Once-A-Week, 1928-11-27

Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools

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Famous Westminster Choir School
To Affiliate With Conservatory

One of the most important events in the history of our school was culminated in the recent visit of President Williamson to Dayton, Ohio. At this time he completed arrangements with John Finley Williamson, whereby, he will not only accept the Deanship of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, but will also bring his choir school, at present numbering 120 students and a faculty of seven teachers together with the famous Westminster Choir, to Ithaca to become one of our affiliated Schools.

Several weeks ago, the attention of the students was attracted to two visitors, who quietly and unostentatiously visited classes, rehearsals, dormitories and other buildings. It was not generally known at that time that these two charming visitors, who displayed such keen interest in every part of our school and school life were none other than John Finley Williamson, one of the most noted musicians in the country, and Mrs. Williamson, who is also an active worker in his Choir School, one of the most unique institutions in existence. Another important feature in connection with this visit, which was not known at that time, was the fact that the possibilities in our school were being compared with those of other prominent Schools and Colleges of the East, with a view to a future affiliation, which has now been consummated.

The following excerpt from the Ithaca Journal News gives many interesting facts concerning this important event:

The Westminster Choir School of Dayton, O., with a student and faculty group of about 120, will move to Ithaca next September to become a part of the Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools. It is the most significant addition to the local institution since its foundation.

With the school will come its founder and president, Dr. John Finley Williamson, to become dean of the Ithaca Conservatory. The famous Westminster Choir, which makes an annual tour of the United States and will tour Europe next Spring, will henceforth have its home in Ithaca.

Announcement that the school will be established here, with a new building in the Conservatory group to house it, was made today by George C. Williams, president of the Conservatory, who has just returned from Dayton, where he concluded the contract. It is the result of negotiations covering several weeks.

The move will necessitate radical increase in the equipment of the Conservatory, Mr. Williams said. A new school building especially adapted to the needs of this school, will be erected, and will include a large auditorium and a pipe organ. A large dormitory must be added for the girls, as all of the present school dormitories are now filled to capacity.

Commerce Chamber Co-operated

Dr. Williamson selected Ithaca as the future seat of his school, after long consideration of invitations given him by several of the most prominent conservatories in the East. The Chamber of Commerce co-operated with the Conservatory in making inducements for the school to locate here. Dr. Williamson cites three reasons for his choice:

"I am happy in the prospect of coming to Ithaca because of the tremendous advantage to be found there. First, because of the School of Expression, the Institute of Public School Music, the School of Physical Education and Band School, opportunities are given for the development of a course with Westminster School that is unequalled in the United States. It would take 10 years, a herculean amount of work, and a tremendous amount of money to give to my present and future students in Westminster Choir School the advantages that they will have next year.

"Second, the progressive traditions of Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools, with their unique dormitory and fraternity life, give to the student body that indefinable spirit and atmosphere that is so essential to musical and art development."

(Continued on page 2)
The Westminster Choir

The choir which gave birth to the school is recognized as the outstanding musical organization of its kind in this country. Mr. Williamson organized it eight years ago in the Westminster Presbyterian Church at Dayton, and its growth and fame were so phenomenal that two years ago he established the Westminster Choir School in conjunction with it.

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Seven members of the faculty at the Dayton school will come to Ithaca. Among these teachers is a prominent organist and composer, David Hugh Jones, F.A.G.O., who has studied the organ with the foremost teachers here and abroad. He is a graduate of the Guild of Organists and a fellow of the American Organ School and a fellow of the American Guild of Organists. One of his most noteworthy compositions is "God Is a Spirit."

Character First Qualification

First among the qualifications for entrance to the school is character. It is Dr. William’s conviction that the ministry of church music cannot be accomplished except through leaders of real moral and spiritual life. Next comes personality, with the element of leadership, and then musicianship, mental equipment, and voice. Many of the 120 students who come to Ithaca are already college graduates and a few are ordained ministers.

The new dean of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music is the son of a clergyman, born in a parsonage of the United Brethren Church in a little town in Ohio. He was graduated from Otterbein College, at the same time receiving a thorough course of musical instruction.

Then he received advanced voice instruction under such masters as Herbert Wilbur Green, David Bispham, Herbert Witherspoon and several others, followed by further study abroad at which time he conducted extensive research in work in European centers in choral methods and church music.

For several years he has been instructor in public speaking and church music in Central Reformed Theological Seminary at Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. Williamson is well known throughout the country as a lecturer on community and church music and he has spoken before practically all of the large educational and religious associations, including the National Educational Association, National Assembly of the Press.

(Can continue on page 4)
RECITAL—ASSEMBLY CREDIT

One credit is allowed each year for 25 Assembly attendances and 35 Recital attendances. Recital attendances may include both student and faculty recitals and concerts. This Recital-Assembly credit is a prescribed credit for each school and every course of instruction;—3 Recital-Assembly credits for three year courses and 4 Recital-Assembly credits for four year courses.

Students failing to secure this credit during any year of their course of instruction will be obliged to make up the credit through an extra registration.

The above regulation was passed at the General Faculty meeting held a week ago and will go into effect at once.

Geo. C. Williams, President.

REJOINDER

Porter: "Did you miss dat train, suh?"
Traveler: "No! I didn't like to see it around, so I chased it out of the yard."

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SIX STUDENT SCAMPERS

After the highly successful Scampers last year, both financially and from an entertainment standpoint, The Student Council has been working and is now ready to launch the second annual Six Student Scampers on two nights, Dec. 10-11. For those new students who may have come into the student body since last year, the object of the Six Student Scampers is to pay off the debt incurred by the financial failure of the yearbook of 1927; and eventually to create a budget which may be used to offset any financial difficulties in the future. We paid quite a bit off the bill from last year's campers.

This year we hope to clear it entirely.

Each Fraternity and Sorority of the Conservatory and Affiliated Schools will present an act or stunt somewhat in the nature of a vaudeville act. A committee of townfolks will act as judges and will decide what act deserves the trophy, a beautiful silver cup. According to the ruling set aside by the Student Council, the organization winning the cup three consecutive years is allowed to keep the cup, otherwise the organization having possession of the cup must give it up before the next campers to use for display and advertisement.

Last year the Phi Delta Pi girls sorority of the Phi Ed. Department won the cup with their clever dancing act. Who is it going to be this year, Phi Delta Pi's again, The Awards, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Epsilon Kappa, Sigma Alpha Iota, or the Mu Phi Epsilon? At any rate, let us all get back of this and give them all a good rousing welcome. We feel that the school is behind us especially after the enthusiasm which resulted from last year's campers.

Tickets are on sale for $.50. Let's put it over in grand style. Remember the dates!! Dec. 10 and 11.

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terian Church, National Music Teachers' Association, and the National Supervisors' Association.

For several Summers, he has conducted a Summer choir school at Winston-Salem, N. C., in connection with Salem College. This Summer session has been attended by over 100 choir directors. The coming Summer will be his last season at this school. Hereafter, he will be associated with the Ithaca Conservatory, both during the regular school year and throughout the Summer.

Perhaps Dr. Williamson is best known as the founder and promoter of the national movement known as "Better Music in the Churches." When asked why church music is so ineffective, Dr. Williamson replied, "because so much of it is not honest, it is not given in the same honest preparation that goes into other parts of the church service or if it is rendered in such a professional spirit as to take out of it all the country as a lecturer on community and rendered for the joy of service."

Thus, Dr. Williamson, has become a pioneer in the realm of church music and kindred forms of religious endeavor. He is one of four honorary members of the American Hymn Society.

Won Acclaim On Tour

During the past season the Westminster Choir, in a brief tour of not over one month, appeared before 110,000 paid admissions outside of Dayton, O., and it has won the acclaim of the leading critics, the nation over.

Some praise it for its beauty of tone and innervation, others for its precise diction, enunciation and clear organ-like tone, some for its unanimity of attack, with never any evidence of pitch being given. Singing nothing but sacred music, this choir has brought to thousands of Americans a new conception of the richness of the material available in this field and a new sense of the dignity and warmth which may be added to worship through proper use of the music already at hand.

The Westminster Choir will make its bow to Ithaca on March 15, just prior to sailing for Europe, closing an American tour to include New York, Baltimore, and Washington, giving a concert at the White House. The Fox Film Corporation will make a movie-tone of the choir, and an hour's program will be broadcast over station WEAF.

Hoover Among Sponsors

The singing organization of 60 voices, after being introduced to Ithaca in a concert, will tour through England, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Scandinavia, and other countries. The tours sponsored by leading statesmen and musicians, including such as President-elect Herbert Hoover, Chief Justice William H. Taft, Ambassador Alanson B. Houghton, Ambassador Myron T. Herrick, Walter Damrosch, Osip Gabrilovitch, and others.

Dr. and Mrs. Williamson visited the Conservatory here two weeks ago and were guests of the faculty and school at a dinner in the Bank Restaurant. At that time, the invitation of the Conservatory was seconded, and Dr. Williamson was urged to come to Ithaca by representatives from Cornell University, the Ithaca Ministerial Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

While in Dayton, President Williams of the Conservatory was entertained at luncheon in the home of Mrs. H. E. Talbott, president of the Westminster Choir Association. Mrs. Talbott, wealthy sponsor of the association, will have offices in Ithaca and spend much of her time here. It is understood.

Mr. Williams has announced that an extensive advertising campaign will be conducted for the new school, once it is situated here, with a view to more than doubling its present size. From a commercial viewpoint, he says, the faculty and students of the school will expend more than $150,000 next year in Ithaca. These things will come, in addition to the musical fame and the cultural element which the choir will lend to its adopted city.

Joseph Peckally of Waverly, N. Y., is working on a band arrangement to Hungarian Glory Airs. From the way Joe plays the clarinet, as necessitated by his composition, those present at the graduation exercises are in for a thrill.

### GENERAL MUSIC NOTES

On Thursday evening, November 13th, several of our students entertained at a reception which was given at the First Methodist Church in honor of Reverend Alfred Coman and his family.

Olga Risa Barina, violinist, gave the following numbers:

- Songs My Mother Taught Me
- Dvorak Leibesleid
- Donald Dewhirst, baritone sang the well-known favorites:
  - "Arioso, O Sun"
  - "Wayfarers Night Song"

Charlotte Andrews accompanied during the entire program.

### VISIT OF OFFICIALS

Members of the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, who visited us last week, were highly pleased with the program laid out for them. The only thing missed in the program was their contemplated visit to the dormitories and halls. President Williams, Mr. Johnson, and those in charge were very sorry about this, but previous engagements for the afternoon prevented our guests present at the Conservatory for two o'clock to five, when they came to hear the fine program in the Little Theatre. In the evening practically all came to see the presentation of "The Passing of the Third Floor Back."
PHI DELTA PI NEWS

For the first time in years, the Phi Delts are together, and are living in their new house on Aurora Street. Thrown into such close contact and with high aims, they hope to accomplish much this year, such as only a unified body can accomplish.

The new pledges—Emily Chickering, Theresa Ackerman, Jane Smith, Winifred Phillips, Treva Eicher, Ann Safford, Grace Nietsch, and Mary Perrine—are also at the house. They gave the sorority a mighty enjoyable Hallowe'en party in the gym, and showed their prowess as songsters.

The sorority was happy to entertain four alumni members two weeks ago: Natalie Sheppard, Patricia Hanisch, Helen Schneider, Sara Miller, and Jane Riley.

Phi Delta Pi had a dance with Phi Epsilon Kappa recently.

Phi Delts have candy to sell, as well as stationery for all the fraternities and societies, besides I. C. M. and I. S. P. E. paper. You can get the same from any Phi Delta at any time.

NO ACCOMMODATIONS

"I'd like to take this chrysanthemum home," sighed the young thing to her boy friend, "but you know I've moved into a small apartment."
SCHUBERT ANNIVERSARY

The best-known portraits show Schubert always as a schoolmaster, grave, bespectacled, wearing a collar with points which ran into his cheeks and a large black tie tight around his neck.

A schoolmaster he was; his father was that too, and he had to be one: but he did not like teaching dull things. One imagines without difficulty that he got little pleasure from drilling knowledge into turbulent small boys in a suburb of Vienna where he taught for a time. Little boys were not his audience elect. Indeed, he was shy; short, fat, not handsome. Little boys are not indulgent. But he was kind and full of enthusiasm as soon as he found himself among friends. He liked having friends, was sociable, gay or at least managed to seem so directly he was in their company. No sooner had he a little free time then he looked up his friends, he talked, joked, sat at the piano, played "landler" and valses.

Above all he liked young girls. There is the society of which he had most need and never wearied and which always charmed him. Wherever he was young girls were sure to be, just as if they had been collected especially for him. Wherever he went they clustered round him. Not one ever fell in love with him, but they found him pleasant and amusing. He knew so well how to make them dance, and if some had pretty voices he knew so well how to make them sing. He made them sing his own songs, which were simple, and without offend­ing the taste of the day had a peculiar accent.

His True Muses

None of these girls could understand, it is true, how such lovely songs, which saddened or gladdened their hearts, could spring from that large-headed little man. But the young girls did not ask themselves these questions for long: they danced, they sang and thought about the young men they loved. But, Franz Schubert, knew well that these girls were his true Muses, the sources of his inspiration, and he met them constantly throughout his life. During a journey in Upper Silesia he wrote to his brother: "In the house I live in at Steyr, there are eight young girls, all pretty. The daughter of Herr van Koller, with whom I take my meals daily, is charming: she plays the piano, and is going to sing some of my lieder." How could he help writing songs for such delightful people. A little later his friend, the lawyer Sonnleithner, introduced him to the family Frolich, where there was music from morning to night. There were four girls in the house, each prettier than the others, among whom was Kathie, the fiancée of Grillparzer. They read Schubert's songs as soon as they were composed and sang them with as much ease and grace as he wrote.

Music master to young girls, this is exactly the position which suited him; he filled it on two occasions with the daughters of Count Esterhazy in Hungary and certainly liked it; that atmosphere was congenial, for it was during that time that he composed a large number of his masterpieces.

Charm and Simplicity

Schubert's music has a charm and simplicity which makes it more in keeping with the grace and freshness of a young girl. It is not that he, any oftener than other composers, made it seem in keeping with the society of which he has always as a schoolmaster, grave, bespectacled, wearing a collar with points which ran into his cheeks and a large black tie tight around his neck.

A schoolmaster he was; his father was that too, and he had to be one: but he did not like teaching dull things. One imagines without difficulty that he got little pleasure from drilling knowledge into turbulent small boys in a suburb of Vienna where he taught for a time. Little boys were not his audience elect. Indeed, he was shy; short, fat, not handsome. Little boys are not indulgent. But he was kind and full of enthusiasm as soon as he found himself among friends. He liked having friends, was sociable, gay or at least managed to seem so directly he was in their company. No sooner had he a little free time then he looked up his friends, he talked, joked, sat at the piano, played "landler" and valses.

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Amongst the master composers Schubert is certainly more than any other the young girl's minstrel, the singer of shy innocence, youthful goodness and anxiety. The music of Mozart is not so pure: it has more subtle elegance, but less simplicity and fresh candor. That of Schumann is stormy, and Chopin's full of haunting melancholy, whilst Wagner sings of the ardor of the young ambitious man in love with life and athirst for world power; but the music of Schubert is always like the look of two fresh young eyes gazing upon the world with astonishment and delight.

Freshness, simplicity, ease, grace, these are the words, the qualifications which occur to us when thinking of or listening to Schubert's music. It is not all of even quality, sometimes it shows signs of haste, of lack of reflection. Are those not also young girls' faults? But what music more fresh, more simply touching, was ever conceived by human thought? Listening to it, how easy it is to evoke the charming pastoral of the "Schubertiades", those Sunday gatherings near Vienna during which the composer whirled, whirling before him, to the subtle and graceful rhythm of his waltzes, happy couples of young friends. If sometimes a sense of his loneliness gave rise to regrets, his melancholy found suitable outburst in the form of a song, and that melancholy was appeased by the sight of the pretty face which reflected the sentiments which he left to music to express with incomparable grace.

Why think of Schubert with the rather severe appearance of a schoolmaster? Why leave in the shade that garland of charming muses which dance around him an immortal ronde?

Mr. Conway recently purchased a new Hudson sedan about which he is very enthusiastic. The Conway School Band played a concert at the Drill Hall at Cornell last Friday evening, for the entertainment of the teachers of the Southern-Central District who were attending a convention here over the week-end.

Thaddeus S. Dyczkowski left for his home in Niagara Falls on Tuesday. He is booked for a recital on that night.

Philo Botsford drove to his home in Connecticut for the week-end last week. While there he enjoyed a few thrills in the air with his brother, Pilot Richard L. Bosford of Utica, New York.

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA

A delightful formal Musical was held at the Sigma Alpha Iota Chapter house on Monday evening. The occasion was the celebration of the founding of Sigma Alpha Iota National Professional Music Fraternity for Women twenty-five years ago. Sixty-five were present and the guests included women prominent in musical circles of Ithaca, members of the faculty, as well as students from this institution.

The music-room of the chapter house was simply but effectively arranged and the performers established themselves with all present as musicians of the highest order.

Following the program refreshments were served. The following program, which was arranged under the direction of Miss Mildred Alderfer was given:

1—Double Quartette
Song from Ossian's "Fugal"— Brahms
Margaret Daum-Nichols
6—Vocal Duets
Tuscan Folk Songs—Caraceolo
A Streamlet Full of Flowers—A Flight of Clouds
Charles Andrews
Dorothy Hewitt
Evelyn Johnson
Evelyn Johnson
Dorothy Hewitt
Bernice Wells
Evelyn Johnson

3—Violin
Songs My Mother Taught Me—Dvorak
Romance from Second Concerto in D Minor—Wieniawski
Olga Rita Barina

4—Voice
Dir Hirt auf dem Fel sen—Schubert
Margaret Daum-Nichols
Bert Rogers Lyon, at the piano
Angel Delgado, Clarinet Obligato

NEWMAN HALL

Five hundred three East Buffalo has been quiet this week. Everyone has settled down to work.

One of our members, however, found time to go away over the week-end, and now from Virginia Mather we hear all sorts of superlatives concerning the house party which she attended at Penn State.

We were glad to have as our guest over the week-end Mrs. Cecile Masten, a former resident of Newman.

Wednesday night Gretchen Mack entertained at a birthday party in her room on third floor. "A good time was had by all."
NOTES

We have noticed an increasing tendency on the part of some students to be "just a little late" as Assembly and Recital. Be prompt! It is a habit well worth cultivating. Be five minutes early rather than five seconds late. Start in time, that's the secret of promptness.

Don Dewhirst, baritone of Hamilton, Ohio, who holds the master-scholarship which is awarded annually by the Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools has received many invitations to sing both in Ithaca and in near-by cities. Dewhirst sang in Auburn last week and has several dates ahead.

November 6th President Williams took on a new dignity having been elected to the Ancient and Honorable Order of Grandfathers—It's a Boy! (Born to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams at Cleveland, O.)

Dean Rollo A. Tallcott is engaged to give several programs at universities in the Middle West during the Christmas Vacation.

It will pay you to read very carefully the announcements in Once-A-Week.

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GRIFFIS

An informal house dance was given November 9th with eighteen couples in attendance. The chaperones were Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Kelchner, Miss Noyama, and Mr. Hathaway. The house was effectively decorated with Japanese lanterns.

Margaret Smith's mother, father and sister, who have been visiting her for a few days, left Saturday after the Dartmouth game.

Miss Maxine Spry of Mansfield State College was the week-end guest of Dorothy Weaver.

Eleanor Benton's father and sister visited her Saturday and attended the Dartmouth game.

Elizabeth Schaad spent the week-end at her home in Fullerton, Pennsylvania.

Mary Klein entertained friends from St. Bonaventure College recently.

Geraldine Seybert and Jessie McCune spent the week-end of November 9th at the latter's home in Gerard, Pennsylvania.

Lady (to friend at the art exhibition): "Oh, if only I could meet the man who painted that picture."

Fluttered artist (standing by): "Allow me to introduce myself, madam."

Lady: "How charming—could you tell me the names of your model's dress-maker?"

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Music Student: "No, he's sitting this one out."

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Photographers to the Cayugas

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