

Musical Mention

John Randolph.

This has been "Matinee Musicale" is given an opportunity to overworked week, for the "May Music Festival" is under their protection and supervision. The first concert of the week occurred upon Tuesday evening, May 4, and was given by musicians from other towns in Nebraska, who have been enthused by the example and influence of Mrs. D. A. Campbell, the president of the "Matinee Musicale" at the time the "Festival" was proposed, and who, with Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond and Miss Stella Rice have borne the larger share of the work of bringing this series of concerts about. The following program was presented:

- Piano—Rondo from C minor concerto.....Beethoven
Mrs. Sedgwick (York)
- Orchestral parts on second piano,
Miss Mabel Cobb.
- Violin—Fantasia, Scene de Ballet...
.....de Beriot
Miss Lillian Kauble, (Plattsmouth.)
- Piano—Brindisi from Lucretia Borgia.....Donizetti-Bendel
Bertha Horlocker (Hastings)
- Soprano—Omnipotence.....Schubert
Mrs. Laura T. Sheetz (Grand Island)
- Piano—Waltz from "Faust".....
.....Gounod-Liszt
Miss Nellie Downing (Kearney)
- Soprano—Cavatina from Robert Le Diable.....Meyerbeer
Miss Clara Rodgers Barnes (Hastings)
- Octet—Charity.....Rossini
Soprano obligato, Mrs. Sheetz.
Mesdames Woolstenholm and Bell, second sopranos; Mesdames Barr and Friend, first altos; Mrs. Wooley and Miss Howard, second altos (Grand Island).

- Part 2.
- Piano Duo—Rondo, op. 73....Chopin
Miss Mabel Cobb, Mrs. Sedgwick (York.)
- Alto—"Awake Saturnia," from Sememe.....Haendel
Miss Nora Babbitt (Kearney)
- Piano—Danse Macabre....Saint Saens
Miss Haywood (Grand Island)
- Orchestral parts on second piano,
Mrs. Barr.
- Soprano—Ave Maria.....Gounod
Miss Ella Clark, (Plattsmouth)
- Violin obligato, Miss Kauble.
- Violin—Caprice de Concert.....Bohm
Miss May E. Rees (Hastings)
- Soprano—Slumber Song.....North
Miss Belle Warner (York)
- Violin obligato, Miss Cobb.
- Piano—Quintet—"Un Ballo in Maschera".....Verdi-Bendel
Mrs. Frank Spafford (Kearney)

It seems to me that extended comment upon individual performance is not necessary. The performers varied in ability more widely than usual, inasmuch as some were almost professional while others were decidedly amateurish. The thing to be commented upon appears to me rather the fact that the concert was an extremely interesting one in showing the development of interest in music and the comparatively able performance of a dignified program by singers and players from the smaller towns and cities in this state. Viewed from this point of view the concert was not only interesting, but instructive, and it marks an epoch of development. If clubs like the "Matinee Musicale" did no other good than this it would be worth while, for in the gathering together and public performance of musicians far away from the larger centers of artistic and intellectual activity there

is given an opportunity to overworked and hungry souls to chasten their ideas and to learn what are the newer and better things in music and in art. The concert was a distinct success from every point of view, and as encores were not permitted and the numbers promptly given, it reached its conclusion at an early hour.

On Wednesday evening May 5, the second concert of the Festival was given with the following program.

- The Cantata of
"THE FISHER MAIDENS,"
Words by F. Weatherly. Music by Henry Smart. Musical Director, Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond; Accompanist, Miss Stella Rice.

- SOLOISTS.
- Alice.....Mrs. Mark W. Woods
- Elsie.....Miss Maude Oakley
- Agnes.....Miss Grace Reynolds

- SEA-MAIDENS.
- Mesdames R. A. Holyoke, D. A. Campbell, Misses Josephine Shute, Carol Churchill.

- PART II.
- Piano—a, Gondoliera.....Liszt
b, Spanish Serenade.....
.....Scharwenka
c, Nocturne, G major....Chopin
Mrs. P. W. Plank.
- Violin—Ballade et Polonaise.....
.....Vieuxtemps
Miss Silence Dales.
- Soprano—L'Ardiva.....Arditi
Mrs. C. S. Lippincott.
- Piano—Finale from C major Concerto.....Raff
Miss Marie Hoover.

Orchestral part on second piano, Miss Mabel Cobb. Accompanist: Mrs. Minnie Rothschild Herzog.

In the cantata which constituted the first part of the concert the chorus work under the direction of Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond was excellent. Of the soloists Mrs. Mark Wood as "Alice" displayed a beautiful voice and artistic style of singing. Mrs. Woods should be heard more frequently in public her voice is of very lovely quality indeed, and her phrasing and intonation most musical. Miss Oakley as "Elsie" was not in the best of voice. Miss Grace Reynolds as "Agnes" made the most of a small part. The "Sea Maidens," Mesdames R. A. Holyoke and D. A. Campbell, Misses Josephine Shute and Carol Churchill were effective in ensemble, but Mrs. Holyoke was not in voice and occasionally forced her tone. There is still a certain tightness of tone production in Mrs. Holyoke's singing which sometimes injures the effect, so naturally good a voice might produce. Mrs. D. A. Campbell was as usual refined and dignified in her vocal utterance—her voice does not yet change smoothly from the lower to the middle register. Misses Shute and Churchill were satisfactory in small parts.

The Cantata of "The Fishermidens" is eminently tuneful and pleasing, and not too difficult to be given by a small choir of women's voices. Otherwise it requires no especial mention as it is in no sense a great or important work. The music is by Henry Smart, a contemporary English composer.

In the second and miscellaneous part of the program Lincoln has good reason to be proud of her resident musicians. In few small cities can be found such pianists as Miss Marie Hoover and Mrs. P. W. Plank. Miss Silence Dales is a

most promising young violinist, and I am glad to record the impression that I have never heard Mrs. C. S. Lippincott sing with such beauty of tone and purity of intonation. Mrs. Lippincott should take the best of care of her vocal organ, for when, as upon this occasion, it is at its best, it is a very mellow and flexible voice indeed. Mrs. Lippincott and Miss Dales were compelled to respond to encores.

A special word of mention is due the accompaniments of Miss Stella Rice in the cantata, and the artistic self effacement of Mrs. Minnie Rothschild Herzog in accompanying the violin solos of Miss Dales, and the songs of Mrs. Lippincott. I have rarely heard such sympathetic accompaniments.

On Thursday May 6, was given the last of the series of concerts planned by the Matinee Musical. This evening was devoted to the Ellen Beach Yaw concert company, consisting of Miss Yaw, coloratura soprano, Miss Lay, pianist, Miss Reade, contralto, and Mr. Maximilian Dick, violinist. The admirable violin playing by Mr. Dick saved this concert from complete mediocrity. In fact the singing of Miss Yaw is at times not only bad but absurd, and she never rose above a tricky and inartistic style of singing which cannot please the more intelligent of her auditors. Miss Yaw's voice is a light high soprano. So thin that it sounds much higher than her actual tones, her flexibility is not considerable and she almost always aspires scale passages. Her trill is not a trill at all but a quiver, and her intonation is not impeccable but inclined to wander from the true pitch. Moreover she has very little voice either in quantity or in quality, while her interpretation of songs is not dignified and is rarely musical. It is time that this pretentious singer with her stock in trade of grimaces and a few high notes should be relegated to a well deserved obscurity. The piano playing of Miss Lay was neat, the singing of Miss Reade acceptable. But Mr. Dick is a most capable artist, technically and otherwise, and deserves to travel in better company. The following program was presented, unduly prolonged by numerous encores.

- Valse in A.....Moszkowski
Miss Lay.
- A Summer Night.....Goring-Thomas
Miss Reade.
- Ballade et Polonaise.....Vieuxtemps
Mr. Dick.
- a, Sunshine Song.....Grieg
- b, Bird of the Springtime....Randelger
(Especially arranged by the composer for Miss Yaw.)
Miss Yaw.
- a, Impromptu in F sharp.....Chopin
- b, Scherzo.....Bargiel
Miss Lay.
- Faust Fantaisie.....Sarasate
Mr. Dick.
- Tu fai la Superbatta.....Fesch
Miss Yaw.
- Ronde des Lutins.....Bazzini

A Venetian Regatta.....Rossini
Miss Yaw. . . . Miss Reade.

On Sunday, May 9, Mrs. D. A. Campbell, one of our most intelligent and earnest singers, starts for London, England, where she will study singing with the best masters procurable. She has the best wishes of many personal friends and of the musicians in the city who have found her courteous and helpful.
J. R.

The annual concert of the university of Nebraska glee club will doubtless be the best concert that has been given by this club in the city. No doubt its recent successful tour of the state will encourage it to do its best work here. Those who enjoy this kind of music will take advantage of this concert as it is the only glee club concert we have had this season and will be novel and entertaining.

The club will have the assistance of the Sutorius mandolin orchestra of Omaha, which numbers sixty performers, and is the largest club of its kind in the country.

The ticket office will be open Monday morning for the sale of seats, which have been placed at the reasonable price of fifty and seventy-five cents. The performance under the direction of Willard Kimball, of the University School of Music, will occur at the Lansing Theatre, on Wednesday, May 12.

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