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MUSIC PILGRIMS SET NEW RECORD FOR THROG AT BACH FESTIVAL

For First Time Every Seat Is Taken at All Sessions—Ninety Per Cent of Auditors Are Visitors—Public Rehearsal Gives Townspeople Welcome Opportunity—Burst of Applause at End of First Part of Mass Startles Veteran Patrons—Dr. Wolle's Superb Chorus Again Mounts Peaks of Song—Soloists Meet Traditions—Fine Playing by Philadelphia Orchestra Men

By OSCAR THOMPSON

BETHLEHEM, PA., May 29.—Some traditions die hard, and when a thunderclap of spontaneous applause reverberated through Packer Memorial Church as the Bach Choristers rolled forth the last resounding Amen of "Cum Sancto Spiritu," ending the first of the two periods devoted to the mighty B Minor Mass on Saturday afternoon, there were gasps of amazement, chagrin, dismay, even horror. Grizzled patrons of the Festival shook their heads and wagged their beards as they left the nave, to loll and chat for an hour, as in other years, on the beautiful sward of the Lehigh University campus; while the perspiring conductor of the choir, Dr. J. Fred Wolle, to whom the applause seemed neither here nor there, hurried away to change his dripping garments and return refreshed for another all-absorbing adventure in the choral mountain-climbing of the Mass.

Perhaps the particular chorus which shattered the decorum, as well as the time-honored silence of the churchy auditorium, was no more stirringly sung than on afternoons devoted to the Mass at other sessions in the past. Some annual pilgrims to Bethlehem thought they saw fewer familiar faces at this (the sixteenth) Festival than of recent years. They looked vainly for celebrities who frequently had been noted in the crowds on the campus, and they were inclined to attribute the outburst of approbation to the many newcomers. Raymond Walters, registrar of the university, estimated that ninety per cent of those in attendance were visitors, rather than people of Bethlehem, though that was only in accordance with the rule of a number of years. For the first time every seat was sold for the four sessions of the Festival.

Perturbed persons, who feared that the applause would be repeated in the second half of the Mass, were restored to something like their normal spirits when the really magnificent singing of the chorus in the "Credo," the "Cruci-



ERNEST HUTCHESON

Photo by Apeña

Richly Dowered Pianist, Who Will Reappear in Many Music Centers Next Season. (See Page 8)

fixus," "Et Ressurexit" and the succeeding marvels of Bach's vocal architecture were listened to in solemn and reverential silence. There was the inevitable scurrying for trains at the end of the Mass, but no more hand-clapping.

The extraordinary success of Dr. Wolle's choir in bringing to the Mass the vocalism that is its due, needs no dis-

cussion at this late day. It has come to be accepted with something like the readiness with which the world of music accepts the sublimity of the Mass itself. Suffice to remark again that there is no other choral organization in America with the virtuosity to surmount the

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STIRRING SCENE AS CARUSO SAILS FOR ITALY; HE SINGS A FAREWELL "A"

Crowds Gather Early at Pier to Cheer Idol as He Puts to Sea—Will Be Away "Till He Feels Strong Again"—Sings a Powerful Top Note in Reply to Query—Return to Italy Marks Consummation of Constant Wish During Days of Illness—"Viva Caruso" Follows Tenor as Liner Slips Its Moorings—Addresses Message of Appreciation to American Public

CARUSO is at last on his way to Bella Italia.

During the most serious days of the tenor's illness in February, he kept saying over and over, that if he could only die in Italy he would die happy. But it is not to die that the idol of the opera-going public sailed for Naples on May 28, but rather to put the finishing touches on his recuperation that he may be able to return next season and again occupy the place that no other singer can fill.

Early in the morning of May 28, a crowd began to gather at the Bush Terminal Docks in Brooklyn where the Presidente Wilson, the ship that is taking Caruso across the Atlantic, was moored. The vessel was scheduled to leave at one o'clock, but as the morning wore on, those waiting were told that it would be five o'clock before she got away, and that the singer would not go on board before four. So, the crowd dispersed, though many returned in time to see Caruso arrive.

The Party Arrives

Shortly before four o'clock, three limousines drove into the dock and the word was passed along that the tenor had arrived. Instantly a shout of "Viva Caruso!" went up and the crowd pressed around the motor cars. Dr. Antonio Stella, Caruso's physician, spoke to the crowd in Italian and English, telling them that the singer was still a sick man and asking their indulgence and their courtesy. Instantly the men and women fell back and allowed Caruso to alight, which he did smiling and bowing. Though much thinner and with very evident traces of his illness, the jolly smile was as potent as ever, and another cheer went up.

A woman in the crowd called out: "We want to see Gloria!" The famous tenor instantly became the proud father, and with a smile, he lifted Gloria where everyone could see her. The party then went aboard the liner and the tenor retired to his suite to rest half an hour before seeing anyone.

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