

# MUSICAL AMERICA

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## CINCINNATI GIVES "ALPINE" SYMPHONY AMERICAN PREMIÈRE

**Dr. Kunwald and His Men Win Distinction Over Philadelphia Orchestra by the Measure of Three Days, Ending a Spirited Contest for the Privilege—Strauss's Monumental Work Called a Splendid Revelation of Spiritual Beauty as Well as a Wonderful Piece of Program Music**

CINCINNATI won the day in the race to determine which American symphony orchestra should have the distinction of being the first to perform Richard Strauss's new "Alpine" Symphony in this country. There were three orchestras in the field. Josef Stransky, conductor of the New York Philharmonic Society, was the first to announce the work, but later abandoned the idea of performing it this season, because, he explained, 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.

Whatever 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 to-day 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 excellent training in the works of this composer, 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 unwritten law prevails in Cincinnati that a Festival work, no matter how successfully performed, shall not be repeated after the Festival, the first performance of Pierné's "Children's Crusade" eight years ago being an example of this. Again it has always been customary for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra to give all novelties the regulation 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 as large a section 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



—Photo © by Ira Hill

MAY PETERSON

**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 11)**

### 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 soloists were Florence Hinkle, soprano; Sophie Braslau, contralto; Morgan Kingston, tenor; Clarence Whitehill and Arthur Middle-

ton, basses. A large festival chorus, which had been finely drilled, sang its share inspiringly, while the work of the soloists 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.

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