

# MUSICAL NOTES

Salem's Grand Opera house never held a larger audience of society and music-loving people than assembled Thursday evening to hear David Bispham, America's greatest baritone, and never was a singer more royally received in this city.

The stage disclosed a setting of soft gray, with mounds of Oregon-grape at each side, from which arose tall plants with many brilliant poinsettia blossoms. Palms in green jars added to the decorations; and when a big cluster of cream roses was presented to Mr. Bispham and placed on the grand piano, the delightful surroundings received a finishing touch.

Mr. Bispham is a great artist with a glorious voice beyond criticism and almost beyond description, and he stands supreme in his unique field. His diction is faultless and his interpretations incomparable. He possesses all of the many things which enter into the great problem of interpretation in singing; education, culture, personal magnetism, idealism, and a rational artistic and accurate vocal training. There was a charm and fascination about Mr. Bispham together with his magnificent voice that demanded encore after encore and called for more. Everyone was moved by his singularly intelligent interpretations, to the sadness, the joy, the passion and the tenderness that he put into his voice. He is an exponent of the art of singing in the language peculiar to one's country. Although his immense repertoire is sung in four languages, his program for an American audience is always given in English, and no other language is nearly so satisfactory to an English speaking people.

Mr. Bispham introduces his songs with descriptive remarks in a most charming manner. There was not the least formality between singer and audience, at any time. Mr. Bispham's remarkable personality brought him very close to his listeners' hearts.

His magnificent pipe organ tones were declared in the opening number, "Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves," and a wonderful interpretation was given in "I Attempt From Lovesickness to Fly," a selection from Henry Purcell's opera of "The Indian Princess." Beyond comparison were the transitions from lowest to highest notes in the Italian number, "When Two That Love are Parted." The encore demanded was "Pretty Creature." Storage, and brought a storm of applause. Most exquisitely sung in the tenderest and finest of vocal notes was the Scotch ballad, a fairy tale, "Tom the Rhymer." In extreme contrast was the comic selection, "I'm a Roamer," from the little opera of "Son and Stranger," composed by F. Mendelssohn when twelve years of age, a rollicking song with delightful interpretation. Although this number was sung with great rapidity, every word was clearly enunciated.

"The Monotone," a remarkable production of Peter Cornelius, in memory of his mother, was splendidly sung. The tone of G. in three flats, was used along with wonderful variations of shading and modulations, to the accompaniment carrying a little song which made the whole a gem of music, never before heard in Salem.

Again in contrast, Mr. Bispham sang "When I was a Page," from Verdi's "Opera of Falstaff." This was given with splendid dramatic interpretation and the audience was not satisfied until the number was repeated.

Dividing the groups of songs, Mr. Harry M. Gilbert gave splendidly two entirely different and most difficult piano numbers, "Nocturne" (D flat) and "Rhapsodie" (C major), works of F. Chopin and E. von Dohnanyi. No thought of criticism could be applied to his interpretations. His technique was perfect. The audience enthusiastically called for encore, which was a surprisingly clever bit of left hand work. The selection was the sextette from Lucia de Lammermoor, and although the right hand was at rest, not a note was missing. Mr. Gilbert's accompanying was faultless and no song could have been performed without such splendid following. Mr. Bispham's second group of songs was opened with a splendid rendition of an American classic, "The Song of the Shirt," by Sidney Homer. Most appealing to the audience was Robert Burn's tale of the battle of "Killick-rankie," set to music by H. H. Wetzel, and sung to a piano imitation of bag-pipes. Here again, Mr. Bispham's dramatic force brought to vivid recognition the braggadocho coward.

One of the most beautifully given numbers was Louis Elbel's setting to music of Thomas Moore's "Calm Be Thy Sleep." "Danny Deever," Rudyard Kipling's poem, was arranged by Walter Damrosch, especially for Mr. Bispham, fifteen years ago, and this wonderful artist sang it magnificently and followed the sad story with a double encore in comic vein.

The first was a banjo-song from Bandana Ballads and the next "Exhortations," by William Cook Marion. This was the preaching of an old colored pastor, given in voice, dialect and manner peculiar to the race. The promise of a visit from Mr. Bispham next year will be hearty good

news for Salem people. No artist could ever be more welcome and no singer has ever left this city with a greater appreciation of an enthusiastic audience than Mr. Bispham expressed at the reception given him after the concert.

Miss Minetta Magers is to be congratulated upon the success of this attraction and should be given most hearty thanks for making such music a possibility in Salem. She spared no time, exertion or expense in bending all energy to the management of presenting a concert of rarest merit by a world renowned artist.

Through the medium of "Musical Notes" Miss Magers wishes to express her great appreciation of the help which was extended to her by Salem friends, from the planning to the culmination of this splendid entertainment.

At the last meeting of the Salem Oratorio Society, it was decided to begin the study of "The Swan and the Sky Lark," a cantata written by Goring-Thomas, and as this creation is short, another work of similar length will be rehearsed and the two will be presented to the Salem public at a date subsequent to the presentation of "The Rose Maiden," which will be given in the near future.

The society is perfecting a plan to satisfactorily care for their financial needs and any desiring to join the society may make application to any of the newly elected officers. There will be no rehearsal next Monday evening, it being Christmas week, but the society will meet the following Monday, December twenty-ninth. The society has unanimously voted to use local talent for all the solo parts and a committee consisting of Mrs. Meyers, Mrs. Charles Roth, and Mrs. William Burghardt, Jr., has been appointed to select the soloists.

The officers of the society are as follows: President, Mrs. John J. Roberts; vice-president, Mrs. Milton Meyers; secretary and treasurer, Mr. Theodore Roth; official accompanist, Mrs. William H. Burghardt, Jr.

An interesting program has been arranged for the Christmas recital this afternoon by Mrs. W. A. Denton's piano pupils, in her resident studio.

Dainty little folders programmed the numbers given in recital by Miss Beatrice Shelton's small pupils and assistants, on the afternoon of December seventeenth, at the First Congregational Church. These children, whose ages are from seven to ten years, are bright musical pupils and gave their selections in excellent manner. Perhaps the most effective number on the program was the "Japanese Love Song," by Annabelle Golden and Lois Nye in costumes of the Flowery Kingdom. These children, pupils of Miss Bushnell, sang prettily and acted their parts to perfection.

The "Christmas Song" by little children of Garfield school, added much to the pleasure of the program. "Rain Drops," played by a tiny little three-year-old musical boy, Kenneth Allen, was delightful. Meryle Hunter, a very sweet little singer assisted, giving a Christmas song. In all, the rendition of this children's Christmas recital was very interesting and showed what a teacher's thorough training can accomplish when applied to small girls and boys.

Under direction and advice of Miss Minnette E. Harlan, a very large delegation of Monmouth people came to Salem for the Bispham concert Tuesday night. This thriving town is showing a spirit of progress, especially in music. Not only was expressed the keenest appreciation of the high merit of the music, and the privilege of listening to Mr. Bispham's magnificent voice, but an assurance was given that the appearance of Carrie Jacobs-Bond would bring to this city the same number of Monmouth people for the tenth of January.

It is quite possible Miss Magers will accept Mr. Frederick Shipman's advice and present Nordica in Salem. Mr. Shipman is manager for David Bispham and would have availed himself of the opportunity to visit this city Thursday evening had he not been called to San Francisco on that day.

Vesper services at four-thirty tomorrow afternoon at the First Presbyterian Church will be given by the choir, Mrs. Morrison Reid, soprano; Miss Hodge, contralto; Mr. Schramm, tenor; Mr. Walsh, bass; assisted by Miss Thelma Waters of Portland, by the young people's chorus, and by a quartet of men's voices. Miss Mary Schultz will play violin obligatos. The program will be: Organ—(a) "March of the Magi," Dubois; (b) "The Holy Night," Buck. "The Birthday of the King," Neidlinger. Scripture—Is. 60:1-3, 20-22; John 3:16. Hymn. Prayer. Childrens Chorus—"Christ is Born."

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Chorus—"There Were Shepherds," Schuecker-Mannev.  
Contralto Solo—"But the Lord is Mindful of His Own," Mendelssohn.  
Male Quartet—"Glory to God in the Highest," Stebbins.  
Quartet—"The Manger of Bethlehem," Harlan.  
Postlude—"Hallelujah Chorus," M. Handel.

David Bispham is giving two return recitals in Portland next week and will sing as a Christmas present to the newboys of Portland.

On last Tuesday evening a glee club was organized in Salem high school with twenty-two members enrolled, and the following officers elected: Mrs. Grace Wheelock, director; Harry Mills, president; Bert Jones treasurer; Allan Bynon, manager, with Mr. Bonnell and Mr. Gilman assisting.

The Junior piano pupils of Miss Margaret Fisher were presented in

recital Saturday afternoon with the following program:  
Warbling of the Birds .....Kimball  
Gretchen Brown.  
The Robin's Lullaby .....Krogmann  
Elizabeth Dyer.  
Jolly Rover .....Lindsay  
Ethel Swarts.  
Moonwinks .....Stevenson  
Lucille Moore.  
Holiday Echoes .....Olcott  
Ferroll Flesher.  
Drifting Leaves .....Kennedy  
Pauline Remington.  
My First Repertoire .....Engleman  
Helen Coney.  
Lightly Touch .....Bloumenschein  
Mildred Douglas.  
Dreaming of School .....Read  
Winifred Reinhart.  
Full of Play .....Olcott  
Helen Lovell.  
Traup Through the Woods.....Norris  
Bernice Jones.  
By the Woodland Lake.....Garchals  
Evelyn Grabenhorst.  
Plantation Melodies .....Walter  
Margaret West.

Miss Fisher's thorough training was exemplified by the excellent work of her pupils and the recital was most enjoyable. A delightful hour of games followed the program and the afternoon closed with a light luncheon. In addition to the pupils were: Helen Rose, Pearl Messner, Genevieve Edlicott, Katherine Vincent, Anna Hogue and Maud Givens.

Miss Laura Grant presented a number of young piano pupils in recital at her residence studio on North Winter street, Thursday afternoon of last week. The program numbers were:  
Duet—Hester Welch and Catherine Earhyter.  
Gay Spirits—Ruth Peck.  
First Waltz—Willette Welch.  
Study—Opal Grey.  
Oberon—Hester Welch.  
Shower of Roses—Cecil Deacon.  
Study—Alice Roth.  
Love's Messenger—Constance Yantis.  
Washington Arch March—Catherine Barhyter.  
Night Fall—Hollis Vick.  
The Slide—Donald Allison.  
Walk Through the Woods—Frederick Arpke.  
The Autumn Birds Are Calling—Ruth Thompson.

Besides the mothers, a few friends were asked to enjoy the children's recital.

Willamette university chapel was filled to overflowing last Tuesday evening when instrumental and vocal pupils of the college of music under direction Dean Frederic S. Mendenhall and Myrtle Long Mendenhall, were present in recital to an audience most appreciative.

Especially fine was the work of the ladies' musical club, with its twenty-eight splendidly blended voices. The glee club is in excellent training and will maintain this season its usual high standard. All of the work was

good, and each programmed number heartily applauded.

A number of the pupils taking part in this recital have often appeared before a Salem audience and are always accorded an ovation. The violin solo was a smooth bit of work reflecting credit upon her instructor, Miss Joy Turner. In every respect the recital was an interesting entertainment and eminently successful. The following program was presented.

Vocal, "A Spanish Romance," Sawyer, Ladies' Musical Club.  
Vocal, "Flower Land of Sleep," Gilbert, Miss Lois Ashley.  
Vocal, "All for You," D'Hardelet, Miss Carrie Cooksey.  
Piano, "Valse Arabesque," Op. 82, Lack, Miss Lena Dotson.  
Violin, "Russian Cradle Song," Neruda, Miss Lucille McCully.  
Vocal, "Slave Song," Del Riego, Miss Nellie McIntyre.  
Piano, "Pomponette," Op. 80, Du-rand, P. G. Baumgartner.  
Vocal, "Beauty's Eyes," (violin obbligato) Tasto, Miss Franc Newman.  
Vocal, "Berceuse," from "Jocelyn," Godard, Miss Lura Wilson.  
Piano, "Pizzicali," from Sylvia, De-libes, Miss Ava McMahon.  
Vocal, "Away, Away," (vocal march) Brackett, Glee club.  
Vocal, "La Primavera," Torry, Miss Nettie Snyder.  
Piano "Notturmo," Op. 54, No. 4, Grieg, Miss Lucille Kuntz.  
Vocal, "Beloved," (violin obbligato) Neidling, Miss Margaret Hodge.  
Vocal, "La Zingarella," Campana, Miss Frances Dimick.  
Piano, "Nocturno in A Flat," No. 3, Miss Ruth Allison.  
Vocal, "Stumber Song," (violin ob-

ligato) Mattet, Miss Ava McMahon.  
Vocal, "Il Bacio," Ardite, Miss Irma Shumway.  
Vocal, "Swallows to Southward," Ashford, Ladies Musical Club.  
Accompanists, Piano, Miss Allison and Miss Shumway; violin, Miss Turner.

Mrs. Grace Wheelock, director of music in Salem public schools, read an interesting paper at the music section of state teachers' convention Thursday. Miss Minnetta Harlan is head of the music department of the institute.

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