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# MUSICAL AMERICA

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## PATRIOTISM LEADS ATLANTA TO GIVE UP OPERA SEASON

Directors of Local Music Festival Association Adopt Resolutions Favoring Sacrifice of Metropolitan Company's Visit — Step Taken to Foster Closer Economy so as More Liberally to Aid in Winning War—Decision May Not be Binding

(By Telegraph to MUSICAL AMERICA)

ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 3.—For the first time in eight years Atlanta music-lovers will in all probability not enjoy the usual season of Metropolitan Grand Opera. Unless a marked change in conditions occurs in a very short time the 1918 season of opera will be canceled.

The directors of the Atlanta Music Festival Association, at a meeting held on Dec. 1, went on record as unanimously of the opinion that opera in war time was not a necessity and that the time and money of Atlanta citizens would better be used toward aiding in winning the war.

### Adopt Resolutions

The following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas, the attention of our people is concentrated on winning the war, and, whereas, all of our people, rich and poor, are being called upon to bear their share of its cost, and, whereas, this means the devotion of the combined resources and time of all our people to the extent necessary to win the war, and, whereas, the Metropolitan Grand Opera season, although educational and uplifting, is not a necessity, and, whereas Atlanta has had eight successful seasons of grand opera, and, whereas, in our judgment the people would prefer to forego entertainments of this character under present conditions in order to economize so as more liberally to aid in winning the war; therefore, be it resolved that no season of Metropolitan Grand Opera be held in Atlanta in April, 1918, unless these conditions show a marked change between now and April next."

Should conditions within the next few months change so that the directors feel warranted in the action, it is probable that the usual brilliant spring festival will be held, but this contingency is based on the supposition that the country is not at that time bending its energies toward supremacy in the European battlefields.

LINTON K. STARR.

## \$101,000,000 FOR MUSIC

That Much Spent Annually by Philadelphians, Pamphlet Shows

The educational committee of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce has issued an interesting pamphlet on the "Commercial Value of Music to Philadelphia," by Edward J. Norton, who is acting for the Music League of Philadelphia, of which Herbert J. Tily is president; Arthur Judson, vice-president, and Thomas C. Martindale, secretary-treasurer.

It is pointed out that more than \$101,000,000 are expended annually in the metropolitan district of Philadelphia, and that Philadelphians pay more than \$13,000,000 a year for their musical recreation and education. The yearly expenditures on music include earnings of musicians, teachers and conservatories, theater and motion-picture houses, public schools, organists and choirs, settlement school, clubs, societies, etc.



Photo by Marceau, Boston

### VERNON STILES

American Tenor, Who Has Won Widespread Recognition in Europe and America as an Operatic and Concert Singer of Notable Gifts—Soloist with the New York Philharmonic Society at Its New York Concerts This Week. (See Page 2)

## TO SURVEY MUSICAL WORK IN THE CAMPS

Members of National Committee on Army and Navy Music Making Tour

A tour of a large number of National Army camps and naval training stations of the United States forces is being made this month by members of the National Committee on Army and Navy Camp Music, affiliated with the Commissions on Training Camp Activities of the War and Navy Departments. The committee will observe the musical work which is being done by song leaders in the different training centers and conditions in the camps where leaders have not yet been stationed.

The committee members left New York on Dec. 1 and will return on Dec. 22. It is proposed to visit fourteen camps during that time, National Army cantonments and naval training stations in the Middle West and Southwest. Methods of work which have been found practical by the song leaders at work in these camps will be observed, with a view to

passing them along to other men in the work and new leaders yet to be appointed. The committee will also make a report on musical conditions in the camps to the War and Navy Commissions on Training Camp Activities.

The tour of the camps is being made by W. A. Brice, chairman of the committee; John Alden Carpenter, who is gathering data on the band situation in the training camps; Walter R. Spalding, who has been released by Harvard University for the trip, and Lee F. Hammer.

### Sembrich, Hurt in Fall, Breaks Shoulder and Upper Arm

Mme. Marcella Sembrich, the famous soprano, sustained a broken shoulder and upper arm last week when she fell in her apartment on Eighty-second Street, New York. She was reported to be improved last Saturday.

Although the injury is giving Mme. Sembrich comparatively little pain, it will be several weeks before she can leave her bed. Three bones, including the left shoulder blade and left arm, were broken.

## MAY DISBAND THE BOSTON SYMPHONY FOR PERIOD OF WAR

Department of Justice Regulations Expected to Halt Temporarily Career of Distinguished Orchestra — Under New Ruling Organization May Not Travel Outside State with German Conductor—Eight Enemy Alien Musicians Ousted in Philadelphia — Musical Union Sends Quiz to All Members

BOSTON, Dec. 3.—Because of the rigid enforcement of the Enemy Alien Act the Boston Symphony Orchestra may be disbanded for the duration of the war.

Twenty-three members out of a personnel of 101 players of the orchestra are without citizenship papers, it is stated. The District of Columbia permits no alien enemies within its borders, and the police authorities of several cities have refused to grant permits for the scheduled concerts of Major Higginson's orchestra.

On account of these conditions and reported hostility toward Dr. Karl Muck in other quarters it is thought that the members of the orchestra will soon be released from their contracts.

Under the terms of the Trading with the Enemy Act no German "may continue to do business in the United States," and it is believed that this clause alone requires that the orchestra and similar organizations immediately eliminate enemy alien members. Even were the symphony to remain intact it would be perhaps impossible for the organization to fill its engagements in other cities, as it cannot appear outside the State with its German conductor, Dr. Muck.

The disbandment will fulfill the prediction made exclusively in MUSICAL AMERICA some months ago. At the time the story was vigorously denied in certain quarters, but it now appears that the report had secure foundation. Official notice of the disbandment is awaited momentarily. The Department of Justice regulations just issued prohibit enemy aliens from leaving the State.

This ruling affects all orchestras with alien membership. The Philadelphia Orchestra has met the situation by dispensing with the services of eight German musicians who possessed only their first papers.

The Musicians' Mutual Protection Union has ordered every member on its roster to declare his status.

### Crippled by Alien Law, Boston Symphony Cancels Philadelphia Engagement

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4.—The concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra which was scheduled for yesterday at the Academy of Music was called off at the last minute by Manager C. A. Ellis.

The regulations concerning aliens which have recently been promulgated by the Department of Justice affect twenty-three members of the Boston Symphony and made it impossible properly to give the concert, it was stated.

### Arthur Farwell Re-elected President of New York Community Chorus

Arthur Farwell, composer and head of the Music School Settlement of New York, has been re-elected president of the New York Community Chorus, following the resignation of W. Kirkpatrick Brice, chairman of the chorus, owing to the pressure of the latter's duties as chairman of the National Committee on Army and Navy Camp Music.