

Class and Private Lesson Systems

Both the Class and Private Lesson Systems are employed in the Toronto Conservatory of Music. There are peculiar and great advantages in the former, but to those who are unfamiliar with it, a few words of explanation may be necessary.

Progress in music is essentially facilitated by competition. Form, style, tone and character can, by many students, be more rapidly acquired in class teaching than by individual instruction.

The Class or Conservatory System, consists in arranging students in graded classes. The lesson, in classes of four, is *one hour in length*, and each pupil receives a proportionate share of individual instruction, while having the advantage of all criticisms made by the teacher on others in the class. This mode of instruction excites emulation; ambition is aroused; the student is spurred on to greater efforts, by observing the proficiency of those who have attained a higher degree of perfection; energy is directed into proper channels; and judgment is sharpened by the frequent opportunities afforded for hearing public performances of other pupils and comparing their respective merits.

Opinion of MENDELSSOHN (*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*): "An institution such as the Conservatory, whose object is to give its pupils an opportunity of making themselves thoroughly acquainted with all those branches of study, the knowledge of which is necessary and indispensable to the educated musician, and to educate them theoretically and practically in the same, has this advantage over the private instruction of the individual: that by the participation of several in the same lesson and in the same studies, a true musical feeling is awakened and kept fresh among the pupils; that it promotes industry, and spurs on to emulation; and that it is a preservative from one-sidedness of education and taste—a tendency against which every artist, even in student years, should be upon his guard."

Further Specific Advantages

ECONOMY

An important and special advantage of the Conservatory System is that of affording instruction by the most accomplished teachers and specialists at a moderate price. To this must be added, as *free advantages*, lectures by musicians, professional men, and scientists of repute, upon a variety of interesting and instructive topics, such as Musical History and Biography, Æsthetics of Music, Acoustics, Anatomy and Hygiene of the vocal organs, also classical concerts and recitals by teachers and pupils of the Conservatory.