

MUSICAL AMERICA

Vol. XXVI.

No. 15

NEW YORK

EDITED BY *John C. Freund*

AUGUST 11, 1917

Ten Cents per Copy
\$3.00 per Year

MUSICAL OUTLOOK DEPENDS LARGELY ON MILITARY DRAFT

Future of Orchestras and Choruses Will Be Determined By Efforts of Conscription — Passage of Alien Bill May Mean Total Disruption of Many Musical Organizations—Operatic Society of Philadelphia Crippled By Nation's Call for Soldiers

A UNIQUE situation confronts music in this country because of the draft. While reports pour in telling of the threatened disruption of musical organizations, preparations are being made in a number of cities for an unusually active musical season. The situation hinges on the progress of conscription. If the artists, American and alien, are available, the musical season will doubtless be remarkably prosperous.

If the pending Chamberlain Bill is passed and artists of all nationalities are called to the front, and musicians up to a more advanced age are summoned, then the situation will become complex.

Philadelphia and Los Angeles report the loss of many musicians. Teachers and choral societies are especially affected.

The New York situation is as yet uncertain because of the slow progress of drafting.

Richard Keys Biggs, organist, of Brooklyn, has enlisted in the First Base Hospital of the Naval Reserve.

Cripples Philadelphia Opera

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 6.—Wassili Leps, conductor of the Philadelphia Operatic Society, has lost about thirty men from his large chorus of that society and with the selective draft expects to lose another thirty. As the chorus numbers about eighty women and seventy men, this will of course cripple the work to such an extent that operas may have to be chosen which require women's voices only.

Ralph Kinder, one of the most prominent organists and composers and director of the Norristown Choral, believes that there is no way of definitely telling how the draft will affect music. "From present appearances," added Mr. Kinder, "I am inclined to take an optimistic view of conditions. For the first time in my experience, teaching continued until a week ago, and from these indications I see no reason why a satisfactory teaching season should not be before us."

"I think that the general anxiety caused by the draft and the existing conditions will affect the musical atmosphere to a degree, but I also believe that music, like religion, is essential to the welfare of the people and that a season is ahead of us that will bring gratitude and satisfaction to all."

Arthur Judson, manager of the Philadelphia Orchestra, does not contemplate any serious consequences upon that organization.

"There were fifteen men subject to conscription in the orchestra," declared Mr. Judson, "and of course all of their numbers were drawn in the various hundreds of the draft. We cannot, of course, prophesy in advance whether any of them will be taken or not, but it looks to us at the present moment as if not more than one or two at the most will be refused exemption. As far as matters stand now, the coming season of the Orchestra Association will not be affected in the slightest."

"The advance subscription to the concerts is greater than any year heretofore, and the prospects for other mu-



SASCHA JACOBINOFF

© Rembrandt Studios, Phila.

Brilliant Young Russian Violinist, Who, in His First American Season, Filled a Long List of Concert and Recital Engagements With Continuous and Conspicuous Success. (See Page 2)

sical entertainments are excellent. We have no means of checking up at the present time the effect of the conscription upon the chorus. We cannot arrive at any decision on that until the chorus is assembled in the early fall and we find out the actual condition of things. We do not anticipate that we will have any trouble on this score.

"It seems to me," continued Mr. Judson, "that in this period of strain which the country is going through, and which is bound to increase as the war goes on, especially if it be a long war, the public will turn more and more to those things which will offer relief. It may be that the theaters for the first six months or year will get a great patronage from the public, and I believe that eventually the public will turn to serious forms of music for relief from the strain of the war. All organizations may pass through very troublous times, but I do not believe that

those organizations which are founded upon public need and are not purely luxuries will have any great difficulty in weathering this storm."

W. Palmer Hoxie, vocal authority and author on musical subjects, said in summarizing the present condition:

"I do not believe that schools, colleges, conservatories and teachers should suffer from this changing order of things. The study of music should act as an offset to the depressing nature of war news and inspire many who have been contented to regard music as a luxury to be enjoyed, to take an active interest in some branch of our musical work."

May Hurt Choral Work

Anne McDonough, director of the Choral Union and Public Sight Singing

[Continued on page 2]

HUGE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE REPORTED AT ORGANISTS' MEET

Springfield Convention of National Association Hears Gratifying Account of Year's Work Given by President Brook — More Than Two Hundred Organists Attend Sessions—Intense Humidity Drives Delegates to Basement Where "Shirt-Sleeve" Convention Is Held—Brilliant Programs and Interesting Papers Presented—Portland, Me., Chosen to Entertain Next Year's Gathering

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., Aug. 5.—The tenth annual convention of the National Association of Organists was assembled at Springfield from July 29 to Aug. 3, for what proved to be the largest and most enthusiastic gathering this organization has yet recorded. The formal conference sessions were opened on Tuesday morning by President Arthur Scott Brook of New York City, who briefly surveyed the growth of the association, especially in its individual State organizations, during the past year. That enrollment in the association is tremendously increased since the convention in 1916 was the gratifying report which President Brook presented the delegates.

The entire convention was tinged with sadness over the untimely death of Henry G. Chapin of Springfield, Mass., a music patron of distinction, who was killed in an automobile accident recently. Memorial services were held for Mr. Chapin and resolutions deploring his death were read before the convention.

More than two hundred organists gathered in Springfield, coming from all over the East and from as far West as Chicago. Mayor Frank E. Stacy of Springfield welcomed the organists on Tuesday and expressed the hope that the convention would come to this city in 1918. The Springfield Board of Trade, represented by Charles W. Winslow of the convention bureau, offered all the city possesses in hospitality to the delegates.

The sessions were largely given over, both afternoon and evening, to papers on organ questions prepared by experts on such matters, and were attended by highly interested audiences. On Tuesday afternoon Frank Stewart Adams, organist of the First Parish Unitarian Church of Cambridge, Mass., gave a highly technical talk on "Knowledge of the Orchestra as a Valuable Aid to Church and Concert Organists."

"Practical Organ Matters," a subject of intense, everyday interest to the convention, was the subject taken Wednesday morning by Reginald McAll, organist of the Church of the Covenant, New York City. The unparalleled heat which marked the entire week in no way dampened the ardor of the artists, who in shirt sleeves and armed with fans, retired to the basement of the municipal building, where the sessions were conducted, and carried out the entire program in comparative coolness.

Portland Chosen for 1918

Frederick Schieder, F. A. G. O., organist of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, New York City, was the speaker at the Thursday meetings, morning and afternoon, and devoted his entire time to a discussion of "Harmony and

[Continued on page 2]