

Music, The Universal Language

By JOANNE PREZKOP



JOANNE PREZKOP

[Editor's note: Joanne Prezkop of 421 East Diamond Avenue, Hazleton, is an alumna of St. Gabriel's High School, class of 1960. She is now a student in Medical Technology and is also a member of the Theta Sigma Pi Sorority.]

The "sound of music" flows everywhere. Music can be experienced universally from the complexity of a symphony orchestra to the simple melody of a whistling boy, and from the earliest church music to modern jazz. It is an incomparable language that everyone should understand and enjoy with great pleasure. Yet, to understand music more fully, one must learn some of its major ideas.

In turning to the definition in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary one finds this: "Music is melody or harmony; any succession of tones so modulated as to please the ear, or any combination of simultaneous tones in harmony." Although the dictionary definition is useful, only experience in listening to music will help one to appreciate and enjoy it.

At this point, one must know what it means to appreciate and enjoy music. Therefore, in appreciation, the more knowledge and facts one has about music, the

richer the meaning of music will be. Yet, to enjoy music, it must be pleasing to the ear, and it also should have its own special way of giving emotional satisfaction.

Of course, the principal factor in music appreciation is listening. There are four different ways one may listen to music. First, passive listening includes background or dinner music which does not have a direct effect on the listener. Next, the sounds one likes to hear because of their tone are called sensuous sounds, because hearing is one of the senses. This can apply to such things as bells, birds, and even cannons. Then, there is emotional music which depends upon the individual person himself. For example, a certain song is remembered, because it was played when one danced with a special person. Finally, perceptive listening needs most serious concentration.

In order to be able to concentrate on music, one must develop perception to a great extent. Nevertheless, there are obstacles to perception which must be conquered in order to enjoy music. What one hears depends largely on the attention one gives to music. If one cannot hear it distinctly or is disturbed by someone, the tone will have no value. Also, one should try to deepen his awareness of musical material by listening to the same piece of music a number of times. Here one may develop prejudices about a particular composer or composition. This can be the greatest hindrance to perceptive listening. Only an impartial viewpoint for all musical material will develop a taste for all types of music.

Finally, after these points in music are considered, one may now discover how much he has neglected the beautiful world of music. One should probe more deeply into musical forms for greater enjoyment. In understanding it, music may definitely add a significant dimension to one's satisfactions in life.

End Of An Angry Day

All is quiet now in the little grave yard south of town. The sun is not yet gone, but this night no crickets will be heard, only the constant low moaning and wailing of the wounded and dying. No rabbits tonight, just weak and weary soldiers. The acrid smell of gunpowder mixes with the fragrance of splintered trees and the smell of sweaty, dying men to form a smell which is sickening in every aspect, physical and mental. A cloud seems to hang over, not only the cemetery, but the whole country side; a shadow of violent death present, not a mist of peaceful death past. A cannoner moves to prime his piece and stumbles over a sign: "NO SHOOTING PERMITTED IN THE CEMETERY." The place? Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.

POLITICAL MAIL BAG

Congressman J. A. Blatnik:

How can we prevent this story from becoming a reality? It's the end of the Third World War, and every human being on earth has been killed off except one man who is badly wounded and is leaning up against a tree—finally he, too, keels over dead.

An ape sitting in the tree watching what has happened, turns to his mate and exclaims, "My God, do we have to start this whole thing over again!"
Senator H. M. Kilgore:

I don't know why the Senate wastes our valuable money and its time investigating the Housing Shortage. There really is no Housing Shortage. This is just a nasty rumor started by people who have no place to live.

MEET MRS. BODENSTEIN

For this issue of the Collegian, Miss Joanne Rossi has interviewed a member of the German and English Departments, Mrs. Elizabeth Bodenstein. Perhaps, you have wondered where Mrs. Bodenstein acquired her charming British accent. She was born in England and spent her formative years in London. The fact that her accent is British and not Cockney surprises her.

Mrs. Bodenstein's father was a member of the European staff of the Associated Press. As a result of his various assignments, she has lived in both Holland and Germany. During the five years she spent in Berlin, Mrs. Bodenstein taught English in private circles, attended classes at the University of Berlin to perfect her knowledge of German, and did much German to English translation work. She even produced a small text book in English for use in the German schools.

In 1933, while still in Germany, Mrs. Bodenstein married. Her daughter was born there before they came to the United States where she has been a naturalized citizen since 1940. Her first teaching experience in the United States was as a "native-speaker" with the Intensive German program at Yale University. Then, while teaching at the University of Texas, she qualified for both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from that institution.

In 1956, she came to Pennsylvania and began teaching at Highacres. Teaching English and German, and being advisor to the Theta Sigma Pi sorority keep her busy as do her Russian studies



MRS. BODENSTEIN

and College Community Chorus work. During this spring term, she is teaching a new one-credit course in Social Usage open to all students at the Hazleton Campus. In undertaking this new assignment, Mrs. Bodenstein says, "I expect both students and teacher will gain much valuable insight into basic human values by studying the fundamental patterns of behavior in ordinary life. Study of social usage—the simple rules of etiquette—should contribute to one's self-assurance and to harmonious relationships with others."

All in all, Mrs. Bodenstein finds life full here at Highacres, and the full life, whatever it may bring in the way of fair weather or foul, is her idea of really living.

HAZLETON CAMPUS PROFESSOR DIES

Aaron Herschfeld, assistant professor of mathematics, died on Sunday, February 12, 1961, at the Geisinger Hospital, Danville, where he had been a patient for three weeks.

A member of the Hazleton Campus faculty for the last four years, Professor Herschfeld came here from Canisius College, Buffalo, N. Y. He previously served as an instructor in mathematics and mechanics at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, N. Y.

He was graduated from the College of the City of New York with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics in 1932 and earned a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1934.

Surviving are two brothers: Morris, Brooklyn; Sam, Miami; and two sisters: Mrs. Louis Cherkasky, Brooklyn; and Mrs. Louis Landweber, Iowa City, Iowa.

The administration, faculty, and student body extend their deepest sympathy to Mr. Herschfeld's relatives.

LIBRARY NOTES

Mr. Frank Kostos has presented Max Weber's Religions of the East in three volumes, to the Library in memory of Professor Herschfeld.

In addition, Mr. Kostos gave these books as gifts: T. Herberg's A New Geometry, J. A. Nyberg's Plane Geometry and F. E. Seymour's Plane Geometry. Also, thanks to Mr. Kostos' gift of a roomy display rack to our ever-expanding Library, Mrs. Ferry has been able to arrange a Vocational Guidance file on the wall of the Charge Room. Students can read about all types of occupations and professions to be found on this rack.

Professor James Steel has loaned an extensive collection of books about Egypt to our Library. These include The Nile, The Mummy, etc.

The Library has purchased the fifteen-volume Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, published by McGraw-Hill.

Roll Up Your Sleeves

"Success will come to you
If you but let it,"
They said. But I found out
You'd better go and get it.
—Rosa Marinone