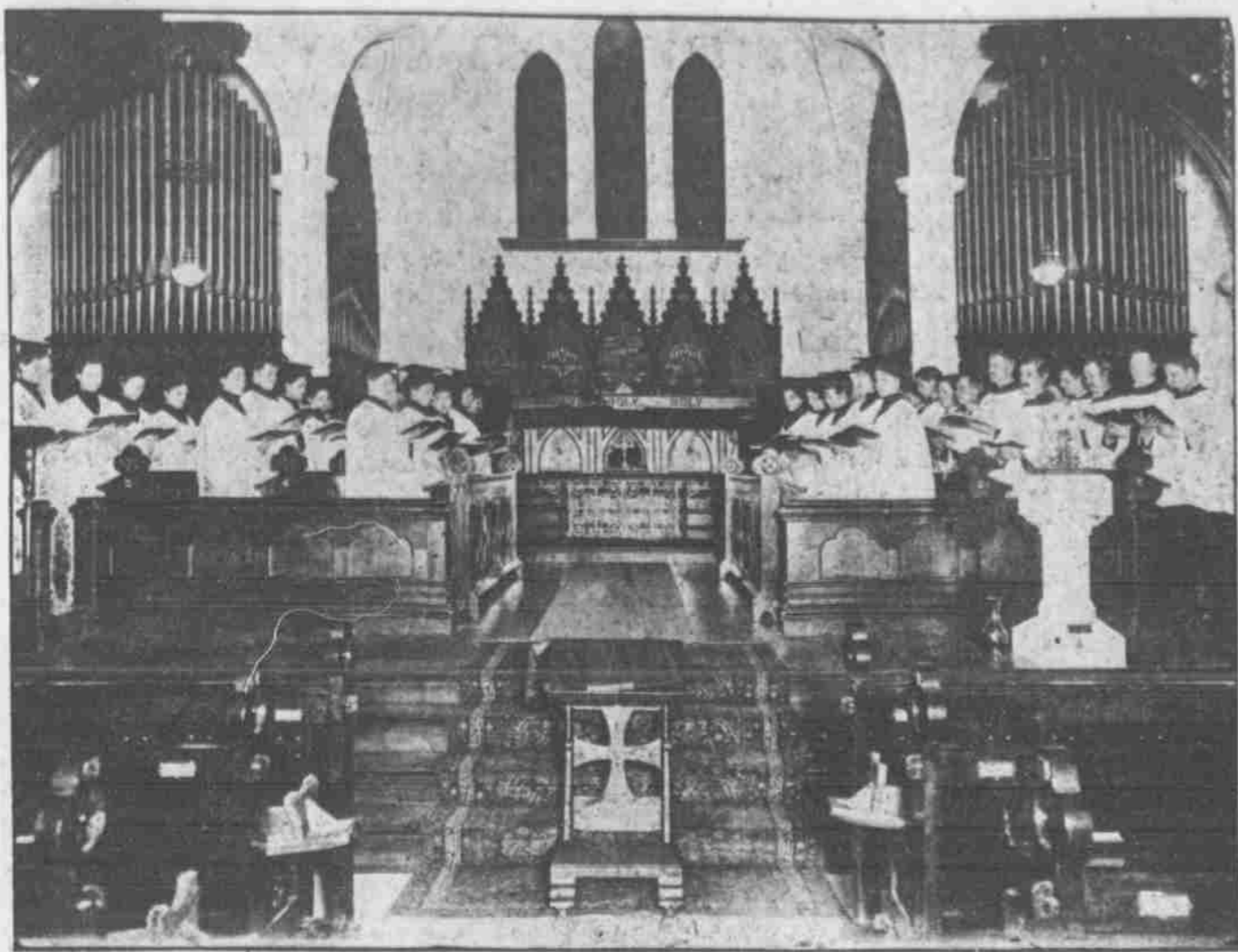


Music's Part in Religious Worship and Especially at Christmas Time



J. H. SIMS' CHOIR AT ALL SAINTS.

MAHA is famous for her church music. In her more than 100 churches there are nearly 2,000 voices which are trained for the weekly service of song in the praise part of the worship. Among these are many singers of more than ordinary abilities and powers. Some are much more than locally famous. The choir leaders and organists are men and women of extraordinary ability in their departments. The various organizations of church singers have been brought to a high grade in the years of effort and up-building.

All of the choirs of the city are busily engaged on the special music to be rendered at the church's great festival, Christmas. Some of the choirs will give cantatas. Others are arranging a program of old-time Christmas carols and others have some special anthems and song services especially designed for Christmas.

It is interesting to study the history of music in churches. From the earliest days of the Christian era music has been a great power in worship. A few passages from the Bible show where the use of diverse kinds of instruments was expressly commanded:

"And it came to pass when the evil spirit was upon Saul that David took his harp and played with his hand; so Saul was refreshed and was well and the evil spirit departed from him." I. Samuel, 16:23.

"Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous, for praise becometh well the just. Praise the Lord with harp; sing unto him with viol and instruments of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise." Psalms 33:3.

"Praise him in the sound of the trumpet, praise him upon the viol and the harp, praise ye him with timbrel and flute, praise ye him with virginals and organs, praise ye him upon the high sounding cymbals; let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." Psalms 150:3-4.

The history of music in churches is voluminous. Music has occupied and still occupies a position second only to the preaching.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men," was

the first music of the Christian church, sung by the angelic choir on the morning of Christ's birth.

Music was also present throughout the life of Christ and its strains are interspersed among the events, tragic and pathetic of His entire sojourn on earth. Even in the awesome and solemn scenes that marked the tragic ending of His life music played an important part. Christ and the disciples "when they had sung an hymn went out into the Mount of Olives."

During the days of the persecution of the Christian by heathen Rome it is related that a distinctive characteristic of the worship of those who professed to be followers of Christ was the singing of hymns which was heard from those caves and caverns where their meetings were held surreptitiously.

Saint Ambrosius was made bishop of Milan in the year 374 and in the year 386 he introduced his chant into the Christian churches. This was the beginning of a set type of music in the Christian church. Its beauty was such, in spite of its primitive character that it seems it must have been inspired by some power higher than that of man. Its dulcet strains were of such a lofty melody that they seemed to come straight from the throne of heaven itself. Saint Augustine heard the chant after his conversion and described it thus: "The voices floated in at my ears, truth was distilled in my heart and the affection of piety overflowed in sweet tears of joy."

The Gregorian chant, which wielded so great an influence in church music was first introduced in the year 590 by Pope Gregory. This is the chant on which subsequent church music was founded and from which a great deal of the music used today is derived, particularly that in the Catholic church.

The first choir and regular form of church service was established in the time of Constantine. An order of singing monks was founded in Antioch, who chanted continuous psalms of praise, singing in relays night and day and never allowing the melody to die down.

Many of the great men of the world in all lines of human endeavor have been skilled musicians.

Organs were first used even before the time of Christ though they were, of course, but crude instruments. They developed from the wind instruments, man seeing the possibility and the plausibility of supplying the necessary air by means of bellows rather than by the limited power of the human lungs. Cassiodorus says of the pneumatic organ: "The organ is an instrument composed of diverse pipes formed into a kind of tower which by means of bellows is made to produce a loud sound and there are on the inside movements made of wood that are pressed down by the fingers of the player which produce the most pleasing and brilliant tones."

Everybody who has read "Chaucer remembers the esquire in the "Canterbury Tales" who "coude sonnes make and well endite." "Singing he was, or floyting all the day."

At the time of the Protestant reformation the leaders in the movement turned their attention seriously to the reformation of the music of the church with no less zeal than they did to the purely spiritual doctrines. Luther, Zwingle, Calvin, Bachman and John Knox were all prominent in this movement.

The father of English sacred music is generally conceded to be William Byrd. He was organist in Lincoln cathedral in 1563 and organist to the queen in 1575. This is what he thought of music in the church:

"There is not a note musike of instruments whatsoever comparable to yt which is made of ye voyces of men where ye voyces are good and ye same well sorted and ordered. The better ye voyce is, the mester it is to honor and serve God therewith and ye voyce of man is chiefe to be employed to yt end."

Luther was the leader in the renaissance of congregational singing alternating with choir music. He was himself the composer of several of the finest pieces both in words and music now used in the church. Particularly celebrated is his "A Mighty Stronghold is our God" with its senti-

ment of stable faith in the lines and the mighty, irresistible swing to its slow and stately music.

In America music was planted in a sterile soil so far as the church was concerned. The Puritans and Pilgrims were opposed to its development in the meeting houses when they arrived in this country. But with time these prejudices were overcome by the natural desire of the human soul to express its praises to the Creator through song. Such great men in the church as Cotton Mather and John Cotton fought for musical progress. A few quotations from the parish registers of New England show how this emancipation was gradually brought about.

In 1762 there is this entry: "The parish voted that those who had learned the art of singing may have the liberty of sitting in the front gallery." It is noteworthy that those who had learned the art of singing refused to take advantage of this "permission" and in 1780 a more cordial

transition from the soloist music to the choral.

Thomas J. Kelly, who is at the head of the choir of thirty-seven voices in the First Methodist church and who has been a leading choral leader in Omaha for eighteen years, is preparing an elaborate Christmas program unique on which is to be the singing of the old-time Christmas carols such as "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen" and "The First Nowell."

The choir of the Immanuel Lutheran church is the oldest in the city as well as the largest. It was organized in 1855 and has fifty voices. Some of these have sung in the choir continuously since its organization. John S. Helgoin is the leader and has occupied that position continuously for seventeen years.

Ben Stanley's choir at Trinity cathedral has forty adult members beside a number of boys. The Christmas music there will include a number of the old English carols. The choir of All Saints' Episcopal church

contains nearly forty voices. J. H. Sims has been in charge of it for thirteen years. It will render a Christmas program and on the Sunday following Christmas will give the cantata, "The Holy Child."

The choir of Komtze Memorial Lutheran church, consisting of thirty-two voices under the direction of Delmore Cheney, will give a special program of Christmas music in the evening of the Sunday before Christmas.

There are twenty-seven members of the First Congregational choir under the direction of Mrs. B. Pennington. Anthems by English and American composers will be sung and in the evening of the Sunday before Christmas a service will be rendered with the theme, "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

The Swedish Evangelical Mission church at Twenty-third and Davenport streets has a large choir under the direction of Miss Corinne Paulson, which will furnish an elaborate program of Christmas music. Hanscom Park Methodist church has a large choir under the direction of Lee G. Kraus.

The First Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian and First Baptist churches are some of those whose music is led by quartets.

The choir of the new First Christian church consists of twenty-eight voices. This choir is under the direction of Fred Ellis. It will render the cantata, "The Story of Bethlehem" on the Sunday preceding Christmas.

The Catholic churches of the city prepare special masses to be sung on Christmas day. All of the churches have strong choirs under the leadership of one of the priests. At St. John's church the first mass at 5 o'clock in the morning will be one by Singerberger. At the 11 o'clock service a new mass by Biel will be sung.

Space is lacking to name the many other church choirs which are preparing special music and elaborate Christmas programs. A great paean of music will rise from the churches, in all of which will be the Christmas theme of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

advance was made toward the singers in this: "The parish requested Jonathan Chaplin and Lieutenant Spafford to assist Deacon Daniel Spafford in raising the tune in the meeting house."

And in 1785 the parish came right out and said: "The parish desires the singers, both male and female, to sit in the gallery and will allow them to sing each Lord's day without reading by the deacon."

From that time singing has been one of the most important adjuncts of the church. In the early days some of the themes of the songs were, like the religions, very austere. Here is a song sung in the early Puritan meeting houses:

"Eternal plagues and heavy chains, Tormenting racks and fiery chains, And debts that inflict immortal pains, Dig in the blood of damned souls."

But the advance in music has been marvelous. The genius of some of the greatest composers of modern times has been directed toward the perfecting of church music. Attwood, Sullivan, Dykes, Barnby and the composers of the Victorian era are prominent in this work. The music in the Protestant churches is Anglican in its tenor. That of the Catholic churches is more of the Gregorian type. The Catholic churches are at present undergoing a



JOHN S. HELGON'S CHOIR AT THE SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN IMMANUEL CHURCH.



PROCESSIONAL OF T. J. KELLY'S CHOIR AT THE FIRST METHODIST.



BEN STANLEY'S CHOIR IN THE BEAUTIFUL TRINITY CATHEDRAL.

Curious Capers of Cupid

Friends and Cousins Outwitted.

DISREGARDING opposition by relatives and supreme court proceedings questioning her mental capacity to manage her affairs, Miss Helen S. Raymond, 35 years old, reputed to be worth \$25,000, is reported to have married William Demoria, a Greek fruit dealer, twenty years her junior, in Providence, R. I., last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Demoria have gone abroad on their honeymoon and friends say they will reside in the west upon their return.

The bride's relatives made every effort possible to prevent her marrying Demoria. Mrs. Demoria comes from one of the oldest families in Newburyport. Her husband has been in this country but a half dozen years. It is said their first met in the Greek's fruit store. They are first.

young couple who whispered in chorus: "Do you marry people?"

"Not unless they insist on it," said the judge.

"We insist."

"Grab hands."

"We've grabbed."

"Namea, please."

"Lena Hart and George Kelster."

"Do you, George, do you, Lena, etc?"

"I do."

"You're one, I'm done."

"Here's twenty."

"That's plenty."

"Goodbye."

"Good luck."

The door swung open. Mr. and Mrs. George Kelster jumped into an automobile and disappeared. Secret minutes before they were single.

Romance of a Trail.

When Mrs. Steward Patton dropped a dollar bill wrapped around an eight-word telegram to her mother in Chicago from the window of a Pennsylvania eastbound observation car at Indiana Harbor recently, she probably didn't stop to think that she could have sent a forty-word message for the same amount, and that, moreover, her mother would have been

glad to receive it. The message, was addressed to 1571 Buckingham place and read:

Married today. Gone to Pittsburgh, Home in a week.

Naturally her family and friends were disappointed in the dearth of interesting particulars.

Mrs. Patton was Florence Fols, one of eight daughters of Mrs. Bertha Fols, widow of Otto Fols, one time jailer of Cook county.

A year ago Mr. Patton, whose home is in Sheridan Park, was a patient of Dr. Edwin Baxter. While under the physician's care he was obliged to make frequent calls at the latter's office. There he met Miss Fols, who was employed by Dr. Baxter as an assistant. An intimate acquaintance developed, to be broken when Mr. Patton was discharged and cured of his illness. Recently while returning to Chicago from a visit to Atlantic City on a Pennsylvania train Miss Fols was met by Mr. Patton, and from his romantic proposal of their former friendship sprang the plan which culminated when the couple stole away without the knowledge of friends and relatives to be married.

A Close Call.

While waiting to start to the altar to meet his bride, Mr. Asher Bush, who was married in Des Moines to Miss Grace Kendall, fainted and remained unconscious for several minutes. Mr. Bush was caught in falling by several persons who were stand-

ing near and escaped injury. The wedding was one of the big society events at Des Moines this autumn.

He revived in a few minutes and the ceremony proceeded. Much excitement prevailed among the wedding guests until they learned that the groom was in no danger. The room was unusually warm and this, added to the excitement, it is said, was too much for the young man. Mr. Bush completely recovered and was able to leave with his bride on their wedding trip at the appointed time.

Weds in House 172 Years Old.

The head of the sixth generation of Baldwin's, Isaac P. Baldwin, a government engineer, was married on Thanksgiving day in the family homestead that stands on the side of Waukaw mountain, in Morris county, New Jersey, to Miss Isabella A. Durand of Denver, the couple having journeyed from the west to carry out the family tradition that the eldest son must marry under the same roof as his forefathers. They were married in the same room where the heads of five previous generations had stood before them. The first Baldwin in America, Nathaniel, built the stone house in 1735, and following generations added to it. The old wing is now the kitchen, but it is the scene of all the family weddings.

When Nathaniel Baldwin married Hannah Kent in 1741, she journeyed from Connecticut in an ox-cart, bringing with her

the bolt of linen she had been making for years in preparation for the wedding. This linen was used as the cloth of the dining table on state occasions. When not in use it was packed in cedar chips in a walnut box.

Following generations called the linen "Nathaniel's tablecloth," and every wedding feast since 1741 has been spread on "Grandma's tablecloth." Thanksgiving day the venerable heirloom graced the table.

Gasaway Davis to Marry.

Notwithstanding the positive denial of Ex-Senator Henry G. Davis and Miss Maud Ashford of their engagement and probable early marriage, the New York Times declares, on unquestionable authority, that an engagement has existed for six weeks and that the wedding day is fixed for January 1. That the announcement of last week was premature, but true, has been the general opinion in society, notwithstanding the flat denial of Mr. Davis, Miss Ashford and Mr. Davis' daughters—Mrs. Steven B. Elkins, wife of the senator from West Virginia, and Mrs. Arthur Lee.

The relations between the 84-year-old bridegroom-elect and his daughters are at present badly strained, but friends of the family believe a better understanding will prevail before the wedding day, as the affection of the aged statesman for his children has been one of his chief characteristics all through life. That Mrs. Lee is opposed to the marriage comes as a surprise to many who have known of the intimacy existing between her and Miss Ashford from girlhood. Miss Ashford was her social secretary throughout last season.

Miss Ashford, the bride-to-be, is the daughter of the late Mahlon Ashford of the District of Columbia bar and has always been identified with Washington's smart resident set. She is 36. Davis is 81. Mrs. John T. Davis, the young daughter-in-law of the senator, is said to be in entire sympathy with the romance. Since the death of his wife, five or six years ago, Mr. Davis has divided his time between his former home in Washington and the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lee, on Massachusetts avenue, New York. His summers are always passed at his estate in West Virginia, where Miss Ashford was a guest for five weeks last season.

It is said his fortune, estimated variously from \$25,000,000 to \$20,000,000, will be divided in a way satisfactory to his future wife, his children and grandchildren.

Marble Heart for Waiting Groom.

Fifteen minutes before the time set for her marriage to Otto Hein in the New York Park Lutheran church, Chicago, Miss Hazel Hickok of Maywood gaily hurried to Crown Point with Michael A. Poternoster and married him. Hein, the minister, and the guests went to the church and waited and waited, but no bride. Finally they decided to postpone the wedding.

This all happened October 2, but Hein didn't learn till lately that his intended bride had married another. He had not seen her since his "wedding" day, but learned that she was living in Melrose Park. He called and reminded her that she had a deal to do to marry him. Wouldn't she go at once to the church and get it over with?

"I'm already married, Otto," she said,

"and here is my husband, I'm Mrs. Michael A. Poternoster."

Miss Shonts' Wedding Plans.

Miss Theodora Shonts, whose engagement to the Duke de Chaulnes was announced recently, is a guest of Mrs. Richard Held Roger of Farragut square, Washington, an old friend of Mrs. Theodora P. Shonts, Miss Shonts' mother.

Miss Shonts was a guest at tea in the French embassy Saturday. Sunday she was a guest at luncheon of the consul-general of the embassy and Mme. des Portes, whose daughter, Mile. Guilmette des Portes, was the most intimate friend of the Misses Shonts during their residence in Washington.

Miss Shonts is planning for a large wedding in New York in the latter part of January. Her engagement ring, an ancestral jewel, is a magnificent square sapphire surrounded by a double row of diamonds. The ring itself is little more than a wire.

When Rev. James H. Byrnes, pastor of St. Patrick's church at Richmond, S. I., pronounced the words that made John Beaver and Margaret M. Pfaff husband and wife, a courtship that has endured for twenty-one years was brought to a happy conclusion.

Neighbors and friends, all of whom are thoroughly conversant with the charming romance, knew the couple were to be married some day. That was settled long ago. The man and the woman have kept company all these years, and no quarrels have disturbed their love.

But Beaver and his sweetheart put the care of their invalid fathers above their own happiness. That's the reason the nuptials have been delayed. The elder Beaver died about five months ago at the age of 85. Miss Pfaff's father passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 75. Each left considerable money and the patient pair have enough for all purposes.

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