

Music in Toronto.

Everything points to an active and progressive season in musical Toronto. The various musical organizations are hard at work with the subscription lists, and commenced their operations with opening rehearsals last month. The absolute dearth of concerts, outside of band music, this summer, will make this opening welcome alike to chorus and public, a result that is made additionally sure by the high class of work that is included in the plans of the various societies.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

This society, under the energetic direction of Mr. F. H. Torrington, began rehearsals on Tuesday 11th Sept. and will this season perform two splendid works: Handel's "Samson" and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives." The Christmas performance of the "Messiah," which this society hopes to make a permanent feature of our musical life, as it should undoubtedly be, will take place on Thursday, December 27th, at popular prices. All these performances will be placed before the public with the characteristic efficiency of the society, and with the best vocal and instrumental artists. The society, in its circular for 1888-9, indicates that the subscription will be, as last year, ten dollars, entitling the subscriber to three seats at each of the two principal concerts. The officers of the Philharmonic Society are: Mr. Geo. Gooderham, Hon. President, Mr. John Earls, President, Mr. W. D. Matthews, Vice-President, Mr. J. T. Jones, Vice-President, Mr. F. H. Torrington, conductor, Mr. Edgar A. Willis, Treasurer, Mr. Secretary, Mr. A. L. Ebbels, Assistant Secretary, with the following Executive Committee: Mesdames Revell, Cummings, Morrison, and Messrs. L. J. Clarke, W. C. Matthews, C. P. Orr, H. W. Williamson, J. F. Kirk, C. D. Daniel, Joseph Oliver, A. H. Gilbert, Thos. G. Mason, W. H. Fairbairn and R. Finning.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY.

Owing to the resignation of Mr. Edward Fisher, as conductor of this organization, it was at one time supposed that it would give no performance during the coming season, but we are glad to note that better counsels prevailed, and that Toronto will not yet be deprived of the work of a Society that has made a progressive record of nine years' hard and conscientious work. The Choral Society will this year sing the Creation, with all the splendid effects that a specially and actually selected chorus of one hundred and fifty voices can give it. Great care and time will be spent upon this concert, it being intended to make it a perfect performance as far as the chorus is concerned, and also that the Orchestra should be made more than usually efficient. The officers of the society this year are: President Mr. A. Toshaek; 1st Vice-President, Mr. Chas. Boeckh, Jr.; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. E. A. MacLaurin; Conductor, Mr. Edward Fisher; Hon. Treasurer, A. G. Hodgetts; Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Minkler; Committee, Messrs. S. B. Brush, J. F. Bryce, A. Bolte, I. C. Barr, W. A. Douglas, E. A. Scadding, A. Ross, T. Symington, G. C. Warburton, A. Cromar.

THE VOCAL SOCIETY.

This thoroughly progressive band of singers will this year, add to its former successes by two concerts, for which Mr. W. Elliott Haslam and the committee have chosen some excellent music. The programme for the first concert will include "The Cloud-capt Towers," Stevens; "When Winds Breathe Soft," Webbe; 100th Psalm, de la Pole; "Night," Blumenthal; Boatmen's Chorus "Lily of Killarney," Benedict; "The Wine Cup is Circling," Stewart; "Old Daddy Longlegs," MacLrone; "Song of the Vikings," Fanning. The Musin Concert Company will assist at this Concert, which takes place on Tuesday, Dec. 18th. The officers of the Vocal Society are: President, Mr. J. K. Kerr; 1st Vice-President, Mr. D. Kemp; 2nd Vice-President, James Hedley; 3rd Vice-President, Mr. Geo. Musson; Musical Director, W. Elliott Haslam; Hon. Sec.-Treas., H. G. Bourlier; Executive Committee, Mrs. J. B. Hall, Mrs. Geo. Jaffray, Mr. W. H. Blake, Mr. J. R. Ambrose.

THE ST. CECILIA MUSICAL SOCIETY

Will, under the direction of Mr. H. Guest Collins, give two Concerts, at which Mendelssohn's "Athalie" and Spohn's "Hymn to St. Cecilia" will be performed. Its officers are: Hon. President, Rev. John Burton; President, Mr. H. N. Baird; Vice-President, Mr. Charles Joselin; Sec.-Treas. Mr. Percy Roberts; Committee, Messrs. J. Lister Nichols, W. Poulett Thompson and Mrs. H. L. Thompson.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GLEE CLUB.

This Society has commenced its labors early this year under the direction of Mr. E. W. Schuch, having been requested by Sir Daniel Wilson, the President of the University, to formally assist at the opening Convocation in October. It is the intention of the Club to enlarge its repertoire, and to prepare a choice programme for the Conversazione in February, in addition to providing entertaining music for the various collegiate literary meetings.

AT THE OPERA.

Manager Sheppard will give us a very pleasant bill of fare of a musical kind this season. The items comprise Duff's Trip through Africa, the Kellogg Hawk Company, the new Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, the new American Opera Company, and Rice's Pearl of Peking.

CONCERTS.

The outlook this year is fair in the matter of concert combinations. The probable visitors will be: the Musin Concert Company, the Boston Symphony Orchestra Club, the Mendelssohn Quintette Club, Moritz Rosenthal, the pianist, the Giulia Valda Concert Company and the Campanini Concert Company. In addition to these, there will of course be the usual local concerts, which promise to be unusually good this season.

Crotchets and Quavers.

THE Mendelssohn Quintette Club of Boston has again changed its *personnel*, and this year promises to be exceptionally good. Mr. Thomas Ryan of course remains as the permanent nucleus, and has engaged Herr Alois Bruch, soloist of the Berlin Philharmonic, as first violin; Herr Max Adler, pupil of Joachim and Wirt, as second violin; and Herr Anton Hecking, solo 'cellist of the Berlin Philharmonic. He intends to add a first-class man who can play both viola and 'cello, so that they can play quintettes for two violins, viola and two 'cellos. Miss Alice Ryan will be the vocalist.

Mr. Edmund L. Stanton announces two virtuosi for American concerts this season. They are Moritz Rosenthal of Roumania, a pianist of brilliant European reputation, and Fritz Kreissler, a young violinist who was lately awarded the first prize at the Paris Conservatoire. They make their first appearance at New York on the 14th.

THE Orchestra at the Wagner Festival at Bayreuth is composed of 106 musicians. There are thirty-two violins, twelve violoncellos, five clarinets, five oboes, four bassoons, one contra-bassoon, four horns, four trumpets, one trombone, four harps and two kettle-drums.

LONDON *Figaro* says:—Another "prodigy," also from Vienna, is little Leopold Spielmann, who is of the mature age of four and a half, who plays Bach fugues and Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata. I suppose between the intervals of taking his pap!

CAMPANINI will be on the road again this year with Signor Del Puente, baritone; Signora De Vere, soprano leggiera; Signor Carbone, formerly with the Gerster Company, and Signor Cuffo, Signor Bologna and Miss Marie Grøbl.

MR. GEO. W. CHADWICK'S symphony which met with so much applause when performed at the M. T. N. A. convention at Chicago, was offered to the Committee of the Birmingham Festival, but the score did not reach Herr Richter, the conductor, until after the programme had been decided. Had it reached him sooner, it would probably have been accepted. As it is, Mr. Calixa Lavallee has a decided promise that an American composer will be invited to contribute a work for the 1891 festival.