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## MUSIC WEEK TYPIFIES AN ESTHETIC REVOLUTION

In Genuine Appreciation of the Best Instrumental and Vocal Art America

### Earning a New Prestige

In THE absence of a universally accepted definition, the propriety of characterizing Americans as a musical people has been the theme of much inconclusive debate.

What are the qualifications for such a title? If production of original works of supreme genius is required, the alignment of the foremost musical nations differs little from that of a full century ago.

The pre-eminence of Central Europe, with a western offshoot in France, a southern in Italy and, within the last fifty years, with flourishing annexes in Scandinavia and Russia, is indisputable.

A Belgian by descent, a German by birth, an Austrian by residence, the unchallengeable Beethoven may be fitly regarded as a cultured product of those forces, social and racial, in the heart of the European peninsula in which the harvest of musical inspiration has been richest.

This attempt, however, ignores two factors of considerable consequence in any comprehensive charting of music—unshod folk inspiration, as in Spain, Portugal and Latin America, and the power of appreciation, which has attained almost unexampled proportions in the United States.

It is, indeed, upon this mighty access of popular interest that the claim of this country to be ranked with the musical nations of the earth may be worthily presented.

Within the last quarter of a century there has been effected in the United States an artistic revolution the consequences of which are only beginning to be realized.

The fear of beauty is sometimes regarded as in the main a Puritan inheritance; its dissolution as earnest of a thriving tolerance and breadth of view. There is undoubtedly a partial truth in this deduction, and yet it fails to explain anticipations of much subtler origin.

Indifference to music is a rather common characteristic of pioneering peoples, among whom esthetic impulses are usually confined to small, specialized circles. It is a natural reaction of majorities to distrust exclusive culture. Often it is not its exponents who draw the caste line, but the preponderance of outsiders prone to estimate artistic refinements as in a way unnatural or too crypto to be invested with potentialities of wide appeal.

It is not so many years, certainly no longer than the Centennial of 1876, that Theodore Thomas' courageous expression of lofty musical ideals was attended with material disaster. A handful of alleged intellectual Brahmins—they would have been highbrows had the term been then invented—later persisted in attending the mysterious rites of the young Boston Symphony Orchestra. At that time the fear of beauty was exceedingly strong not only in Philadelphia but, with a few privileged exceptions, throughout the land.

The subsequent and comparatively recent collapse of the barriers of prejudice, of which the inauguration of Music Week here today is only one index, are few parallel in the annals of esthetics.

The new freedom in music is in particular an inspiring exhibit. The taste engendered by the educational efforts of ardent spokesmen, by the natural progress of the Nation, by mechanical reproductive agencies, vitalizing the home with art hitherto almost inaccessible, is in no sense specious. There is a refreshing scarcity of pose in the elevation of the present high standards.

To a degree unmatched here in architecture, painting, sculpture or the best drama, musical art has been, as it were, unfrozen.

The variety and excellence of musical entertainment, the increasing influx of the best artists, operas and instrumental compositions from abroad, the remarkable development of native singers and other musicians and the huge patronage of these attractions securely attest this liberation.

As a music center in the country, Philadelphia is second only to New York, and, considering the pre-eminence of our Orchestra, this rating is perhaps too conservative.

A rich diversity of vocal and instrumental ensembles will mark the formal observance of Music Week. But the special glamour of this period is not exclusively reflective of musical conditions here.

The present season has been distinguished by the stimulating and successful visits of four notable organizations in the sphere of grand opera alone—the San Carlos, the Metropolitan, the Chicago and the Russian companies. Mr. Stokowski's orchestra cycle has been brilliant. Other symphonic productions have swelled the list, and in addition there has been an opulent round of distinguished virtuosi, musical offerings by vigorous home organizations and the now irresistible musical progress of individual students and the fostering of musical taste and knowledge in the public schools.

### HUMOR EVERYWHERE

THE unprejudiced observer will be inclined to disagree with the dean of the University of Washington, on whose recommendation the once monthly magazine of the students has been suppressed.

The dean said that "there is not sufficient content material about a college to enable a humorous magazine to survive."

As a matter of fact, there is no place where there is more provocation to humor than a college, unless it be a Legislature, or a City Council, or a political convention, or a meeting of a board of directors, or any other assembly of men or women or of men and women.

They know this in the University of Pennsylvania, where the Punch Club has survived for many years, with no lack of humorous material to fill its pages. The Cornell Widow and the Harvard Lampoon do not lack for humor. Yet with miraculous discretion all these humorous publications leave almost untouched one of the most popular sources of humor within their vision, and that is the seriousness with which some members of the faculty take themselves and their specialties. If a little greater license could be given to the students in their journal publications they would have a whole-some effect upon the faculties, and even the boards of trustees.

When taste is so keen and the appeal of the finest music so genuine, a healthy and invincible culture capable of major achievements may be unaffectedly anticipated.

### COK AND McSPARRAN

WHOEVER arranged to have John A. McSparran appear on the same platform with former Governor James M. Cox, of Ohio, at the Jefferson Day celebration in Harrisburg had evidently neglected to read the election returns from this State for 1916 and 1920.

Mr. McSparran is seeking election as Governor on the Democratic ticket. But Democratic issues are not directly involved

in his national politics, and so far as there is any difference between them that difference arises from opposing views on the best national policies. The Governor of Pennsylvania has nothing to do with tariff legislation, nor with the nationalization of the railroads, nor with internal revenue taxation, nor with the foreign policy of the Government, nor with the size of the army or the navy.

The attempt to tie up the campaign of McSparran for the governorship with the efforts of Cox to keep himself alive as a national Democratic leader is likely to react disastrously upon McSparran. There are two reasons for this. One is that this State is overwhelmingly Republican on national issues and the other is that Cox himself is unpopular here.

When Mr. Wilson was a candidate for re-election in 1916 he polled 521,000 votes. The women were not then enfranchised. Yet in 1920, when the women voted, Mr. Cox polled only 503,000 votes, or 18,000 less than Mr. Wilson, while Mr. Harding polled 1,218,000 votes, or 515,000 more than Hughes polled in 1916.

One would have thought under the circumstances that Mr. Cox himself would have perceived that he could do nothing for any Democratic candidate in this State and that he would have remained in Ohio. And one would have thought also that McSparran's managers would have had better judgment than to ask a man who could not even poll his party vote in a national election to speak on the same platform with their candidate.

But the Democratic capacity for blundering is inexhaustible. This Harrisburg incident seems to be merely its latest manifestation.

### A REAL WAR OF WORDS

AMBITION Powers and more or less Avarice and powerful private groups acting with their aid and sanction continue to press furiously for control beyond their own territories in what might be called the new parts of the Old World. The wars of imperialism are being continued determinedly. But the ammunition now is words. Conquests as great as armies ever sought are being engineered by the tremendous mechanism of modernized propaganda.

How the campaigns are managed is pretty clearly revealed in the report of a survey recently completed in China and other parts of the Far East by a special investigating commission representing the Press Congress of the World, an international organization of journalists formed solely in the interest of truth and honestly presented news.

The modern imperialist reverses the processes of the militarist. He first attempts to capture and control the mind of a people. That accomplished, the capture of territory is relatively easy. If it is necessary to poison or paralyze or utterly devalue the mind of the country attacked the job is done.

And, what is more, the commanding officers care little about the incidental damage they may do to neutrals. The game of propaganda is played without rules. That is why the general subject ought to be of interest to the United States, which, often enough, is caught in the line of attacks now directed from half a dozen places in Europe at the heart and mind of the Orient.

The survey of the propaganda system of the Far East showed that twelve highly organized news services, most of them directly or indirectly subsidized by European Powers or by Japan, issue daily news to the Chinese native press. In many instances the service is rendered without cost. And in such cases the news is colored to suit the particular purposes of one or another foreign diplomatic policy or the ends of the Power whose nationals own or control the distributing system. Thus suspicion, hate and false beliefs can be made to order in very large areas of China. The Chinese can be made to believe that their friends are their enemies and that their enemies are their friends.

As a matter of fact, this country will never come into its full strength until all its citizens follow Mr. Pinchot's example and regard the responsibility of public service as at least as important as the responsibility of private gain.

So Lady Astor's visit is very timely to her native land. She points a moral as well as admiring any place she may occupy, from a seat in the House of Commons to a velvet chair in the Academy of Music.

Thus, during the Conference for Disarmament in Washington, a large section of the Chinese newspaper press was led to make it appear that the interests of China were being deliberately betrayed by the United States Government under the direction of President Harding. It is as hard to overtake lie in China as it is anywhere else.

The survey was told in the Associated Press dispatches to large Chinese newspapers and by cables from representatives of other large news organizations like the PUBLIC LEADER Service. But the impressions created by the propagandists assigned, apparently, to lessen the force of American influence in China could not be changed by direct statements of the truth in a relatively small number of important newspapers. The native press in China is usually too poor to pay for real news when the imitation may be had for nothing. At this moment Britain, Japan, France, Germany and Soviet Russia have large news agencies working with cables and wireless, telegraph and mail in China.

The survey of education in its spirit and fosters a movement to make working women as intelligent as their rights under the State laws as employees and strong in enforcing good working conditions.

Some of its members are radically socialist, but its leaders are on the whole conservative in the advice they give and the movements that they encourage. It acts, I believe, as a chimney to carry away much dissatisfaction that if left unexpressed under the present conditions might prove dangerous.

It is interesting that the Astors should make that particular criticism of their own in this town, and it is characteristic of their adopted rather than their native land. For England the persons who are supposed to be most advanced in radical views are the least afraid to go up to them, handle them, discuss with them and agree with what appeals to their intelligence in them.

ENGLAND is so sure that her Constitution is revolution proof that she can afford to let revolutionists declaim in the same park in which her royalists talk their shticks and her middle classes take their fill of exercise and her lower classes go about the business of life; and her educated and well-to-do citizens are aware of their safety that they take a responsible and benevolent interest in the precarious attempts at betterment of the restless classes. They are neither educated nor well-to-do. To no Britons our nervousness about socialism and our cold horror of radicalism are bewildering; they cannot understand our fear of the outgrowth of radical talk. They feel about it apparently much as grown-ups feel about a rebellion in a nursery, not inclined to be hard on the children, willing to let them have their own way, but, on the other side, reluctant to make radical changes in the regime, yet watchful in order to find if some of the accusations are not founded on fact.

And when one considers that the majority of adults are uneducated with the stunted intellects of childish adults—for the age by the Benet test of a million of adult soldiers was for more than 50 per cent of the men put at eleven and twelve years when one considers this, one realizes that the radicalism of the many has its root in ignorance rather than hatred, and that shunning a radical and shutting one's ears to his half-truths is not an attitude of intelligence or helpfulness.

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AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT  
Some Observations of, on and by the Astors and Some Reflections Born of Today's Meeting and Guests

By SARAH D. LOWRIE

I HAVE always held that if some one asked you a question in the morning you had only to wait until afternoon to have the answer come your way without so much as holding up a finger to beckon.

Take, for instance, the instance, I was called up by the committee in charge of the Academy meeting at which Lady Astor speaks today and asked to send a character sketch of her that could be printed for purposes of news. I had never met Lady Astor nor any of the famous Langhorne sisters; nor had I seen her nor did I know any one so far as I was aware—who could describe her to me.

I promised rather vaguely to "make a stab" at writing about her, however, before the sun should set on my ignorance, and then I went about other affairs perfectly sure that if I were to write her up the whereabouts would be given me "out of the everywhere into the here."

SURE enough at lunch in my accumulated

mail I found a letter from a woman whose opinion on any one is worth having, because she is Scotch in her reticence and Irish in her observation.

"This is what she thought of the Astors." "How I wish I could get down to the dinner given in New York for Lady Astor. It was a glorious occasion and unique. I could not begin to give you an idea of her. They both have not only exceptional charm and looks, but they have manner and humor and the accomplishment of something real through their own. Her conviction is unexpected 'inward earnestness' which is very taking and very apparent. If she comes to Philadelphia do see her. It is probably quite as much seeing as hearing."

Miss Agnes Repplier also spoke, and though the papers scarcely mentioned her, she was quite as extraordinary in her way as Lady Astor. There she stood quite another generation, yet making the most modern, fluent, finished, exquisite verbal essay you ever heard—an amusing, serious, common sense and all clever. Wasn't she an anti-suffragist once? The other night she was the champion of woman's place in political life. I wish you had been at the dinner; it would have been wonderful to write up."

I WAS duly grateful for this "help over hard places" and meditated whether I could turn it to account when later on in the evening I discovered by chance that the man that was just next to me at dinner was a cousin of the Langhorns and had stopped with the Astors and could give me a still more complete impression of Lady Astor. He pronounced so charmingly that when you were with her ten minutes you were apt to think her the most beautiful person in the world and the most delightful and the pleasantest to laugh with and the cleverest to match wits with.

Equipped thus with the opinion of a very old and experienced woman and an exceedingly discerning young member of my horizons, I shall go to hear her—and to see her this afternoon at the Academy. Great charm such as she has—if all accounts be true—is a very great possession, and used as she uses it is a distinct asset to the country of her adoption as well as credit to the country of her birth and upbringing. Its poise and gracefulness, its wit and charm, England has put its stamp on her, indeed. England without a doubt; the "unexpected inward earnestness" belongs to a country whose administrative class feels the responsibility of making the laws and of keeping them, not only as a duty to themselves, but as an example to their countrymen.

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