects Officers At Last Meeting

Officer for the 1955-56 club year were elected at a meeting of Crater Lions' auxiliary May 4, at the American Legion hall. Those named to leadership positions are Mrs. Floyd Eastwood, president; Mrs. Warren Brenner, first vice-president; Mrs. James Armson, second vice-president; Mrs. Delmar Chapman, secretary; Mrs. Clayton George, treasurer; Mrs. Bill Royce, lion trainer; Mrs. Manville Heisel and Mrs. John Lusk, directors.

An installation ceremony for the new officers will be held at the Tally Ho restaurant June 27.

Students Chosen For Music Meet

Eagle Point — Two Eagle Point students have been selected to represent the school at the 8th annual Music in May festival at Pacific university in Forest Grove, May 12 through 14, according to a release from the university. The students are Miss Claudia Griffin and Miss Kay McCorkel. Steve Whipple is the music director at the school.

Various social and musical activities will be held in connection with the event. About 500 students from the northwest's top performers are selected by their directors each spring to

form a 200-piece band, a 220-voice chorus and an 80-piece symphony orchestra to play under well-known guest conductors. Included will be a network broadcast and a concert by the three groups at the conclusion of the festival.

Jacob Avshalomov, Portland, will conduct the orchestra; Daniel L. Preston, Forest Grove, chorus; and Andrew Loney Jr., Klamath Falls, the band.

Auxiliary-Guild To Meet on Friday
St. Mark's auxiliary guild women plan a luncheon meeting for Friday, May 13, at 12:30 p.m. The business session will be held following the luncheon.

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