Dr. Kunwald and His Men Win Contest for the Privilege of Being the First to Perform Richard Strauss's New "Alpine" Symphony in This Country. There were three orchestras in the field: Josef Stranzy, conductor of the New York Philharmonic Society, was the first to announce his intentions, so some of the parts in the score had been held up by British officials in transit from Germany. Then the Cincinnati Orchestra issued the announcement a few weeks ago that it had obtained the complete score and would give the work its American première, and finally the Philadelphia Orchestra made the same claim with the statement that it had obtained the rights for this performance before the beginning of the present season.

Whether the merits in the various claims, Dr. Kunwald and the Cincinnati Orchestra gained their point, for their production of the work on April 25 preceded by three days that of the Philadelphia Orchestra, under Leopold Stokowski. An account of the Philadelphia performance will be found in another column of this issue and the report of the Cincinnati première follows:

CINCINNATI, OHIO, APRIL 25—The American première of Strauss's "Alpine" Symphony was given here at noon today in Music Hall before an immense audience, which, eager and enthusiastic, crowded the vast edifice to hear the much discussed work. Dr. Ernst Kunwald, who is not only a personal friend of Strauss but a particularly sympathetic interpreter of him, has given our public an excellent reading of the score, and consequently the announcement of the American première of his latest and perhaps greatest work aroused the widest interest. The demand for tickets was enormous.

An unsolved law prevails in Cincinnati that a Festival work, no matter how successfully performed, shall not be repeated after the Festival, the first performances of Fierrero's "Children's Crusade" eight years ago being an exception of this. Again it has always been customary for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra to give all the novelty in the regular two performances accorded important works in the usual symphony pair. With these precedents in mind, as well as anticipating the success which the Strauss symphony was bound to achieve and eager to give an adequate presentation of the public as possible an opportunity to hear the work, the May Festival Board advanced the first performance by just one week, and it was thus given its American première to-day and with tremendous success.

The first performance was indeed remarkable in every way. Conductor, orchestra and audience alike entered into the spirit of the great occasion, and the result was a truly epoch-making event in the musical annals of Cincinnati. When Dr. Kunwald emerged from the left of the stage, deafening applause burst from the auditorium, and it was only moments before it subsided so that the performance could begin.

Nothing which Dr. Kunwald has done in Cincinnati has so completely demonstrated his superb ability as a conductor and as an interpreter of the Strauss Symphony. After but one

Charming Young American Soprano, Who Has Followed Her Success at the Opéra Comique in Paris by Attaining a High Rank in the American Concert Field During Her First Season Here. (See Page 17)

OPEN CINCINNATI FESTIVAL
Kunwald Forces Give "St. Paul" with Notable Results
(By telegraph to MUSICAL AMERICA.)
CINCINNATI, MAY 2.—The Cincinnati May Festival was opened this evening with an impressive performance of Mendelssohn's "St. Paul." The soliasts were Florence Hinkle, soprano; Sophie Brahms, contralto; Morgan Kingston, tenor; Clarence Whitehill and Arthur Middleto, basses. A large festival chorus, which had been finely drilled, sang its share inspiringly, while the work of the solists and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, under Dr. Ernst Kunwald, proved to be of a high order.

The ticket sale was very large, and Music Hall was crowded with local music lovers and a large contingent from all parts of the country.

Manager J. Herman Thuman declares the auction sale of seats was larger than ever before and that the total will exceed that of 1912, which was the record of these festivals.

A. W. K.