

Easter Music



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FRAGTURING AN EASTER SOLO

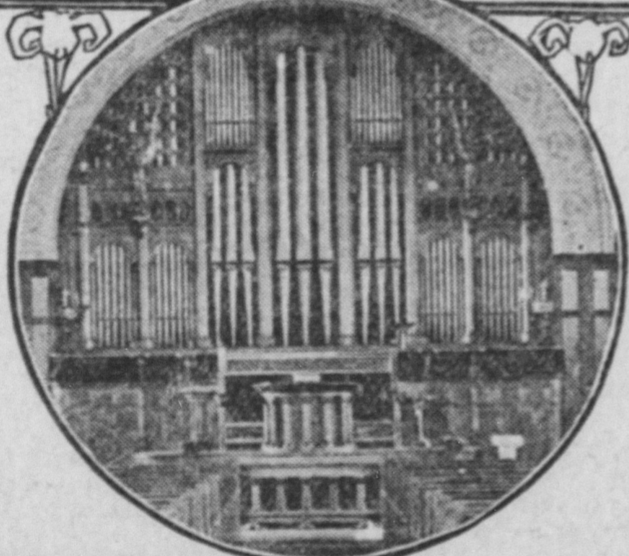


AN EASTER CATHOLIC PROCESSION



REPRESENTATIVE

AMERICAN CHURCH CHOIR



A MODERN PIPE ORGAN

SOME churchgoers in the United States—they are declared to be a bit old-fashioned, by their opponents—have been protesting of late years against the growing disposition to give greater prominence to music in our church services. It is not, say these good people, who cling to the ideas of our grandmothers' time, that they would have church services without music. On the contrary they recognize that music is an important, not to say essential, feature of devotional exercises. What they complain about, though, is the seeming disposition in some churches, particularly the fashionable ones, to have the musical numbers completely overshadow the sermon and the prayers and everything else.

But for all that there exists this wide difference of opinion as to the part music should play in church services there is one occasion during the year when practically all churchgoers are agreed that it is fitting and appropriate that melody should dominate the whole interval of worship. This exceptional occasion is, of course, Easter. As the anniversary of glad tidings—the most joyous holiday in the whole church calendar—it is but natural that the keynote of every observance should be one of rejoicing and praise in song. Consequently the pastors and musical directors and choir masters of all churches up and down the land devote more attention to their Easter musical programs than to those of any other Sunday in the fifty-two, and, with all due respect, it is the musical programs rather than the pastor's texts which are objects of the keenest interest when the churches announce their Easter programs.

Church music, which finds its best exemplification on Easter morning, has undergone marked development during the past dozen years. It is well within the memory of the present generation when almost the only music in our churches was congregational singing. This chorus singing by the assembled worshippers is still in vogue in many of the smaller churches, particularly those in small towns and rural districts, and just here we can confess that there are a good many people who to this day declare that it is more devotional and inspiring than the solos of the highest salaried singers. But, be that as it may, the soloists have supplanted the congregation as singers in practically every city church and in many of the smaller towns.

The first entry of the soloists into this field came when one, two, or a quartette of singers in each congregation who possessed the best voices were induced to specialize to the extent of preparing one anthem for rendition each Sunday, as well as, in effect, leading the congregational singing. Or, in some churches where the congregation was not strong vocally or the members were diffident about engaging in the chorus singing, there was organized a choir of anywhere from eight to sixteen members that bore the whole burden of the musical responsibility just as do the vested choirs in many of the Episcopal churches. Under this plan the singers have almost invariably been members of the church where they sing and as a rule they have given their services free or have received very modest sums for their services.

While the above mentioned plan or one in which choir and congregational singing is combined is still in vogue in thousands of churches all over the country, a further step in musical development has been taken by most of the prominent and wealthy city churches. In these places of worship one may hear on Easter morning music of as fine a quality as can be listened to in any grand opera house. The secret lies in the fact that in these fashionable churches the music is provided by high-salaried musicians who are engaged solely for their musical ability and without reference to anything else. Indeed, since good voices have come to be demanded above all else we find that not once in a dozen cases is a highly-paid choir singer a member of the church in which she sings. Mayhap she is not a member of any church. There are also well-known instances in which Catholic singers appear regularly in Protestant churches and vice versa.

Similarly the pipe organist of the twentieth century fashionable city church is chosen solely because of his musical ability and not because he is a fellow-churchman, which probably is not. Even more odd in the eyes of some folk with old-time ideas is the system of recruiting the orchestras of the leading churches. But, perhaps, to pause for a moment, the reader had not realized that an orchestra is now considered essential in every fashionable church. Such is the case, however, and in a majority of cases the musicians

who comprise a church orchestra are employed during the week in the orchestra of some local theater. And these orchestras have to hold rehearsals for their church work, just as they do for their theater work. Just before Easter the rehearsals are unusually exacting, for the orchestra in each church is called upon to play the accompaniments for vocal selections that are unusually numerous and exceptionally elaborate in character. Like as not, too, there will be flute obligatos and violin obligatos. Indeed, in some churches a violin solo is now a feature of every Sunday program, and even cornet solos are not unknown in such environment.

The Easter music in a fashionable church is likely to cost a pretty penny—almost as much as the special floral decorations, mayhap, and that is saying a good deal. For one thing the orchestra is a pretty expensive luxury, which can be appreciated when we figure that there are presumably seven or nine men who receive, say, \$4 or \$5 per Sunday. The organist, if he is an accomplished artist, receives perhaps twice as much as any member of the orchestra. After all, however, it is the vocal soloists who run up the expense bills in these churches which are always crowded—partly, let us suspect, because the music is so fine.

The cost of church singing of the professional class has advanced in recent years even more rapidly than the cost of living. There are yet to be found professional singers of some ability who are singing in churches for \$5 per Sunday, but all the more prominent soloists have advanced far beyond that figure for their services. Indeed, there are church soloists in New York and other large cities who receive salaries of \$5,000 a year, and in some instances such salaries are paid by churches that have never been heard of by the average citizen outside of the city in which they are located. For her \$100 a week a choir "star" is required to sing once and more likely twice on Sunday and is supposed to attend at least one rehearsal—say on Friday. However, she has plenty of leisure for teaching music, if she cares to do so, or for accepting outside concert engagements if the condition of her voice will permit. Indeed, she can make of her church singing simply a "side line."

The Easter season sees the culmination of an ever-existing rivalry between churches for soloists of marked ability, for, be it known, choir singers of the first rank are not much more numerous than operatic stars of the first eminence. Of late regular "booking" or employment

bureaus have been established specially to carry on negotiations looking to the engagement of choir singers. Some singers are so much in demand that they sing in two or even three churches each Sunday, and an amusing illustration of the lengths to which churches will go to secure coveted soloists was afforded recently when a rich church in a leading Eastern city had a special door constructed so that a vocalist after singing her solos might slip out unobserved in time to fill a similar engagement in another church down the street.

In the average church the greatest factor, next to the vocalists, in making the Easter music is the pipe organ. These monster instruments with their rich deep tones in tremendous volume seem to provide the ideal background for the soaring melody of the Easter anthems. Nowadays every church that is very ambitious aspires to a pipe organ, but here again we find it possible for churches to be decidedly extravagant, for \$10,000 is by no means an unusual price for pipe organs of the largest size in this day and age. The demand for these instruments may be imagined, however, from the fact that America, which leads the world in such manufacture, now has seventy-five pipe organ manufacturers.

Church organs, except in the small sizes, are not built in accordance with stock designs, as are pianos or other musical instruments, but each is designed and built specially with reference to the conditions and requirements presented by the particular church in which it is to be installed. Accordingly, before beginning work upon a large pipe organ for a church the builder must study not only the architecture of the church, but also the colors presented in the frescos on walls and ceiling and other features of the decorative scheme. A pipe organ is made up of several thousand different parts and the great pipes from which peal forth sonorous sound on Easter morning are, in the case of the largest organs, each thirty-two feet in length.

The Easter season always brings into especial prominence the "song service," another comparatively recent development of church activities. Such a service, as its name wholly musical in one form or another and that in most churches embraces both vocal and instrumental solos. Of course, song services are held in churches all through the year, but those at Easter have especial significance and present more than ordinarily pretentious programs. The most popular hour for the song service is at four o'clock in the afternoon, which time prevents it from interfering or rather conflicting with any of the other church services. In the southern cities where Easter usually is characterized by a balmy atmosphere the outdoor Easter song service is gaining popularity in the same measure that open-air church services are gaining vogue in all parts of the country during the summer.

The First Easter Day

BY STANLEY WATERLOO.
Never so sweet a hush
In all Judean nights,
Never so fair a sun
Rose o'er Judean Heights,
Never so hovering close
Did all of heaven lean
As when approached the tomb
The weeping Magdalene.

What marvel greets her eyes!
Too tear-bedimmed are they!
Behold no portal barred;
The stone is rolled away!
Vacant the sheltering depth
Where he was laid to rest,
Vacant the narrow space
Whereon his body pres't.

Only the ceremonies white
Where He, the Son, had lain
Only at head and foot
The guarding angels twain,
The guarding angels twain,
Of gentle mien and grave,
To speak of word fulfilled
Of him who died to save.

How spread the mighty truth,
How all the earth divined!
What glorious promise kept
The saviour of mankind!
And, so, the world is glad
And men, rejoicing, pray,
As did his servants when
Came the first Easter day.

Spring Debility

Felt by so many upon the return of warm weather is due to the impure, impoverished, devitalized condition of the blood which causes that tired feeling and loss of appetite as well as the pimples, boils and other eruptions so common at this season. It is cured by the great constitutional remedy

Hood's Sarsaparilla

which effects its wonderful cures, not simply because it contains sarsaparilla, but because it combines the utmost remedial values of more than twenty different ingredients. There is no real substitute for Hood's Sarsaparilla. If urged to buy any preparation said to be "just as good," you may be sure it is inferior, costs less to make, and yields the dealer a larger profit.

He Might Have Earned a Vote.
Little Johnnie stood gazing solemnly on the decrepit form of an old countryman. Noticing the boy's attention the old man asked: "Well, what is it, son?"
"Say," the inquisitive youngster asked, "did the politicians kiss you when you was a baby?"—Success Magazine.

A pleasant smile and a sweet voice are great helps on life's journey.

Take Garfield Tea in the spring to purify the blood and cleanse the system.

The better you behave the better you'll get along. Now, try it.

Eye Salve in Aseptic Tubes
Prevents Infection—Murine Eye Salve in Tubes for all Eye Ills. No Morphine. Ask Druggists for New Size 25c. Valuable Eye Book in Each Package.

ITCHED SO COULD NOT SLEEP

"I suffered from the early part of December until nearly the beginning of March with severe skin eruptions on my face and scalp. At first I treated it as a trivial matter. But after having used castile soap, medicated washrags, cold cream, vanishing cream, etc., I found no relief whatever. After that I diagnosed my case as eczema, because of its dry, scaly appearance. The itching and burning of my scalp became so intense that I thought I should go mad, having not slept regularly for months past, only at intervals, waking up now and then because of the burning and itching of my skin. Having read different testimonials of cures by the Cuticura Remedies, I decided to purchase a box of Cuticura Ointment and a cake of Cuticura Soap. After using them for a few days I recognized a marked change in my condition. I bought about two boxes of Cuticura Ointment and five cakes of Cuticura Soap in all, and after a few days I was entirely free from the itching and burning. My eczema was entirely cured, all due to using Cuticura Soap and Ointment daily. Hereafter I will never be without a cake of Cuticura Soap on my washstand. I highly recommend the Cuticura Remedies to anyone suffering from similar skin eruptions and hope you will publish my letter so that others may learn of Cuticura Remedies and be cured." (Signed) David M. Shaw, care Paymaster, Pier 55, N. R., New York City, June 2, 1910.

Cuticura Remedies sold everywhere. Send to Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Boston, for free book on skin and scalp troubles.

Indication of Wisdom.
"Why do they call the owl the bird of wisdom?"
"It stays out all night and doesn't tell what it sees or does."—Judge.

TO DRIVE OUT MALARIA AND BUILD UP THE SYSTEM
Take the old Standard Quinine Tablets. You know what you are taking. The formula is plainly printed on every bottle, showing it is simple Quinine and Iron in a soluble form. The Quinine drives out the malarial and the Iron builds up the system. Sold by all dealers for 30 years. Price 50 cents.

There is an ancient saying, famous among men, that thou shouldst not judge fully of a man's life before he die, whether it should be called blest or wretched.—Sophocles.

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Knicker—Is he a has been?
Booker—No, a going to was.

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Take Garfield Tea to overcome constipation, cleanse system and maintain health.

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It acts directly on the organs affected and is at the same time a general restorative tonic for the whole system. It cures female complaint right in the privacy of home. It makes unnecessary the disagreeable questioning, examinations and local treatment so universally insisted upon by doctors, and so abhorrent to every modest woman.

We shall not particularize here as to the symptoms of these peculiar affections incident to women, but those wanting full information as to their symptoms and means of positive cure are referred to the People's Common Sense Medical Adviser—1908 pages, newly revised and up-to-date Edition, sent free on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps to cover cost of wrapping and mailing only, in French cloth binding. Address: Dr. R. V. Pierce, No. 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

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