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Music in the Home

That Bateful Music Committee

The general attitude of the young musician toward the field of church music may be summed up in the word "organ." For a position he is selected by a music committee, which always judges a choir-master upon his ability as an organist. And music committees, it is regretted, are generally composed of men who have no appreciation of church music ecclesiastical style.

The First Two Notes

What would otherwise be good choir singing is frequently spoiled by the failure of some of the singers to attack the first note or two promptly. In the average choir there are from one-fifth to one-half of the members who seem to lack the necessary confidence to come in exactly on time. These parties take the "three days of grace" principle that operates in the business world and apply it to music. About the time the third or fourth note is reached, they fall in and proceed in splendid form to the final chord. Their weakness is in the start.

One of the great choral conductors said that there is nothing in music more thrilling than the confident and unanimous attack of a chord by a body of well-trained singers and there is, he says, nothing more seldom heard. Every choir singer having heard the chord, knows what note he or she is expected to sing. Every member should watch for the signal

Reproducing Instruments Promote Musical Knowledge

The greatest factors that exist at the present time in the spreading of music and the inducement of a love for it, are the music reproducing machines of all kinds. What these have done to promote general musical knowledge cannot be over estimated. Why, you meet people who, a few years ago, would not have known the name of one great musical composition, who now are familiar not only with the composers, but with their foremost interpreters and the ways in which these interpretations have been conceived. These people know every note of works they hadn't even heard a few years ago. It is not enough for a composition to be great to help the world, apparently; it must be known to be great. With a man it is a different matter. Do your work well, and you will be judged by it. There are always those who can judge if one's work is good; let them judge.

Should Study Minutely

In taking up the study of a rather intricate piano piece, a student must study it minutely, first away from the piano. He should think much about it and study its thematic and harmonic structure. One need not consciously memorize it at first, but if it is studied well, one will suddenly find that he can play it from memory. Each style of



A late photograph of the family of Lloyd George, premier of England, made while the premier and his family were in Paris. The ladies accompanied Premier Lloyd George upon his trip to Paris, to confer upon important peace questions. Left to right our photo shows Mrs. Carey Evans, Mrs. Lloyd George and Miss Lloyd George. Mrs. Evans and her sister have been ardent war-workers, while Mrs. Lloyd George has devoted much time to the study for the betterment of conditions of the women of England.

as keenly as if running a 100-yard dash. Watch the leader. Take breath. Think of the note and the word to be sung and on the signal "light right into it" as one enthusiastic leader tells his choir. The attack is a pretty accurate barometer of a choir's ability.

The Community Chorus

To judge the worth of the community chorus from a strictly musical standpoint is to mistake its mission and purpose. The true lover of art in life may come face to face with it as he watches a great throng singing "God Save the King" or the "Marseillaise." He will not recognize it if he is one of the superstitious formalists who try to convert the search of principle into the accumulation of fixed tenets. But it will be there just the same. And the real lover of art in life will see it, for he will not be concerned so much with tenets as with a process which has a fine distinct end in view, and which is moulding and carrying our everyday life out of things base and hurried into things which are more worthy and imbued with greater serenity. If the principle of beauty is something on which we can all lay hold if we wish, then in the movement for chorus singing which we have seen spring up in this country we have been privileged in seeing that great principle at work.

composition requires a slightly differing mode of study. There is no one mould which will fit all needs. As to interpretation, the old classic works with many traditions are comparatively limited, but in the newer things there is considerable range for varied treatment. A player must, however, follow the composer's expression marks. No piece should be played in public immediately after it is first learned, for one often sees many new beauties in it later, particularly after it is laid aside for a time and then taken up again.

His Way of Putting It

"I do not pose as any musical adjudicator," remarked a gentleman walking down town with a friend who attended the same church, "and I have for long opposed capital punishment on principle; but, if there is one crime for which I would allow beheading to remain as the penalty, it would be for the choir singers who show no sense of the fitness of things."

"Explain," commanded his companion laconically.
"Well, I was out of town for a week end," proceeded the first speaker, "and one of the choirs I heard in the course of their morning anthem sang in the meekest, most lifeless, apologetic manner the words 'I fear no foe' as if they were all

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