Florence Macbeth, Noted Soprano, Expresses Hope That Americans Will Not Put the German “Lieder” Classics Under the Ban—Singer is Opposed to Pleas That “Star-Spangled Banner” Be Dropped as a National Anthem—Elimination of the Idle Woman a Blessing the War Will Bring to Us

MUSICIANS who are contending that our national anthem should be changed for something containing better musical values do not understand the situation, contends Florence Macbeth, the noted young American soprano. On the morning I talked with Miss Macbeth she had just received a request from the Red Cross Chapter of her native city, Mankato, Minn., to give a benefit recital for that organization and thereby raise money or inspire the men who are going out to fight."

"Undoubtedly some of our composers will give us an American 'Tipperary'; audiences will find a greater need for our present national anthem, and we were literally taking the public fancy more readily."

War's Start in England

Miss Macbeth sees a similarity between the tension of present days in America and the tension that prevailed in England many years ago during the time of the war, "only here you do not have it brought home to you as we did when the first refugees from Belgium began to come in. And we were literally taking the clothes off our backs to give them to destitute women," said she. "I think America is doing marvelous things in the way of preparation whereas in England, after seeing how remote the war still seems to the 'man in the street.'"

"Musicians here must be satisfied to face the same conditions which were met by musicians in the warring countries three years ago," is Miss Macbeth's belief. "We will find a greater need for music than ever before; audiences will be larger, but financial returns will not be as great."

"As to German Songs"

It was interesting to get the viewpoint of such an ardent patriot as Miss Macbeth on the question of placing German songs on next year's concert programs. "It is unbelievable to me that German songs may be put under the ban of public disapproval in America," said Miss Macbeth. "We are not at war with Schubert or Brahms or Mozart or the ideals they represent, we are fighting Prussianism. I hope that we will, as a people, be able to keep our minds unclouded by hate and prejudices. Pettinness has no place in this war; it should not be allowed to encroach on the field of art." Miss Macbeth was so loquacious on the subject that, after a half-hour's discourse, she seemed to be the 'man in the street.'"

"It is idle to speculate about them, but I think that the people who stand aside, who—through false ideas of allegiance to their art—do not take their share of responsibility now will miss a great opportunity for character building, for broadening their mental horizons—even though in the true sense to be truly national."

"My Country."

It is a matter of surprise to me that 'Rosina' in 'The Barber of Seville' has not had the popularity of 'The Ban-Singer' and 'The March of the Magi,' and I am wondering what are the future plans for these songs. Miss Macbeth is not at war with Germany but, rather, the banishing of 'The Spangled Banner.'"

New Suite by Gordon Nevin Played in Oakland by Clarence Eddy

OAKLAND, CAL., June 7.—At last Sunday evening's services in the First Presbyterian Church, Clarence Eddy, the widely known organist of this church, performed an interesting suite, "Sketches of the City," by Gordon Bickh Nevin. The seven numbers depict totally various urban sights and sounds. Other fine musical numbers on this program were Edgar's Preface to the "Apocalypse" of the quartet; an anthem (for quartet and organ); a fantasia and a number for quartet and organ, by Chadwick; an overture, "Evensong," by Easthope Marlin; "Watch Ye and Pray" sung by the quartet; and "The March of the Magi," by Dubois. Miss Macbeth played the quartet.

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