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Choral and Orchestral Societies.

The Windsor and Eton Choral Society, founded in 1841, celebrates its diamond jubilee this season. It has passed through many vicissitudes, but happily it survives them all. It has had the unique honour of being conducted by four musical knights, viz., Sir George Elvey, Sir Joseph Barnby, Sir Frederick Bridge, and Sir Walter Parratt, and of singing before Her late Majesty Queen Victoria on several occasions. Dr. C. Harford Lloyd, who has been a firm friend of the Society, conducted an excellent performance of Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio,' on the 9th ult. With the new year, Sir Walter Parratt has consented to resume the conductorship of the Society, which is doing such good work in the Royal Borough.

A highly interesting programme was provided by the North Suburban Choral Union, Melbourne, on October 29. With the exception of Mendelssohn's 'Hebrides' Overture, which opened the proceedings, the whole of the concert was devoted to Dr. Elgar, whose charming orchestral piece 'Liebesgruss' was given for the first time here. This was followed by 'Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf.' Local reports speak very favourably alike of the choir, orchestra, principal singers, and conductor, Mr. E. A. Jäger, whose enthusiasm for Dr. Elgar's compositions is shown by the fact that the Society has already given his 'Banner of St. George,' and promises his delightful part-song 'Spanish Serenade,' with orchestral accompaniment, at the next miscellaneous concert.

The Worcester Musical Society gave their first concert this season, at the Public Hall, on the 3rd ult. The chief feature of the programme was Sterndale Bennett's 'Woman of Samaria,' in which the choir did excellent service. They were also heard with good effect in the part-songs, 'Maying' (Muller) and 'Hunting Song' (Mendelssohn), and in the march and chorus from 'Tannhäuser.' The orchestra, though small, was efficient, and was specially successful in a new Concert Overture, written by Mr. J. W. Austin, who conducted his work. The solo vocalists were Madame Siviter, Miss Marguerite Gell, Mr. F. J. Pardoe, and Mr. W. G. Davies. Much credit is due to the conductor, Mr. W. Mann Dyson, who had trained his forces with admirable results.

'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast' formed the principal item in a selection of 'English Music of the Nineteenth Century,' given in Westbourne Park Chapel, on the 3rd ult., by the Institute Choral Society. In this first concert of the season the society gave a very fair account of itself, singing in the main with considerable spirit the difficult music, with its varying moods. The soloists were Miss Helen Jaxon and Mr. Braxton Smith. A string band, led by Mr. H. S. MacDermott, assisted in the accompaniments, together with the pianoforte, ably played by Mr. F. Maurice Jephson. The concert opened with a sprightly rendering of E. German's Three Dances from 'Henry VIII.' Mr. J. Herbert Williams conducted.

The Lincoln Musical Society inaugurated its sixth season by a performance in the Drill Hall, Lincoln, on the 3rd ult., of Mr. J. F. Barnett's popular cantata, the 'Ancient Mariner.' In this dramatic work the choir had every opportunity of distinguishing themselves, and the result was a ready response to the skilful conductorship of Dr. G. J. Bennett. The principals were Miss Kate Cherry, Madame Amy Dewhurst, Mr. E. Dunkerton, and Mr. Charles Knowles. Mr. Edward O'Brien ably led the band, which effectively performed Mendelssohn's 'Hebrides' Overture and German's Three Dances from the incidental music to 'Nell Gwynn.' Mr. H. S. Trevitt was an efficient accompanist.

Mr. E. J. Quance's Choral Society gave very successful performances of Mr. Coleridge-Taylor's 'Hiawatha's Departure,' Sir Frederick Bridge's 'Forging of the Anchor,' and Dr. Elgar's 'Banner of St. George,' at Brixton Hall, on the 10th ult. Miss Kate Cherry, Mr. Fred Norcup, and Mr. Harry Dearth were the solo vocalists. There was a small professional band, and Mr. Frank Grant rendered valuable assistance at the organ. Sir Frederick Bridge conducted his own work, this being its first

performance in London, and both the cantata and its composer—who made a genial speech to the audience—were received with enthusiasm.

The re-organisation of the Bach Choir has been steadily proceeding since the beginning of last year. The result, as regards balance of voices and quality of tone, is very encouraging, and the number of singers at present enrolled is about 120, of whom nearly half are new members. It is proposed during the forthcoming season to double the number. Rehearsals are now being held on Tuesday evenings at the Lecture Theatre, South Kensington Museum. We understand that a concert of unaccompanied music will be given in the spring, at which a Mass of Palestrina's and a Motet by J. S. Bach will be performed.

Mendelssohn's 'Forty-second Psalm,' Schubert's 'Song of Miriam,' Mackenzie's 'The Bride,' and Sir Frederick Bridge's 'Flag of England' (conducted by the composer), formed a capital bill of fare at the concert of the West Norwood Choral and Orchestral Society, given at the Public Hall, on the 10th ult. The soloists were Miss Maude Ballard and Mr. Harold Wilde, while Mr. E. Bongers led a very capable orchestra. Not the least satisfactory part of the performance was the excellent singing of the choir under the enthusiastic sway of their conductor, Mr. Percy S. Bright.

The Ealing Philharmonic Society held the first soirée of the season on November 30, at the Victoria Hall, Ealing. The orchestra gave excellent performances of Mendelssohn's 'Military' Overture (Op. 24), Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, and German's 'Nell Gwynn' Dances; and Gade's cantata, 'The Erl King's Daughter,' was very creditably performed by both choir and orchestra, the solos being sung by Miss Mary Lund and Mr. Leo Wilson. Mr. E. Victor Williams conducted with care and skill.

The Maze Pond Choral Society performed Mendelssohn's 'St. Paul,' on November 28, in Maze Pond Chapel, Old Kent Road, when the well-balanced choir maintained the high standard which has characterised its previous efforts. The soloists were Miss Edith Potter, Miss E. Coombes, Mr. Harry Stubbs, and Mr. Harry T. Bull. Mr. T. H. Smith led the band, and Miss M. Tyrer and Mr. E. Partridge were at the pianoforte and organ respectively. Mr. W. Dexter Miller conducted with his usual efficiency.

The Bow and Bromley Choir, directed by Dr. W. Lemare, gave a concert, on the 7th ult., at the Bow and Bromley Institute, when the chief features were Sullivan's 'Prodigal Son' and Dr. E. H. Turpin's cantata 'Jerusalem' (conducted by the composer). The choir had evidently devoted much care to their share of these works, and the orchestra was efficient. The solo vocalists were Miss Kate Cherry, Miss Windsor Locke, Madame Edith Hands, and Messrs. Branscombe, Webber, and Daniel Price.

The Catford Choral Society's first concert this season was given in St. James's Public Hall, Forest Hill, on the 10th ult., when Hermann Goetz's cantata 'Nœnia,' 'The Challenge of Thor' chorus from Elgar's 'King Olaf,' and a selection of madrigals and part-songs were performed. The solo vocalists were Madame Lulu Gillespie, Mr. Harry Marriott, and Mr. George Hodgson. Miss Ethel M. Brissenden was solo pianist and accompanist, and Mr. Harold Hewitt conducted.

The West Ham Choral Society performed Mendelssohn's 'Elijah,' at the Town Hall, Stratford, on the 3rd ult. The principal solo vocalists were Miss Adele Kuhn, Madame Edith Hands, Mr. Charles Ellison, and Mr. Arthur Walenn. The orchestra and choir numbered 135 performers, and Mr. W. Harding Bonner conducted.

The Devonshire Square Church Choral Society (Stoke Newington) opened its second season on the 3rd ult., when Coleridge-Taylor's 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast,' and a selection of part-songs were rendered by the choir, with songs by Mrs. Lindsay-Blee, Mr. W. H. Fothergill, and

Mr. Whorlow Bull. Recitations were given by Miss Edith Peck, and pianoforte solos by Miss Edith Wells, who also accompanied. The conductor was Mr. G. Ernest Arundel.

The Stephens Memorial Hall Choral Society selected Handel's 'Samson' for performance at their Hall, North Finchley, on the 12th ult. The solo vocalists were Miss Lilian Turnbull, Miss Gertrude Macaulay, Mr. Willis Page, and Mr. Robert Grice, and the conductor was Mr. G. H. Powell.

The Mundania Choral Society, Honor Oak, gave a concert on the 6th ult., when the programme included excerpts from Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schubert, and Handel, and Nichol's 'Ode to Music.' The orchestra was under the leadership of Mr. A. H. Coe, and Mrs. Hammond and Mr. J. Anderson were at the pianoforte and organ respectively. Mr. F. W. A. Drake conducted.

Miscellaneous.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has graciously consented to continue her patronage to the Westminster Orchestral Society (conductor, Mr. Stewart Macpherson), and Mr. W. Hugh Spottiswoode has been elected to the office of chairman of the council, in succession to Sir Alexander Mackenzie. During the coming season the Society proposes to perform the latter's 'Coriolanus' music and a work by Sir Hubert Parry. After sixteen years of honorary work, Messrs. Algernon Rose and William Horn have resigned the secretaryship and treasurer'ship of the Society, but they will continue their interest in it as supernumerary members of the council.

The admirably prepared and illustrated prospectus of the Stratford Musical Festival of 1902 is a document full of interest, and poetical withal, to those competitively inclined, and who reside in the county of Essex and the East and North East districts of the metropolis. As about 200 prizes and certificates are awarded yearly in singing, pianoforte, violin, theory, composition, chorus, &c., there is a fine field for amateurs to show 'what like' they are—to use a Scotch expression. Among the adjudicators are Mr. Oscar Beringer, Mr. G. H. Betjemann, Dr. Harford Lloyd, Dr. McNaught, Mr. Fountain Meen, Sir Walter Parratt, and Mr. Randegger, while Mr. John Graham (70, Dacre Road, Upton Manor), as in past years, ably discharges the duties of secretary.

A concert specially interesting to lovers of glee singing was given by Mr. W. A. Everington's Male Voice Double Quartet party, at St. Luke's Institute, Bromley Common, on the 12th ult. The programme included the following glees, part-songs, and madrigals, which met with enthusiastic approval:—The hunt is up' (Hatton), 'As it fell upon a day' (Coward), 'Queen of the Night' (Smart), 'At her fair hands' (Elliott), 'Turn Amaryllis' (Kearton), 'Sweet and Low' (Barnby), 'Bold Turpin' (Bridge), 'The Image of the Rose' (Reichardt), 'Peaceful slumb'ring' (Coward), 'Maiden fair, O deign to tell' (Haydn), 'When hands meet' (Pinsuti), 'The Bells of St. Michael's Tower' (Stewart), 'Go, Rose' (Beale), and 'The long day closes' (Sullivan). Mr. Everington's party comprised Miss Amy Bean and Miss Fanny Everington, Messrs. Shiner, Adams, Everington, Simmonds, Jeffery, Russell, Hughes, and Nussey.

Dr. Charles W. Pearce gave a most interesting lecture on 'Christmas Carols,' on the 2nd ult., at the monthly meeting of the Christ Church Literary and Debating Society, in the Parish Hall, Crouch End. The illustrations were sung by a select choir of ladies and gentlemen, under the direction of Mr. Alfred J. Dye, organist of Christ Church. Amongst the illustrations may be mentioned a Trio, 'Ah! my dear Son, said Mary,' (traditional); 'Jam Radix,' by the late Dr. Hopkins; 'Benedicamus Domino,' by Dr. Charles Vincent; together with 'The Bell Carol,' composed by the lecturer.

Mr. Joseph Ivimey's Hundredth Chamber Concert, at the Assembly Rooms, Surbiton, took place on the 14th ult. An interesting programme was presented, including

Schubert's String Quintet in C major (Op. 163), and Schumann's Pianoforte Quintet in E flat (Op. 44), the pianoforte part in the latter being played by Miss Fanny Davies, who also gave Bach's Prelude in A minor, Brahms's Cradle Song, and a Staccato Study by Rubinstein. The other instrumentalists were Messrs. Joseph Ivimey, Edgar Shelton, Alfred Hobday, J. E. Hambleton and H. Trust, and Madame Marian Mackenzie sang.

The second concert of the sixth season of the Dulwich Philharmonic Society was given at the Crystal Palace on the 14th ult., when Sullivan's somewhat rarely heard cantata 'Kenilworth' was the main feature of the programme. This beautiful work received an adequate rendering. The choruses were well sung, and the solo vocalists, Miss Ethel Pender-Cudlip, Madame Eleanor Cleaver, Mr. Whitworth Mitton, and Mr. A. H. Gee, were in all respects satisfactory. Mr. Arthur Fagge was at his usual post as conductor.

A new and original comic opera, entitled 'Princess Una,' composed by Mr. T. F. Dunhill (one of the music masters at Eton College) was performed, on the 11th and 12th ult., by an amateur company in the Royal Albert Institute, Windsor. Mr. Dunhill, who has also written his own libretto, is credited by the local press with the possession of gifts of melody and facility of orchestration, and was warmly congratulated on the result of his efforts. The solo performers, chorus, and orchestra alike contributed their share to a successful performance.

Messrs. Bayley and Ferguson have nearly ready for publication a volume entitled 'The Minstrelsy of England,' which will consist of two hundred songs, edited by Mr. Alfred Moffat. Not the least interesting feature of the book will be the historical notes to each song, contributed by Mr. Frank Kidson, the result of original research. Many songs by Purcell, Arne, Carey, and others not at all well known, will be included in the collection, which does not go beyond 1760-70.

Stainer's cantata 'The Daughter of Jairus' and Mendelssohn's '42nd Psalm' were performed at Union Chapel, Islington, on the 13th ult., by the members of the Psalmody and Choral Class, under the direction of Mr. G. H. Betjemann, with Mr. Fountain Meen at the organ. The solo vocalists were Miss Osborne Williams, Mr. Henry Plevy, and Mr. Arthur Barlow.

At the moment of going to press we have received the prospectus of the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, announced to be held in London on December 30 and 31 (1901), and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th inst. The subjects to be discussed are, on the whole, disappointing in their scope, and the agenda compares unfavourably with similar meetings of other professions—*e.g.*, clerical, medical, and engineers. The orchestral concert, at which a number of the compositions of members will be performed, is certainly a redeeming feature, but the social element seems to be the predominant partner in this gathering. All the meetings, except a function at the Mansion House, will be held at the Hotel Cecil.

Foreign Notes.

ANTWERP.—The first performance, on November 30, of a new opera by Jan Blockx, the successful composer of 'La Princesse d'Auberge,' was an event which attracted an audience from all parts of Belgium, interested in the progress of the Neo-Flemish movement inaugurated by the late Peter Benoit. The new work, 'De Bruid der Zee' ('The Bride of the Sea'), is very dramatic in parts, its musical themes being either directly representative or happily imitative of the traditional Flemish folk-song, and, aided by a good performance, a complete success was scored.

BAYREUTH.—Beethoven's 'Missa Solemnis' was heard, for the first time in Bayreuth, last month, when a most impressive performance of the great work was given, under Herr Julius Kniese's direction, and with highly efficient interpreters of the solo parts.