MARKET ST. ABOVE 16th

ALL NEXT WEEK

THE CRITIC TALKS TO MUSIC LOVERS

Weekly Comment on Things Musical in Discriminating Philadelphia

LETTER received by the EVENING A PUBLIC LEDGER, evidently written by a musician of taste and discrimination, although unsigned, calls attention to what is termed "a lack of melody" in most modern works. It is undoubtedly true that, judged by the musical standards of one hundred years ago, our modern music lacks melody as it was understood then; but it must be borne in mind that of all the elements that go to make up music melody is the most to make up music, melody is the mossusceptible to change, according to the manner and fashion of the times. For example, many of the melodies of Haen-del, especially in the instrumental works, are so formal and so exactly in accord with the strict style of composi-tion then in vogue that now they sound decidedly old-fashioned, to put it mildly.

THE same is true, but in a less degree, of the instrumental compositions of Sebastian Bach, but does not apply Sebastian Hach, but does not apply fearly so much to the vocal works of either composer. This may be because instrumental standards have changed in many ways, especially in the general development of a higher technique both of execution and expression, while those of the volce have not undergone such radical changes.

It is true that some of Bach's instrumental works, such as the fugues for or-gan the six sonatas for violin alone and the six sonatas for cello alone, still demand the full modern technical equip-ment in spite of its advancement, but there were probably few instrumental-ists of Bach's day who were capable of playing them, while today there are many. The vocal parts of his works. however, seem to be about as difficult to singers now as they were to those of the earlier period. This technical difficulty appears in very few of the instrumental works of Haendel, which are now almost obsolete, but his vocal parts are still not easy to sing.

It is doubtless que, in the style of melody that have caused the works of many of the older composers to be largely forgotten. Beethoven was considered by onany supposedly good judges of his orchestra, will give a recital at the Metropolitan Opera House on Wednesday evening, January 15, under the auspices of the Friends of Music and Art. TT IS doubtless due, in a large measure,

of the finest of melodists, and yet the charge was made against him sot more than twenty years ago that "he couldn't write a melody." The fact is, all the great composers must necessarily have a fund of melody, but they must write liese in their own idiom, and that idiom, not being easily understood by the genteral musical public of their own day, the composer is termed unmelodious. The really great composer is the one who, in his works, forecasts the direction in which the melodic and harmonic who, in his works, forecasts the direc-

aste of the people is tending.'
So it may be after all that our modin extremists are writing imperishable melodies, but it must be confessed that it does not often sound as if they were. If such is the case, however, when they are so acclaimed, the melodies of Beethoven, Wagner and Brahms will be sent to the musical scrap heap as effectually as are today the melodies of criando di Lassus or Joaquin des Pres.

His Lectures in Behalf of

T IS in the apparent worthlesaness of I the melodic thematic material that mean clarity of melody, for a theme can be too beautiful or rather too perfect to admit of an effective development. But it does mean that a theme should give expression to some definite as a good-humored, irresponsible, happysentiment and that it should not be so chaotic as to be utterly meaningless even after several hearings. This does not necessarily even after several hearings.

sible for much of the vagueness of mod-ern melody, for, when it first came into own experience and that of the charac-fashion the program provided a crutch ter in the play, for Maude would have clarify musical ideas, which the com- from entering upon a military career. poser, by using it, tacitly admits he could not make clear in tones alone. Much of it needs this crutch and some of it needs even two crutches.

CREAKING of wodern music here is of Maude's immediate relations have CPEAKING of modern music, here is

week:
Editor Evening Public Ledger:
Sir—I was much interested in your criticism of Lec Ornstein's songs a few days ago, as I was at the concert and heard them. I would like to ask you if, in the accompaniment of the song "The Nightingale" Mr. Ornstein uses the notes actually sung by the bird or not.

"INQUIRER.

but we are safe in saying that any nightingale which can sing in consecuasteunding knowledge of glissando both organization he made his first appearascending and descending, is indeed a ance at Denver in 1884. fowl of parts. In all probability, Mr.

For the unerring eye, or shall we say, car, of General Manager Gatti-Casazza, of the Metropolitan Opera Company. has, not once, but twice, located future prime donne in more lowly musical cir-cles and he has brought them forth to

enter his great company.

The first of these is Rosa Ponselle. who graduated in an amazing short time from the vaudeville stage to that of the Metropolitan Opera. The second is Margaret Romaine, who, almost in one bound, left light opera and landed in the Met. Miss Romaine is the stater of Hazel Dawn, the well-known movie star, and at her debut one New York critic said that if she bears out the promise of her first appearance, Hazel Dawn will soon be known as "the sister of Margaret Romaine."

IN STUDIO AND CONCERT HALL At next week's concert of the Philadelphila Orchestre the soloist will be Captain Fernand Pollain, the French cellst whit came to this country with the Faris Canservalojes Orchestra. Cantain Pollain, who is a reserve officer in the French arms, was inconscitate for arms service by reason of wounds refer arms service to the war. He will olay the Laio concerts. The orchestral numbers are the "New World" symplopy of Proprie and a come poem by Henry Hadley entitled "Lucifer,"

cifer."

The Choral Society has announced its annual production of "The Messiah" under the baten of Henry Gordon Thunder for Monday evening. December 36, at the Academy of Music. The solidists are Florence Hinkle, seprano; Merie Alcock, contraits; W. LeRoy Fontius, tenor, and Henri Scott, bass.

Society of Ancient Instruments and Gabrielle Gills, a famous French so-will furnish the program for the Man-usicale on Monday, December 20, The t takes place at the Bellevue-Btratford in the afternoon.

Musical Events Set for Christmas Week

SUNDAY-Free concert Academy of the Fine Arts at 3 p. m. May Hotz, Henry Hotz and Domenico

THURSDAY-Vocal recital by John Charles Thomas, Witherspoon Hall, 3 p. m. FRIDAY-Philadelphia Orchestra Academy of Music, 3 p. m. Cap-

soloist. SATURDAY-Philadelphia Orchestra, Academy of Music, 8:15 p. m. Captain Fernand Pollain (cellist) soloist.

tain Fernand Pollain (cellist)

SATURDAY - Matinee musicale, Bellevue-Stratford, 2:30 p. m Children's party.

made such a success in the light opera "May-time," will appear in a recital at Wither-spoon Hall on Thursday afternoon, December 26, at 3 o'clock.

John McCormack has prepared an unusu-ally interesting program for his recital at the Metropolitan Opera House on Wednesday evening, January 8. It will be one of general appeal and will contain many charming bal-lads, as well as some interesting folksongs.

The Philadelphia Operatic Society has found it necessary to change the date originally set for the production of "The Bohemian Girl." It will take place at the Metropolitan Opera House on the evening of Thursday, January 16, instead of Tuesday, January 14. It was imperative that the date be changed, because the Philadelphia Orchestra, which was to have furnished the instrumentalists for the occasion, has another engagement. The cast is now complete, as follows:

niete, as follows:
Arline Kathryn McGinley Noble
Thaddeus Paul Volkmann
The Gueen Mrs. Russell King Miller
Florestan Herman J. Bub
The Count Horace R. Hood
Devilahoof Charles J. Shuttleworth
The Maid Mrs. Eva Allen Ritter
Officer of the Guard Dr. Frank G. Ritter

The last recital of the season of Mischa Elman will take place tonight at the Metropolitan Opera House. Among other things he will play the third concerto of Saint-Saens, the one in B minor.

At the free concert tomorrow afternoon at the Academy of the Fine Arts at 8 o'clock the artists will be: May Ebrey Hotz, so-prano; Honry Hotz, bass, and Donelice Bove, Violinist. These fine concerts are always crowded, as they deserve to be from the excellence of the artists who give them, last Sunday there being no fewer than 3400 persons present.

phatically reversed by later generations, for there are many of the Beethoven melodies that show strong signs of remaining with us for a long time to come.

Of the later great composers, Brahms, notably in his instrumental compositions, is now adjudged to have been one of the finest of melodists, and yet the charge was made against him not more

MAUDE ADDED HIS BIT TO BRITAIN'S EFFORT

His Lectures in Behalf of War Cause

ven after several hearings.

Program music is doubtless responbarred on account of his age. There is upon which the music might lean. The been a soldier had not the circumstance

SPEAKING of modern music, here is won that coveted decoration, Major Gensar interesting letter received this eral Sir Francis Maude, who commanded the British operations in Mesopotamia

was a cousin of the actor.
Cyril Maude was educated at Cambridge University and it was his intention to enter the army upon his gradu-ation. But his health at the time of to ask you if. in the accompaniment of the song "The Nightingale" Mr. Ornstein uses the notes actually sung by the bird or not.

We do not know just how closely to the actual melody of the nightingale Mr. Ornstein adhered in his accompaniment, but we are safe in saying that any class to colorado. There he regained in the respect to saying that any class to colorado. There he regained to colorado the respective to the service and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art under the tutelage of Charles Cart-work and took up instead the study of the dramatic art high tingale which can sing in consecu-his strength rapidly and presently joined tive fifths and fourths and has such an Daniel Bandmann's company, with which

ance at Denver in 1884.
Since the war began Cyril Maude has Ornstein did not use the actual notes of the song of the nightingale in development but merely wrote made many addresses in cities and towns the birdlike part in the piano as a sug-gestion to the hearers, and in this it must be admitted that he succeeded. Women in the war. His patriotism has not been unappre-

Young women with grand opera clated, for King George has made sevarapirations should take heart from clated, for King George has made sevarapirations should take heart from class case with the King's monogram class case with the King's case with the King's monogram class case with the King's case wi surmounted by a crown in diamonds, and receptions and banquets were tendered in his honor by the Lord Mayors of Sydney and Melbourne.

MESSIAH

WILL BE RENDERED BY Philadelphia's noted organization of trained voices, 300 strong

The CHORAL SOCIETY UNDER THE DIRECTION
Henry Gordon Thunder, Director
Auslated by members of the

Philadelphia Orchestra

Florence Hinkle, Soprano Merle Alcock, Contralto Henri Scott, Basso Walter Pontius, Tenor

DECEMBER 30 ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Sale of tickets at Henre's, 1117 Chestnut St., commencing December 20 Subscribers and members may secure tickets Dec. 18 and 10 from Mr. Raley,

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pearance in Philadelphia in a strictly dramatic role at the Garrick Theatre Christmas afternoon, speaking of her ability to imitate other persons on the GEORGIE O'RAMEY RETURNING

INA CLARE ENTERS DRAMA

Musical Comedy Star Coming in

"Polly With a Past"

Ina Claire, who, as Polly, in "Polly With a Past," will make her first appearance in Philadelphia in a strictly

Is gave imitations or on the stage. I had not seen Frances Starr, in 'Marie-Odilé, for instance—in fact, I never saw Miss Starr in my life. I can only say that it all comes to me subconsciously. I get an idea about the part a player is consedy makers was engaged for the parts, conspicuous among whom are tidular pzerson in character, and before I know it I am doing the same thing."

I gave imitations or on the stage. I had not seen Frances Starr, in 'Marie-Odilé, for instance—in fact, I never saw Miss its premiere at the Forrest Theatre Monday night, will be along rest Theatre Monday night, will be along the lines of the comedy which its producers have endeavored to infuse into II. With this in mind, a strong cast of parts. Consequence in parts, conspicuous among whom are tidular pzerson in character, and before I know it I am doing the same thing."

Flynn and Minerva Coverdiale, who has the lines of the comedy which its producers have endeavored to infuse into II. With this in mind, a strong cast of georgic O'Ramey, already seen here this season in "Leave It to Jane"; Marie-Flynn and Minerva Coverdiale, who has comedy makers was engage-parts, conspicuous among w Georgio O'Ramey, already seer season in "Leave it to Jan Flynn and Minerva Coverdale just returned from London wet with considerable success.

Christmas afternoon, speaking of her ability to imitate other persons on the stage, says:

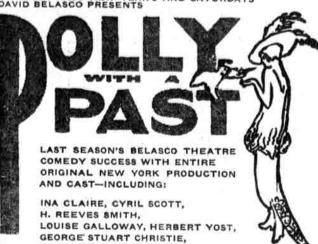
"The point is to bring out, if possible, the characteristics of those imitated in such a way as to suggest their methods, and not only to give their mannerisms. In many cases I have never seen those

GEORGIE O'RAMEY RETURNING

Less familiar among the laughmakers are Fay Marbe, who will impersonate a new type of baby vampire; Howard Langford, the low comedian of the play; the light singing and dancing comedian, Ray Raymond, and his vis-a-vis, Alfred Velvet Lady," the musical production

PHILADELPHIA'S FOREMOST THEATRES

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GARRICK

BAM'L NIXON-NIRDLINGER Business Manager

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XMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WEEKS MATINEES NEXT WEEK, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY WEEK DEC. 30, NEW YEAR'S & SATURDAY THERE'LL BE A NEW KIND OF GIRL IN TOWN!

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F, Ray Comstock and Wm. Elliott Present

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CHESTNUT ST. OPERA HOUSE
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OF PHILADELPHIA has been most fortunate in engaging the following artists PLORENCE HINKLE, Soprano MERLE ALCOCK, Contraito
HENRI SCOTT, Basso
WALTER PONTIUS, Tenor
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of the Nite

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Dancers of Youth
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ACADEMY OF MUSIC SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN. 4, at 2:30 PIANOFORTE RECITAL BY RACHMANINOFF Tickets, 75c to \$2. Hox seats, \$2.50, new at Heppe's, Mail orders with checks to G. T. Hair promptly filled. Direction C. A. Ellis,

LITTLE THEATRE DE LANCRY ABOVE 17th STREET Mat. Today. 2:15—Last Time Todight. 8:15.
THREE ORIENTAL PLAYS BY PLAYS AND PLAYERS The Song of Lady Letus Eres," "The Dealittle Wife," "The Willow Pattern Plate," ickets on sale at flyan's. It and \$2. No Tax

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