

Radio — Music — Books

A Musical Letter

Editor's note: Highlights of the musical world, especially those centered in such cities as New York and Chicago will be brought to readers as a weekly feature of the paper. Professor Joseph Frank will be the author of this column, and in addition to commenting on local music events he will gather national information from an exchange of letters between several music lovers residing in the three pertinent cities. The first of his series of letters to one of those participating in the exchange, appears today.

My dear friend:

Your letter of condolence was not only an atrocious bon voyage present, but ever so unfair to the musical life that one quickly enters in Lincoln. Be assured that there is no need to pity your "expatriate friend," as you put it.

By dint of some planning and co-operation, the most avid music lover can find satisfaction here. A certain awareness of the best in our beloved art, and a desire to make the most of one's contacts with it, are characteristic of many Lincolnites. They gather in groups to tune in the Metropolitan Opera, Toscanini, and the Philharmonic broadcasts. Hospitable neighbors, they regularly share these advantages with their friends. Some devotees have even collected the music they prefer in the form of scores, libretti, and phonograph discs, over and above the radio.

Last week's broadcasts locally transmitted 27 programs of fine music. These were all listed in the weekly pre-announcements which the Lincoln city library as well as the university library circulate gratis. One station, KFOR, devotes an hour each Monday afternoon to Beethoven's last quartets—music that its admirers (including Toscanini) believe to yield the greatest "ritual experience of our time."

Business in Lincoln's music shops reflects something of this Geist. There are merchants on O street who report sales of Capehart reproducing machines in the thousand dollar price level. A series of artist concerts sponsored by the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra association is now flourishing, and a very large proportion of the audience happens to be students. That augurs well for the future of musical patronage.

The artist most recently to appear on this subscription series was Nino Martini. He obtained a tremendous success Friday night, when he was induced to give some eight encores during an already long program. Incomparable Marion Anderson and Gaspar Cassado, the composer and cellist, will concertize under the same management later in the season.

The University in particular forms a core of musical vitality, due in part to the offering by the Music School of excellent programs each Wednesday afternoon. Conspicuously absent on these occasions is "filler," concert tid-bits of a low order used as a bid for easy popular approval.

Here, indeed, the cleavage between Martini's and the Music School's concerts is very striking. Over three-quarters of Mr. Douglas's song recital two weeks ago comprised genuinely significant music—by Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Debussy, and Richard Strauss. All of Herbert Schmidt's piano selections Wednesday last ranked high in their intrinsic musical worth; not a single warhorse galloped in his program of Bach's G major French Suite, the haunting "Adieux" Sonata of Beethoven, and Brahms' gigantic Variations and Fugue opus 24. Whereas of Mr. Martini's 20 songs including encores, no more than six contained real marrow. What do you conclude from these facts?

There remains much news to report apropos of local music, especially a project on foot in the University by a group planning to form a colony of musicians, about which you may expect a description next week. In the meantime by way of riposte, your music chronicle from the metropolis is awaited eagerly. And please commiserate no more with your devoted,

JOSEPH FRANK.

Castor oil, long a cause for ugly juvenile faces, now is an aid to feminine beauty. Dr. George W. Flero, University of Buffalo scientist, announced after three years of research. He discovered the new beauty aid by passing hydrogen thru castor oil in the presence of a catalyst and thus obtaining "hydrogenated castor oil."

BROWSING AMONG THE BOOKS

By Otto Woerner.

One of history's greatest paradoxes is being enacted today in the Soviet. Despite the fact that the world thinks of Russia as a place where the people are held under the sway of ignorance and government corruption, conditions in Russia are surprisingly comparable to American conditions. Today, states the Wilson Bulletin, Russia possesses one of the most literate populations in the world, whereas in 1920, the Russian people were the most illiterate of all the European nationalities. Now, only England and France can challenge the Russian literacy rate. The number of books in circulation has increased 1,000 percent since the inauguration of the new regime, and libraries are being encouraged with a frenzy which is quite foreign to Americans.

Those who go to sleep over the usual history book, but who possess a desire to understand the intricate but interesting dramas of Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini, will enjoy the newly revised edition of John Gunther's "Inside Europe." As the magazine Time personifies the news of the week, similarly does Gunther personify the story of the European dictatorships. What sort of strange man is Hitler; why does he insist that the Jews are "rats" and then proceed to marry one? Of what significance is the ominous silence of Stalin; is he preparing for new ventures, or is he merely a married man and a henpecked husband? Dukes and ditch diggers, premiers and paupers—each one plays his own unique and important role in this mightiest of melodramas—the epic of inside Europe!

A nationwide survey reveals that more students regularly read the Readers Digest than any other periodical. Life, American Magazine, Time and Good Housekeeping follow in the order named. The supposedly popular monthly Esquire ranked only 18th. College Humor did not rank in the first hundred; perhaps modern scholars are really scholars, or perhaps the survey was not a true measure.

The younger generation is becoming increasingly interested in non-fiction books. There was a time when the only book that was considered by the ordinary reader was a hair raising Indian thriller or a blood curdling tale of the French revolution. The modern individual reads the exposes of poison foods and drugs, the description of the logic behind new economic proposals, or one of the modern sex eugenics revelations. The American Library association survey shows that the reading of non-fiction books has increased 21 percent per capita in the last five years, and that best seller lists in the future will probably be studded with such glittering titles as "The Inconsistency Between Marginal Productivity and the Republican Platform" or "Higher Education vs. Common Sense."

Recent movies which are based on available books include the following: "Angel," with Marlene Dietrich, was taken from Lengyel's play of the same title; "Ebb Tide" is the cinema version of the story by Robert Louis Stevenson; "Captains Courageous," the epic of the sea, is based on Rudyard Kipling's famous story of a similar title; "Heidi," with renowned Shirley Temple, originates from the popular juvenile classic by Johanna Spyri; "Hurricane," the fantastic movie, is preceded by the even more fantastic novel by the well read Nordhoff and Hall combination; "Mayerling" was first conceived by Claude Anet in his "Idyl's End"; "Stella Dallas," the wicked woman, played by Barbara Stanwyck, was born from Prouty's "Stella Dallas"; "Lower Depths" is founded upon the story by Maxim Gorki, who is better known as Pleshkov; "Prince and the Pauper," with the March twins and Errol Flynn, comes from the story told by the lovable Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens).

Three members of the city library staff are to be presented tonight at the city library auditorium. The speakers will make a comprehensive study of recent juvenile literature, and an effort will be made to fix a criterion for the evaluation of children's literature compared with adult works. Students in the university, and particularly those in the Teachers college, are urged to attend.

Highlights On the Air

By Norman Harris.

Schedule of the best radio offerings for today with guest stars on the programs:

- KFAB.**
 5:00 p. m. Joe Fenner.
 6:00 p. m. Vick's Open House with Jeanette MacDonald.
 8:00 p. m. Ford Sunday Evening Hour with Laurita Melchior, tenor.
 11:30 p. m. Ted Fiorito's orchestra.
KFOR.
 2:00 p. m. Nebraska White Spot program.
 3:30 p. m. New York Philharmonic orchestra.
 5:00 p. m. Thirty Minutes in Hollywood with George Jessel.
 10:30 p. m. Ozie Nelson's orchestra.
 11:30 p. m. Kay Kyser's orchestra.
KOLL.
 1:00 p. m. Magic Key program.
 3:00 p. m. Father Connelly.
 5:30 p. m. Hollywood Spotlight with Bob Burns.
 7:30 p. m. Sammy Kaye's orchestra.
 8:00 p. m. Hollywood Playhouse with Tyrone Power.

... bits ... Chentitis, term used by radio station operators and program artists means sponsor trouble ... Eighty-eight is the term used to denote a piano ... there are eighty-eight keys on one ... Fairy godfather is an easy going sponsor ... an accordion is called a groan box ... drooling is the adding of unimportant talk to a program to kill time and is used when a program is under, or finishes before its allotted time ...

Fulton Lewis, jr., nightly commentator for the Mutual Broadcasting system says that of every 100 letters he receives, 50 accuse him of being a republican and the other 50 tell him he's a democrat ... funny part about it, Lewis has never voted, can't vote, and has never had any party affiliation; he lives in Washington, D. C., where residents are prohibited by the constitution from voting in national elections ...

The Iowa-Nebraska basketball game will be broadcast from the coliseum tomorrow night at 8:15 over KFOR ... John Bentley will review the same and other sports highlights at 10:00 over the same station ...

N. P. ... Radio fans, here's the chance of a lifetime ... this column will sponsor a contest, starting today, in which the grand prize will be two free tickets to the junior-senior prom, March 4 ... second prize will be one free ticket ... also, each of the first fifty entries received will entitle their senders to an 8x10 photograph of a famous radio personality ... some of the pictures are of Benny Goodran (with or without glasses), Martha Rayo, Eddie Cantor (or his five daughters), Tommy Dorsey, and many others ...

I. Select your favorite in each of the following groups:

1. Favorite swing band.
2. Favorite dance orchestra.
3. Favorite male vocalist.
4. Favorite female vocalist.
5. Favorite swing tune.
6. Favorite dance tune.
7. Favorite radio comedian.
8. Favorite news commentator.
9. Favorite FIFTEEN minute program.
10. Favorite Local program ... that is, one which originates in NEBRASKA.

II. Write your favorites down, in order as above, on a postcard or a piece of paper and MAIL them to: Norman Harris, Radio Editor, Daily Nebraskan.

III. To avoid duplication of entries, though I don't blame you, and to decide who wins the prizes and pictures, be sure and sign your name to your entry.

IV. Be sure that the entry is post-marked Feb. 26 at the latest. No entries without names and post-marked later than Feb. 26 will be accepted.

The person COMING CLOSEST TO THE CONSENSUS of opinion will be declared the winner, and the next closest, second place winner. A list of the first 50 entrants will be posted in the "Rag" after the contest and you may call for your picture at the rag office, if you want it, otherwise, they will be donated to the Former Museum ... Now let's see how many of you dare to enter ... Remember ... three junior-senior prom tickets will be given away free and 50 photographs of Columbia Broadcasting system radio stars, who are heard over the local stations, KFAB and KFOR, will be given to the first 50 entrants ... Let's go to town!

SCHOOL MUSIC GROUP LACKS SIX VIOLINISTS

Quick Asks for Musicians; Rehearsals Scheduled Tuesday, Thursday.

An excellent opportunity is offered by the University Players orchestra, under the direction of William T. Quick, for students who like both music and drama. Members of this orchestra play for all presentations of the University Players in the Temple, thus gaining free admission to these plays.

At the present time, Mr. Quick would like to add to the personnel of his orchestra, with string instruments especially wanted. More exactly, he would like to have about five or six more violinists, and at least one cellist for the organization, in addition to an extra trombone player for the brass section.

The orchestra meets for rehearsal on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7, except when playing for the Players, and anyone interested should report at the next rehearsal, a week from Tuesday. The course may be taken either with or without credit. Arrangements may be made with Mr. Quick in the School of Music, room 212.

Reserve Desk Sets New High In Circulation

Setting a new high in circulation, Jane and Joe college tramped up to the Reserve desk of the university library and consumed, or at least glanced at, 1005 books last Thursday, Feb. 10.

No previous record of the present Reserve desk has matched this figure for the number of books loaned over one counter in a single day. On Thursday, Nov. 15, 1935, back in the days when there were two reserve libraries, one in Social Science, the combined circulation of the two was 1014.

Ten days ago, also on Thursday, 865 books were loaned, making the two highest scores this semester both on Thursday. According to Miss Consuelo Graham, head of the circulation department, all the past week has been comparatively heavy, Tuesday having a score of 830. She was unable to explain Thursday's sudden rush, since there was no run on any particular title. The department is anxious to see the results of next week's run, to discover whether the sudden onslaught upon the Reserve desk was merely a coincidence or whether business will continue at such a rate.

LIBRARY ADDS NEW BOOKS

Wells, Masefield, O'Brian Volumes Included.

The university library announces the following recent additions to the stacks:

- "The Croquet Player," by H. G. Wells.
- "The Old South: Struggles for Democracy," by William E. Dodd.
- "Cawdor," by Robinson Jeffers.
- "America's 60 Families," by Ferdinand Lundberg.
- "We Americans," by Elin L. Anderson.
- "Socialized Medicine in the Soviet Union," by Henry E. Sigerist.
- "The Square Peg, or the Gun Fella," by John Masefield.
- "Nationalism and Culture," by Rudolf Rocker.
- "Capital and Employment," by R. G. Hawtrey.
- "Western Lands and the American Revolution," by T. P. Abernethy.
- "Race," by Jacques Barzun.
- "Theory of Forward Exchange," by Paul Elving.
- "Mazzini, Portrait of an Exile," by Stringfellow Barr.
- "Pavlov and His School," by Y. P. Frolov.

Musical Footnotes

By Gene Garrett.

If you are a faithful reader of the bulletin boards, you probably realize by this time that the university symphonic band is scheduled to present its midwinter concert Sunday afternoon in the coliseum. It has for some time been the custom for the varsity band to give an annual midwinter concert, but, we believe, this is the first time that the band has been revamped into a symphonic organization.

Twenty-six clarinets make up the section of the symphony band. The horn section has been enlarged to six Two bassoons, three string basses, and a pair of tympani have been added to change the band into a symphonic group. Drum, cornet and trombone sections have been relatively reduced to decrease the proportion of brass and percussion.

Sunday's program, incidentally, is scheduled to start at three o'clock. This bit of information is for the benefit of those who seem to take pleasure in arriving late for all engagements.

The program will open with a chorale, "Komm, Susser Tod," by Bach. Bach, most of whose music is far above the heads of the ordinary mortal, is noted and appreciated most for his beautiful chorales, of which this is a very good example.

It so happens that there once lived a famous Italian musician who bore the same name as one of our dance band leaders. One would not know it however, unless he took the trouble to translate the name of the Italian, Giuseppe Verdi. This, in English, would be plain Johnny Green. Otherwise, the two have little in common, as Verdi is the composer of several of the world's most famous operas, among them "Rigoletto," "Il Trovatore," and "La Traviata." Nearly anyone connected with music could tell you these.

However, there is one not so well known by the name of "Sicilian Vespers." This opera, tho probably as good as most operas, was never a success, chiefly because it dealt with the contemporary trouble between the French and Sicilian peoples. The overture to this opera will be the second number on Sunday afternoon's program, and as there is no French and Sicilian trouble on the campus, it should prove quite enjoyable.

The first lively number on the concert program will be a suite of three dances from Smetana's opera "The Bartered Bride." Smetana was a Czechoslovakian, and a very good one he was, being one of the most ardent nationalists of his time; he is, in fact, considered the founder of the Czech school of musical style. Consequently, one expects his music to reflect the nature of his people, and we find these three dances very characteristic.

Each of them is named in conformity with the subject it represents. "Polka" is a travesty on the dance by that name, albeit rhythmical. "Furiant" is a dissonant bit of music, which proceeds at a furious tempo. "Dance of the Comedians," is just that; the three dances form an excellent example of musical characterization.

The First Norwegian Rhapsody on this afternoon's program is one of numerous works by F. Melius Christiansen known throughout America for his wonderful accomplishments with the St. Olaf's Choir, and for his many glee club songs. Dr. Christiansen, in this work, has combined a number of Norwegian folk tunes into a beautiful symphonic composition.

Texidor's "Amparito Roca" is a Spanish march, but it differs from the usual run of European military music. Whereas, most such music is slow and stately, in keeping with the pomp of European aristocracy, "Amparito Roca" is a snappy march tune, worthy of the pen of a Sousa or Pryor.

The concert program has a full quota of specialty numbers.

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