

STRING NEWS

A BULLETIN OF THE ILLINOIS STRING PLANNING CONFERENCE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April
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SCHOOL OF MUSIC · UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS · URBANA

Number
One

STRING PLANNING CONFERENCE FORMED

Following the University of Illinois String Clinic on November 9, 1946, a teachers' meeting was held at which time a proposal was introduced to organize an "Illinois String Planning Conference." This plan met with the approval of those present. At the same meeting the writer was appointed to assume the responsibility of an executive chairman.

The objectives of the organization followed the pattern of those of the American String Teachers Association (A.S.T.A.). A second well-attended meeting was held during the LaSalle state clinic early the following year. It was the feeling of those present that the I.S.P.C. should be an informal group with a flexible framework. No dues were to be charged, and members were to be accepted on the basis of their interest. Consequently the list of members grew rapidly and to date some hundred and sixty teachers receive our bulletins. A third meeting was held during the U.I. String Conference on February 29, 1948, with Duane H. Haskell, President of A.S.T.A., presiding. (This meeting is reported under a separate heading in this paper.)

In guiding the preliminary program of the I.S.P.C. your executive chairman avoided setting up any arbitrary or

rigid machinery that would have hindered the natural course of events later. Instead of trying to tell any one person what to do, merely a call for action was issued from time to time with general information. If the I.S.P.C. is to succeed it will have to make its way by its own momentum. Perhaps many a teacher eager for immediate results expected more factual aid than could be possibly given from this office. Unfortunately, all that can be done from this desk is to irritate you for action. If there is to be a string program in your community, you will have to go and see about it. Yours truly can do only what a piece of dirt does to the oyster: to cause irritation. The oyster in turn sweats out the pearl.

The reports received, although far from complete (and in some cases inaccurate), will help you to see what others are doing. Suppose you need more string instruments in your school and you are anxious to convince your superintendent that you should have them, just show him the reports on instruments in other communities of comparable size. You can also see from the reports that the string program in Illinois is alive, and that the large number of beginners started at many places is a very encouraging sign. From the re-

ports you can see a variety of ways of doing things, and it is up to you to choose something from the many good ideas to do something similar in your town.

We can see that the status of strings in Illinois has passed the stage of lamenting. Constructive work is being done by many; others are planning the work for the years to come. We are looking forward to seeing the reports for next year.

PAUL ROLLAND

PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of present material available for distribution. Copies of these may be obtained by addressing requests to the String Division, Music Annex, University of Illinois, Urbana. It would be appreciated if sufficient postage stamps are included with requests.

1. *An Outline of Basic Pointers for String Teachers*, by Paul Rolland and Louis Potter.
2. *Organization of Beginners' String Classes (Bulletin No. 1)*, by Paul Rolland.
3. *Outline of Rote Work—The First Approach*, by Paul Rolland.
4. *Report for "The Instrumental Class in the Modern American School"*, by Paul Rolland.
5. *Fundamentals of Cello Playing—A Handbook for Teachers and Students*, by Louis Potter. (In course of publication)

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Elizabeth Green rehearses the Junior Orchestra at the U.I. String Conference.

Music Educators Meet At Normal

The annual conference of the Illinois Music Educators Association was held at the Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois, February 20 and 21. String activities on this conference included a Beginners' String Demonstration by Sam Barbakoff, violin teacher and instrumental music teacher at Austin High School, Chicago. A string demonstration of second year violin students taught by three practice string teachers, Gladys Lester, Lois Stern, and Charles Bergland, of the U. of I. School of Music, under the supervision of Paul Rolland, was presented. This was followed by a panel discussion of string problems led by Sam Barbakoff, Paul Rolland, and Louis Potter.

The U. of I. Sinfonietta, directed by John M. Kuypers, Director of the School of Music, presented an afternoon concert. The program included a Suite in G Minor by Telemann, and "Epithalamium," for piano and strings by Fuleihan. Joanna Stern, pianist and student of the School of Music, from Decatur, Ill., was the soloist.

During the Conference Banquet, the Walden Quartet, of the U. of I. School of Music, presented a short program.

The Friday evening session presented the U. of I. Concert Orchestra. John M. Kuypers, Director of the School of Music, conducting, in the following program: Toccata by Frescobaldi-Kindler; Jenaer Symphony by Beethoven, and Appalachian Spring by Copland.

WOLFGANG KUHN

150-PIECE ORCHESTRA TO PLAY AT BIG 12 MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Big Twelve Music Festival will be held at the Junior High School Gymnasium, Champaign, Illinois, on April 24. The Festival Orchestra of 150 members will be conducted by John M. Kuypers, Director of the U. of I. School of Music.

The following high schools will participate: Champaign, Urbana, Danville, Mattoon, Decatur, Bloomington, Lincoln, Pekin, Streator, Springfield, Central and Manual H. S. of Peoria.

The orchestra will play the following program: Bach—G Minor Fugue; Beethoven—Egmont Overture; Godard—Adagio Pathetique; Albeniz—Granados; Moussorgsky—Great Gate of Kiev; Kindler—Three Seventeenth Century Dances; and the Roumanian Dances by Bartok.

In addition the orchestra will play the accompaniment to the Battle Hymn of the Republic, performed by the 800-voice chorus.

HANDBOOK NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

As an immediate project of the I.S.P.C., a Handbook for String Teachers will be published. We would like to make this a cooperative project of interested string teachers. All teachers are invited to send in contributions for specific areas of string teaching. From the material received, we will undertake to compile and edit the handbook. The handbook will deal with the following problems of string teaching:

1. *String Promotion and Creation of Interest.* How to get beginners. Demonstrations. Recitals, Festivals, etc.

2. *Organization.* Talent testing and selection. Student and parent contact. Size of classes. Frequency of meetings. Homogeneous or mixed classes. Budgeting of instructor's time according to local situation. Purchase of instruments.

3. *Class and Private Lessons.* (Pro's and Con's.)

4. *The First Meetings.* Motivation. Establishing of playing positions. Seating. Class equipment. Tuning. Rote work. Teaching of rhythm—notation. Ear training. First reading. Assignments. The grade school beginner class.

5. *Basic Playing Problems.* Tone production. (Left hand—right hand.) Intonation. Basic bowings.

6. *Materials.* Method and supplementary reading.

7. *Class Routine.* Maintaining interest and promoting incentive. Unison and part playing. Solos. First demonstration recitals. Care of instruments. Accompaniment. Distribution of class time.

8. *Course of Study.* Sequence of essential things to be learned. Rhythmic patterns. Basic bowings. Finger patterns. Sequence of keys. Position playing—vibrato. Advanced bowings.

9. *The Grade School Orchestra.* Organization. Instrumentations. Materials. Programs.

10. *Home Work.* Private lessons.

11. *Junior High School String Programs.* Motivation. Beginner classes. Follow-up classes. Private instruction. Junior high school orchestra. Ensembles.

12. *High School String Programs.* Beginners classes. Viola, cello and bass. High school orchestra. Private lessons. Ensembles. Credit for music study. Festivals, clinics, contests.

Send in your ideas on as many of these topics as you wish. We want to get this handbook out as early as possible.

Grade School Orchestra Association Seen As Future Project

A communication has been received from James A. Keith, Pekin, with regard to forming an Illinois Grade School Orchestra Association, comparable to the Illinois Grade School Band Association. We are looking forward to further developments on this worthy project.

PUBLICATIONS . . .

(continued from page 1)

6. *Report on University of Illinois String Activities*, by Paul Rolland.

7. *List of Selected and Graded Violin Compositions*, by Paul Rolland.

8. *Graded List of Violin Solos Submitted to the NSBOVA*, by Paul Rolland.

9. *The Teaching of Viola* (with list of compositions), by Paul Rolland.

10. *Recommended List of Materials for 'Cello*, by Louis Potter.

11. *List of Materials and Course of Study for String Bass*, by Elizabeth A. H. Green, University of Michigan.

12. *Supplementary List of String Ensemble and Orchestra Materials for Use in Mixed String Classes*, by Wolfgang Kuhn.

13. *Membership List of the Illinois String Planning Conference*.

14. *Visual Aids for Violin*, by Paul Rolland (\$75).

At the recent String Conference here on the campus an illustrated lecture on violin position was given by Wallace Nelson of Maywood. Mr. Nelson has offered the use of these visual aids for violin to interested string teachers and orchestra directors. Write to Mr. Nelson at 415 N. First Ave., Maywood, Ill., for further particulars. L.A.P.

UI Student String Ensembles To Visit Public Schools

During the next school year ensemble groups will give programs in public schools. The players will be prepared to play in high school assemblies and to give demonstrations of string instruments in the grade schools. I.S.P.C. district chairmen will soon receive a letter explaining details of this enterprise.

Communities that have few opportunities to hear string music will receive attention first, providing that they maintain or intend to start a string program. It is hoped that many of the outstanding music schools will go along the same lines and do missionary work in the public schools.

M.E.N.C. TO SPONSOR CLINIC FOR STRINGS AT DETROIT BIENNIAL IN APRIL

The M.E.N.C. Special Project Committee on String Instruction will sponsor six meetings between April 19-22, during the Detroit Biennial. Gilbert Waller will conduct string workshops at every meeting. Other topics are:

String Planning in Detroit—FLORENCE WELDEN.

The Artist Teacher and the Public School String Class—GILBERT ROSS.

String Planning in a Small City—W. H. BECKMEYER, Mt. Vernon, Ill.

State-Wide String Planning at the University of Illinois—PAUL ROLLAND.

String Teacher Training in Iowa—FRANK HILL.

The Program and Objectives of A.S.T.A.—DUANE H. HASKELL.

UI EXPANDS STRING STAFF AND FACILITIES

Under the splendid leadership of its new Director of Music, John M. Kuypers, the string program at the University of Illinois School of Music has made marked progress this year. The string division is now housed in its own building, the Music Annex, one block north of Smith Music Hall. (Right at present string lessons, rehearsals, and practicing have a quite steady and vociferous accompaniment during the day of riveting and hammering on steel work from next door where the new Chemistry building is going up!) Both facilities and staff of the string division have been expanded.

The coming of the Walden String Quartet as quartet in residence at the University has also given strong impetus to the string program. The Walden Quartet has appeared in a number of concerts here on the campus, in various Illinois communities as well as in cities outside the state (including a concert at the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.), in monthly programs over the University radio station WILL, and on the Festival of Contemporary Arts here on the campus.

Sinfonietta

A new musical organization this season is the University Sinfonietta, a chamber orchestra organized and directed by Director Kuypers, and composed of faculty players and the most advanced students. It rehearses once a week, with extra rehearsals as needed for performances. Concerts by the Sinfonietta have been presented on the campus, in Normal and Charleston, and on station WILL.

Outstanding among these was the concert here on the campus January 9, with the renowned violinist and conductor, Georges Enesco, as soloist and guest conductor. Mr. Enesco played two concertos with the Sinfonietta, the Bach A Minor and the Mozart D Major, K. 271a, besides playing the entire Bach Partita for violin alone and conducting the Sinfonietta in the Mozart Divertimento in D Major.

Another important concert was presented by the Sinfonietta at the Festival of Contemporary Arts on the campus, March 12, with the following soloists: Paul Pettinga of the faculty, organist; Alvin Etler, also of the faculty, oboist; and Joanna Stern, student pianist. The program comprised the following contemporary American works: Prelude and Allegro for organ and strings by Walter Piston; Capriccio for strings by Hubert Lamb; Ricercare for oboe and strings by Richard Donovan; Epithalamium—Variations for piano and strings by Anis Fuleihan; Prelude for

strings by John Verrall; and Concerto for strings and woodwinds by Alvin Etler.

Concert Orchestra

The University Concert Orchestra, composed of qualified students and faculty, is also under the direction of Director Kuypers, and has one full rehearsal and one string rehearsal a week. Concerts by this orchestra have been presented here on the campus, at Normal, at the All-State Conference of the I.M.E.A., and over radio station WILL. One of the season's most important concerts for this organization was the concert for the Festival of Contemporary Arts, March 13. The orchestra played the following program of contemporary American works: Festival Fanfare by Eugene Weigel, violist of the Walden Quartet and member of the theory faculty of the School of Music; Introduction and Allegro by Herbert Elwell; Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland; K-19. An Elegy for Thomas Wolfe by Robert Palmer; and Passacaglia and Fugue by Alvin Etler of the theory faculty.

Other works played by the orchestra on concerts this season include: Beethoven Jenaer Symphony; Frescobaldi-Kindler Toccata; Wagner Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan and Prelude to the third act of Lohengrin. Other works which have been read or rehearsed or are in course of preparation include the Brahms 4th Symphony; Schubert B flat Symphony; Tchaikowsky 5th Symphony; Weber Euryanthe Overture; Lalo Symphony Espagnole with Hugh Ewart, graduate student violinist, as soloist; and Variations on a theme of Schubert by Robert Kelly of the theory faculty.

Repertory Orchestra

A third orchestra maintained by the School of Music is the Repertory Orchestra under the direction of Paul Rolland, which meets once a week.



John M. Kuypers, director of the U.I. School of Music.

This orchestra is for students, mainly for sight reading and laboratory work. Advanced students are given opportunity to play as soloists with this orchestra. A concert with student soloists will be given on May 25 by this orchestra.

Chamber Ensembles

At present there are five student chamber string ensembles in the School of Music, coached by members of the Walden Quartet. These groups have appeared in student recitals here at the School of Music, and in other local engagements and on radio station WILL. Plans are being made for three of these student groups to give programs and string demonstrations in other communities of the state. Compositions which have either been recently performed by these student ensembles or are in preparation in-

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University of Illinois Concert Orchestra, John M. Kuypers, director.

UI EXPANDS . . .

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clude: Brahms Trio in A Minor for clarinet, cello, and piano; Brahms Quintet for clarinet and string quartet; Brahms Piano Quartet in G Minor; Beethoven Trio in B flat, opus 11, for violin, cello, and piano; and several Haydn and Mozart string quartets. To facilitate rehearsals and ensemble class meetings no classes are scheduled in the School of Music at 11:00 A.M.

The University Trio, a faculty chamber ensemble composed of Hubert Kessler, pianist, Paul Rolland, violinist, and Louis Potter, cellist, has given several concerts in the local area, over radio station WILL, and in Lake Forest on April 28. Programs have included the following trios: Loeillet Trio Sonata in B Minor; Beethoven Trio in D Major, opus 70; Brahms Trio in B Major, opus 8; and the Turina Trio in D Minor. In preparation now for a chamber music concert May 23 is the Beethoven Septet in E flat, opus 20, and the Sextet for piano, clarinet, and string quartet by Hubert Kessler.

Seminars

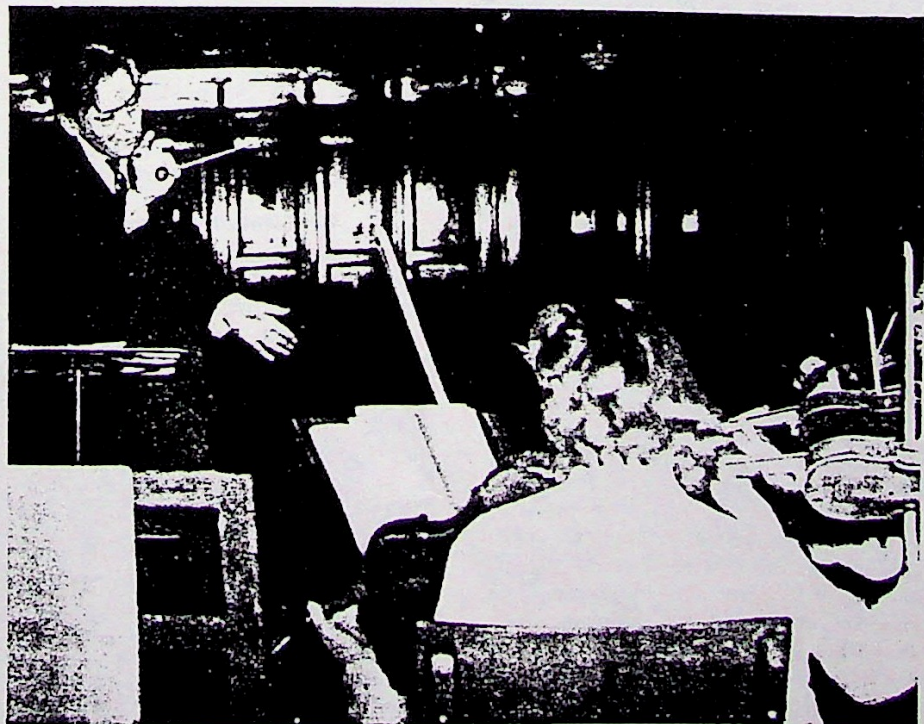
In line with the principle of the string curriculum of providing as much "shoulder rubbing" experience to students as possible, seminar meetings, in addition to the private lessons, of the string student body and the string faculty are held twice monthly in the Music Annex. Student soloists and ensembles perform for the group with informal discussion by faculty and students alike following performances. These informal and uninhibited "shop talks" and the opportunities for playing before audiences have been highly interesting and beneficial to all of the students. These evenings usually conclude with "cokes," doughnuts, and more "shop talk." String students preparing for the teaching profession observe and assist the teaching of beginners' classes. At present three students are actively engaged in teaching strings in the local public schools.

Increased string work in the teacher training division has now been provided, beginning with the next term, with four semesters of supplementary string instruments now required for all wind instrument majors in the music education course, including mixed as well as homogeneous string class work. The instrumental methods course has been expanded to two semesters and will provide opportunity for a laboratory orchestra on the elementary level in which students will follow up their class experience by playing and examining teaching materials.

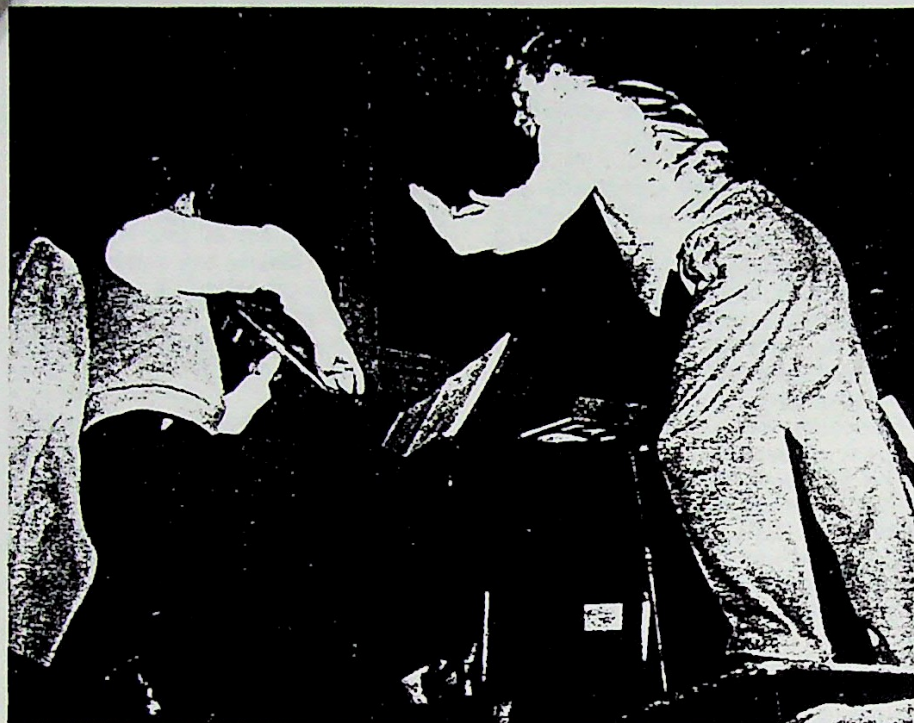
LOUIS POTTER



Walden String Quartet: Homer Schmitt and Bernard Goodman, violins; Eugene Weigel, viola; Robert Swenson, cello.



Georges Enesco conducts U.I. Sinfonietta.



Director Kuypers and Concertmaster Rolland in action.



"That's the way I like it" . . . demonstrates Georges Enesco during Sinfonietta rehearsal. Director Kuypers and Concertmaster Homer Schmitt seem to like it.

STRING INSTRUCTION STARTED IN CHAMPAIGN SCHOOLS

String classes in the three elementary schools of Champaign were started in the fall by Mr. Self, instructor of instrumental music, with the assistance of Wolfgang Kuhn, of the School of Music. This program, which was started

on an experimental basis last September, has met with such success, that already new beginning classes are being formed.

All the instruction was given in classes, which met twice a week. One meeting was held during school time in each building. The other was a com-

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Robert Swenson and his pupil, Jean Morlan, during orchestra rehearsal.

Proviso High School Orchestra Entertains Grade School

On February 20 our Proviso High School Orchestra presented a program in the Bellwood Grade School five miles away. We left school at 2:00 p.m. and returned at 4:00 p.m. The orchestra members traveled by bus and we sent our equipment ahead by school truck and station wagon. Even took the harp in its big box and it was well worth the effort the way the students enjoyed the solos.

Our program was given in such a manner as to demonstrate as many instruments as possible as well as to entertain the students. Violins played the "Perpetual Motion," by Bohm from memory. Bass viols rumbled and groaned out "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." Trumpets presented a duet arrangement of "Little Brown Church" and the viola demonstrated by playing the theme of "Emperor Variations" with four violins accompanying by the use of the first variation of same.

I, the director, made a talk regarding the music program at Proviso. The entire program was directed towards interesting grade school students in learning to play orchestral instruments. It was prepared with the idea of presenting it several times in the district.

Our orchestra presents programs in concert at the high school during the year with soloists, ensembles, etc., besides furnishing music for plays, assemblies and commencement activities. Soloists from the orchestra furnish music for clubs and social or church groups. As many as one hundred such gatherings request the services of the orchestra each year.

WALLACE NELSON

Millikin Civic Symphony

Albert Spalding, violinist, was soloist with the Decatur Orchestra on April 9. Harold Hess of the Millikin Conservatory is director of the orchestra.

ROCKFORD CIVIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sponsored by the Civic Symphony Association of Rockford, the orchestra was founded by Arthur Zack in 1943. Mr. Zack, a graduate of the Institute of Musical Art in New York and eminent cellist, was a former member of the Cincinnati, New York, and National Symphony Orchestras. He was also founder and conductor for four years of the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Oklahoma State Symphony Orchestra.

The Rockford Civic Symphony Orchestra gives five concerts a year and remains active during summers. This summer the orchestra will give three concerts at College Camp, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The orchestra is organized on a nonprofessional basis and draws membership from northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The orchestra gives concerts in the adjacent towns of Belvidere, Freeport, and LaRochelle, Illinois, and Beloit and Janesville, Wisconsin, the home towns of several orchestra members.

Two annual free Christmas concerts are sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Rockford. Soloists with the orchestra this season were Rudolph Ganz, Percy Grainger, Ossy Renardy, among others. Highlights on this season's programs were: Brahms 4th and Tchaikovsky 5th Symphonies, Mendelssohn Concerto in E Minor, Mozart Concerto A Major for piano, with Mrs. Margaret Welch of Peoria as soloist, and Rimsky Korzakoff Scheherazade.

STRING INSTRUCTION . . .

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bined meeting held at the High School on Saturday morning. These beginners have already displayed their achievement by appearing in several PTA programs, playing for their schoolmates in assembly programs, and participating in a demonstration of string class procedures at the Illinois String Instruments Conference in February.

At present the only high school orchestra in existence in Champaign-Urbana is the orchestra at the University High School. With so many young string players now being developed in both Urbana and Champaign schools, we can soon look for a return of the school orchestra in both the grade and secondary schools. **WOLFGANG KUHN**

College String Music

A survey of string activities in colleges and schools of music in Illinois is currently being conducted by Prof. Mark Biddle of Knox College, Galesburg. The result of this survey will be reported as soon as received.

Springfield Symphony Orchestra History And Aspirations

In October, 1945, the nucleus of the present orchestra met for the first time with Helen I. Henry as its conductor. This group waxed and waned from a membership of 8 to 36 until April of 1947 when Miss Henry temporarily disbanded them to replan procedures. The membership fee, with which it was hoped the organization could get a little financial start, was discontinued. Mr. Johns consented to conduct a reorganized group, and Miss Henry assumed the managership. Since that time she has been the guiding light behind the scenes and relentless force through which this program has been made possible.

This reorganized group met on June 5, 1947, with 38 present. The summer membership was accepted without audition and the roster reached 102 by the end of July. Some sections were fearfully overpowering (there were eight in the clarinet section, for instance) so it was decided eliminations would be made on a try-out basis. Auditions were given all aspirants on Sept. 15, 16, and 17 and a membership of 53 met on the 18th for its first rehearsal.

The Refresher Orchestra is the feeder organization and rehearses once a week with Miss Henry as conductor. There is no audition for this group; anyone interested in brushing up may join and receive symphonic training. Vacancies which occur in the Symphony are filled from this orchestra.

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is strictly an amateur group. Only three of its complete membership are professional musicians. The rest are doctors, lawyers, stenographers, bookkeepers, business men, students and the like. They may never rival the Boston or St. Louis Symphonies but their aspirations are high. They plan three more concerts this year, and are looking forward to a four to six concert season every year hereafter.

No longer will high school graduates or newcomers to town have to put their instruments in storage. This orchestra will provide musical development for those who play and cultural development for those who listen. This will be the outlet for local interest and talent; it can become one of the finest civic influences.

Concert Program, November 20

CONSTANTINE JOHNS, *Conductor*

RICHARD ROBERTS, *Piano Soloist*

Bach-Barbirolli... Sheep May Safely Graze
from "The Birthday Cantata"

Tchaikovsky..... Concerto No. 1 in B-flat
Minor for Piano and Orchestra

RICHARD ROBERTS, *Soloist*

Tchaikovsky..... Valse des Fleurs from
"The Nutcracker Suite"

Kern..... Selections from "Showboat"

THE YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREATER CHICAGO

The orchestra consists of one hundred pieces. Selections of players are made solely on the basis of musical skill and talent. Membership is drawn from approximately 200 high schools in the Greater Chicago Area. The present roster lists students from twenty-nine high schools.

Conductor

HAROLD N. FINCH—Director of Music,
Highland Park High School. Member
Summer Faculty, Northwestern University

String-Section Directors

Violin and Viola

KARL SCHULTE—Former member of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Owner and Manager of Chicago Music Library

Cello and Bass

EUGENE CREITZ—Orchestra Director,
Austin High School

Audition Board

JOSEPH GRILL—Lane High School

ALEXANDER M. HARLEY—Director of
Music, Maine Township High School

LYLE HOPKINS—Director of Music,
Thornton Township High School

Cooperating Orchestra Directors

LOUIS M. BLAHA

BYRON BLACKARD

HAROLD CHRISTIAN

MRS. MARION COTTON

EUGENE CREITZ

CLARENCE F. DISSINGER

ROBERT DOLEJSI

HAROLD N. FINCH

JOHN P. HAMILTON

ALEXANDER M. HARLEY

LYLE HOPKINS

HENRY C. JUSTICE

HAROLD M. LITTLE

IRVING LETCHINGER

SAMUEL MAGES

WALLACE NELSON

ROBERT SANSONE

FREDRICH SCHMOYER

PAUL SCHNEIDER

SYLVAN WARD

The orchestra presented its first concert in Orchestra Hall on November 14, 1947, with the following program:

Toccata..... Frescobaldi-Kindler
Symphony No. 6..... Beethoven
Concerto No. 2 D Minor..... MacDowell
MAYNE MILLER, *Piano soloist*
Hary Janos Suite..... Kodaly

A second concert was presented in Chicago on March 30, 1948, with the following program:

Overture Solenne..... Glazounov
Symphony No. 1 in G Minor..... Kalinnikov
Symphony Espagnole (1st Mvmt.).... Lalo
LAURA MAE STURDEVANT, *soloist*
Adagio for Strings..... Barber
Polka and Fugue from "Schwanda".... Weinberger

The Youth Orchestra presented a concert during the U.I. String Conference. Arrangements have been made for a two-week workshop session at the University of Illinois between July 11 and 25, at which time the Youth Orchestra will be a guest of the University, serving as a training group under Harold N. Finch, conductor of the orchestra.

EDITORIALS —

By Paul Rolland

The brain storm to produce this paper occurred to the writer last year. He believes that it promotes mutual understanding among teachers to speak their mind freely and to tell each other of their successes and pitfalls. This paper may serve as a clearing house for string experiences. The good examples set down by an individual can be freely adopted by another for the betterment of string playing.

The writer wishes to thank all those who contributed reports for the paper and helped make it a worth while project. Many thanks are due to Louis A. Potter for his able help with the editing and writing of various articles for the paper.

After this first (and perhaps last) experience in newspaper editing the writer's appreciation increased tremendously for the fine work of those who produce the *Illinois Music Educator*, *The Instrumentalist*, and the *Music Educators Journal*.

The Small College And String Music

The many small colleges in America represent one of our strongest cultural forces. The college town stands out among communities of similar size with its higher culture and particular make-up. It is only natural that everyone interested in the finer things of life look up to the college and regard it as an agent of higher culture. They also expect that the college discharge this obligation faithfully.

Many colleges render valuable service to the cause of music by sponsoring an extensive string program in their curriculum. One of the most effective ways to advance string music in the small college is to maintain a Preparatory Department for students below college level. Such an enterprise can be made sound not only from an educational but also from a financial point of view.

The college and local public schools should cooperate to join their forces and attract good string teachers to the community. A good program should reach down to the grade schools to insure a flow of talents to the higher levels. Student teachers may gain valuable experience by observing the teaching of children and assisting in the instruction. Soon the college town may become a center of string playing, setting a good example for other communities to follow. If small colleges throughout America would follow this path, their future orchestra program would be assured.

Chicago String Teachers Attention!

There is no doubt about it that Chicago string players and teachers represent the strongest body of its kind in the state of Illinois. Without their help, the movement for more and better string playing is denied a most potent force.

The public school string movement, and the private teachers would benefit a great deal by an organized cooperating body of Chicago teachers. Public schools would welcome the healthy influence that would follow demonstrations of higher standards by Chicago teachers.

Lack of, or poor, public school string teaching has its bad effects on the private teacher's studio. By an organized effort of Chicago string teachers, the number and quality of pupils knocking on the private teacher's door would greatly increase. Here are a few hints of what a cooperative string teachers' unit in Chicago could do:

Cooperative student recitals.

Ensemble clubs.

Stimulate interest among public school officials to sponsor wider and better string programs in the schools.

String promotions in the public schools through demonstrations.

Scholarships.

Recruit public school students for study with qualified private teachers.

Certification of qualified string teachers.

Secure the support of public school authorities for a program that would enable the students to get credit for music study with certified teachers.

Any qualified string teacher with abil-

ity to organize should feel free to take the initiative to start among Chicago string teachers an organized unit of the Illinois String Planning Conference coordinated with the American String Teachers Association (A.S.T.A.). This office will be happy to offer aid.

Why Don't Chicago Schools Sponsor A String Program

This question is asked again and again by Chicago teachers. It is certainly not caused by lack of qualified teachers. It is not because Chicago children dislike the fiddle. It is not because other large cities are similarly negligent. Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati, to mention only a few, sponsor remarkable string programs on all levels of public school. Chicago high school orchestra directors are fighting an uphill battle because of the dearth of string players entering high school.

All friends of string playing in Chicago should voice their opinion to get public support for an organized string program on all levels of public school.

String Conference Meeting To Be Held In Chicago

A planning meeting for next year's conference will be held in Chicago on Saturday, May 29, at 2 P.M., in the String Instrument Department of Lyon & Healy. All district chairmen and participant teachers of this year's conference are invited to attend.



The University Trio: Paul Rolland, Hubert Kessler, and Louis Potter.

MOLINE REPORTS PROGRESS IN STRING PROGRAM

Frederick Swanson, District Chairman and Supervisor of Music, reports:

Our string program in Moline is developing rapidly. Our "experimental" group started in January 1946; in September we had a full-time man assigned to string classes and added a part-time assignment to another. This fall we have two full-time teachers in strings and orchestra alone, meeting groups in ten elementary schools two or three times a week, groups in the junior highs either three or five times a week, and trying to keep an orchestra in senior high school going until these new players graduate into that level.

On November 19 and 21 we had the very happy and successful experience of presenting our 90-piece inter-school orchestra to the citizens of Moline for the first time. It went well! We used "manufactured" parts for some of our students who have played only one year, and found it worked out fine. Lots of credit goes to our two string men, Herbert Reid and Paul Smith, who worked hard. The numbers were Schubert's "Marche Militaire," "Russian Chorale and Overture," and a waltz by Skornicka. With about 40 beginners this semester, we have great hopes for the future of string players in Moline for the next few years.

We're having an orchestra-string festival in Moline March 20. Galesburg, Monmouth, Kewanee, Davenport (Iowa), and several smaller communities will participate. We have a pool of about 150 string players from which we will organize an orchestra of about 100. Karl Ahrendt, of Augustana College, will direct; rehearsals in morning and afternoon—concert in evening.

Karl Ahrendt, Director of the School of Music, Augustana College, reports:

The public school picture regarding strings in the quad-city area is varied.

(continued on page 11)

Northern Illinois Grade Schools Hold Festival

On March 6 an elementary school orchestra festival was held in Oak Park. The organization of this program was done by Mr. Russell Suppiger, the instrumental supervisor of music in Maywood.

The morning was given over to solo and ensemble playing which was judged by Mr. Paul Painter and Mr. Traugott Rohner. The players were from the string section of the orchestra only, it being the idea of the festival to further the interest in playing string instruments. The importance of ratings was minimized and in most cases no ratings were given.

Twelve orchestras from distances up to thirty-five miles participated and each gave a prepared program lasting fifteen or twenty minutes to their fellow play-

INEXPENSIVE STRING INSTRUMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

String instruments are more plentiful now than they have been during the war. One of the largest houses in Chicago reports the availability of inexpensive string instruments. Other firms are also well stocked with instruments. When purchasing instruments for school use, the quality of equipment is of extreme importance, much more so than the actual quality of workmanship on the body of the instrument. Therefore it is best to buy from a dealer with well-known reputation who is known not to release instruments with defective equipment.

The greatest need is for half-size cellos, without which a well-rounded string program in the lower grades is impossible. It is hoped that manufacturers of stringed instruments will take notice of this need.

ers, parents and friends. Three judges listened and gave expert criticisms to these orchestras. The two named above with Mr. Sam Barbakoff were the judges.

A one hundred and twenty-five piece orchestra organized and assembled from the best of the above musicians presented an evening program. Mr. Paul Painter again was in the limelight as conductor of this orchestra which had rehearsed three times for the occasion. As a featured number of this program, the outstanding soloist of the morning contest was presented in the evening.

Program

Oak Park—All Village Orchestra.

MARVIN G. NELSON, *Director*
"Victory March".....Herfurth
"Amaryllis".....Ghys
"In Old Russia".....Herfurth

Maywood—Dist. 89 Concert Orchestra.

RUSSELL S. SUPPIGER, *Director*
"Graduation Overture".....Herfurth
"March of the Little Tin Soldiers".....
.....Pierne

Chicago Heights Grade School Orchestra.

FLORENCE DANGREMOND, *Director*
"Golden Jubilee Overture".....Kent
"Largo From New World Symphony"
.....Dvorak
"Serbian Peasant Dance".....Velska

Barrington Junior Orchestra.

B. G. FRED, *Director*
"Two Chorales".....arr.: Isaac
"Silken Fan" (Minuet).....Isaac
"Fujiyama" (Intermezzo).....Drake

River Forest Grade School Orchestra.

EDWARD F. WENCEL, *Director*
"Pizzicato Polka".....Strauss
"Meadowlands".....Knipper

Des Plaines Junior High School Orchestra.

ROSALIND WALLACH, *Director*
"Petite Bouree".....de Prose
"Prince and Jester Overture".....Taylor

Batavia Grade School Orchestra.

PAUL W. PEEBLES, *Director*
"Cossack Invocation and Dance".....Lenikou
"The Swaggerer March".....Kremer
"Festival Overture".....Taylor

East Aurora Junior Symphony.

VINCENT LANGLITZ, *Director*
"In Old Russia".....Herfurth
"Pixie Dance".....Langlitz
"Finale From Petite Suite".....Gluck

Berwyn—Dist. 98 Concert Orchestra.

MARIE GOYETTE, *Director*
"Dance of the Gnomes".....Norman
"Classmates".....Norman
"Four H Club".....Lawrence

Elmhurst Elementary School Orchestra.

GRACE PEACOCK, *Director*
"Indian Warriors".....DeLamater
"In a Persian Market".....Ketelby
"Universal".....DeLamater

Downers Grove Grade School Orchestra.

MARY GODDARD, *Director*
"Symphonic Miniature".....Johnson
(1) Allegro
(2) Minuetto
(3) Rondino WALLACE NELSON



Demonstration of second year violin class. (See Normal Meeting, page 2.)

Third Annual String Instruments Conference Features Demonstrations, Forums, Clinics

The third annual String Instruments Conference was held at the School of Music of the University of Illinois, February 27, 28, and 29, 1948. The program included discussions and demonstrations of various phases of string playing, together with concerts presented by various organizations. Demonstrations included a Beginners' String Class from the Champaign Public Schools, Wolfgang Kuhn in charge; a Beginning Cello Class of University students in the Teacher Training Division instructed by Louis Potter; a Second Year Violin Class taught by three U. of I. students, Gladys Lester, Lois Stern, and Charles Bergland, supervised by Paul Rolland; two elementary violin students taught by Miss Edna E. Crum of Chicago, playing compositions of Miss Crum's, with comments; and a Student String Quartet from Springfield taught by Constantine Johns.

Teachers' Forums held during the conference included a panel discussion led by Duane Haskell, President of the A.S.T.A. and Head of the Music Department, Northern Michigan State College; Gilbert Waller, Associate Professor of Music, University of Okla-

homa; Elizabeth A. H. Green, Instructor of Music Education, University of Michigan; Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, President of the National Music Camp; and members of the string faculty from the U. of I. School of Music. An illustrated talk on Violin Position was given by Wallace Nelson, Director of the Proviso High School Orchestra, Maywood, Illinois, on one of the Forums.

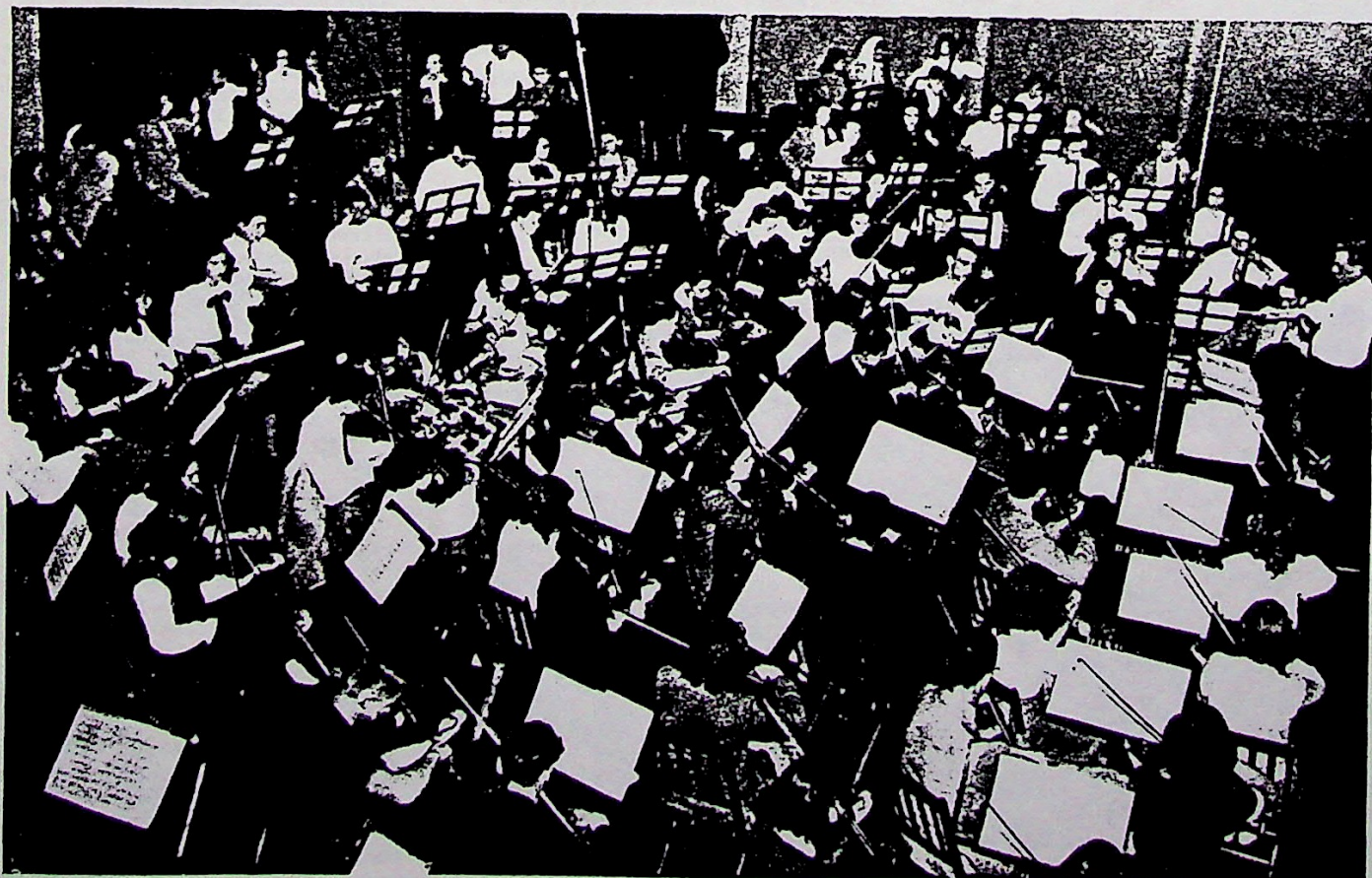
A new feature of the conference Forums was an Ensemble Materials Clinic in which selected string ensemble materials were played by an informal ensemble group of students, faculty, and participating teachers. These were briefly discussed individually as to grade, quality, etc. The last session of the conference was a meeting of the Illinois String Planning Conference with Duane Haskell, President of the A.S.T.A., presiding. At this meeting, following a talk by Mr. Haskell on the evolution, organization, and aims of the A.S.T.A., arrangements were set up for an affiliate state unit of A.S.T.A. in Illinois. This is reported in another article.

A Grade and Junior High School String Orchestra, which consisted of

(continued on page 10)



Carmen Brown, aged 9. Youngest member of the String Conference Junior Orchestra.



U.I. String Conference Senior High School Orchestra.



String Conference . . .

(continued from page 9)

fifty-eight members from various communities, was directed by Elizabeth Green, University of Michigan. This was the first year that such a group was organized and presented at the conference. The High School Conference Orchestra was again under the direction of Dr. Joseph E. Maddy. This orchestra, consisting of one hundred and thirty students, presented a program of string and full orchestra numbers. Included in these was a number especially arranged for and dedicated to the Conference Orchestra by Dr. Maddy—the Grieg "Im Balladenton" (In Ballad Mood). In addition to these groups the Sterling J. Morton High School Orchestra of Cicero, directed by Louis Blaha, presented a program of contemporary American works. The final program of the conference was presented by the Youth Orchestra of Greater Chicago, directed by Harold N. Finch, with Di-

rector John M. Kuypers of the U. of I. School of Music as guest conductor in the McKay Symphony Miniature, and Jerry Snyder, cellist, as soloist in the Boellmann Variations.

Forty music educators were in attendance at the conference; and one hundred and eighty-one students participated in the conference orchestras, representing the following Illinois communities: Aurora, Champaign, Chicago, Deerfield, Danville, Des Plaines, Elgin, Freeport, Moline, Peoria, Quincy, Rochelle, Springfield, and Urbana. Concerts were also presented by the following organizations from the U. of I. School of Music: the Walden String Quartet, the Sinfonietta, with Joanna Stern, student pianist, as soloist, and the Concert Orchestra, both directed by John M. Kuypers. The committee on arrangements for the conference consisted of Paul Rolland, Louis Potter, and Wolfgang Kuhn.

L.A.P.

OFFICIAL A.S.T.A. UNIT ORGANIZED IN ILLINOIS

The Illinois String Planning Conference, which so far has been regarded as the Illinois unit of the American String Teachers' Association, was organized before the A.S.T.A. constitution gained its present form. According to the constitution a state unit will be recognized as an official A.S.T.A. unit only after fifty per cent of all its members are dues-paying members of A.S.T.A. Due to the large number of members of the Illinois String Planning Conference this fifty per cent goal is difficult to reach. Therefore it has been decided to regard the I.S.P.C. as an informal cooperative unit of the A.S.T.A. and to set up within it an official state unit of the A.S.T.A. comprised of those I.S.P.C. members who are dues-paying members of A.S.T.A. The I.S.P.C. will continue to support the A.S.T.A. but only those members who are dues-paying members of the national organization will be members of the official state unit of the A.S.T.A.

According to the A.S.T.A. constitution a state unit has a president and a treasurer who receives part of the receipts of the membership dues for the state unit treasury. The present membership of this A.S.T.A. state unit is as follows:

POTTER, LOUIS A. — Urbana; *President*
 KUHN, WOLFGANG — Urbana; *Treasurer*
 AHRENDT, KARL — Rock Island
 BECKMEYER, W. H. — Mt. Vernon
 BRODSKY, JOSEPH — Peoria
 BROWN, PAUL — Deerfield
 CANNON, ALLEN — Peoria
 CLARICE, SISTER M. — Chicago
 CREITZ, EUGENE — Chicago
 CRUM, EDNA E. — Chicago
 GAMBREL, MRS. HAROLD — Little York
 GODDARD, MARY HELEN — Bloomington
 HANDLEY, CHARLES A. — Danville
 HARLEY, ALEXANDER M. — Park Ridge
 HESS, H. C. — Decatur
 JERELLEN, SISTER MARY, B.V.M. — Chicago
 JULSTROM, CLIFFORD A. — Macomb
 LESTER, GLADYS — Urbana
 MCCABE, ROBERT J. — Naperville
 PAUL, SISTER MARY, S.S.N.D. — Highland
 PEEBLES, PAUL W. — Batavia
 PHILETA, SISTER MARY — Chicago
 ROHNER, TRAUGOTT — Evanston
 REID, HERBERT W. — Rock Island
 ROLLAND, PAUL — Urbana
 SANDT, SISTER M. CECILIA, O.P. — Chi.
 SEEMAN, ERNEST — Freeport
 SEVERINA, SISTER MARY, B.V.M. — Chicago
 SZEPESSY, J. ELMER — Peoria
 THOMAS, SISTER MARY, S.N.D. — Chicago
 WHARTON, JOHN S. — Carbondale

Illinois String Planning Conference members are urged to affiliate with the American String Teachers' Association. They may now do so through the official state A.S.T.A. unit. The enclosed application blank may be used for this purpose.

LOUIS POTTER



Above: Dr. Joseph Maddy conducts at the U.I. String Conference. Below: Section of the High School Conference Orchestra. Unknown player's left hand (in foreground) could stand overhaul!

Excerpts From The "Prelude To Violin Study"

By EDNA E. CRUM

Austin Academy of Fine Arts

The value and importance of a rather prolonged period of technical preparation before the use of the regular study books cannot be overestimated.

The student's first impressions of the mechanical process required in the playing of this instrument are more than important. A clear understanding of what is to be done and the reason and necessity for doing it, is the first step. First impressions of every detail regarding the holding of the instrument and the handling of the bow are as important to the beginner as the background of the picture is to the artist.

Instead of the attention of the student being divided between reading notes and finding the tones, his mind is at first directed entirely on the mechanical process required to play the tone and after this is accomplished, reading the music and playing the tone becomes a much more simple matter. The teacher has demonstrated that if the hand positions are correct, the fingers almost play themselves. When practice has become irksome, frequent rest periods work wonders, and this time can be utilized to teach the rudiments of music.

MOLINE REPORTS . . .

(continued from page 8)

As you know the program in the Davenport school system is highly developed. On the Illinois side of the river, however, the string programs are of more recent origin. The school systems of Rock Island and East Moline have no

provisions for an orchestral program—band being their chief concern. In the Moline school system, under the fine leadership of Mr. Frederick Swanson, a very encouraging beginning has taken place in the past two years. The orchestral festival will take place in Moline, Saturday, March 20, where an orchestra of 175 children chosen from the quad-city area and surrounding cities will gather to play a program of selected numbers. I am to conduct this group and I look forward eagerly to working with these young musicians. This festival is an obvious result of the Illinois String Planning Conference, and should give encouragement to you people who have had so much to do in bringing it about.

As for Augustana College, the orchestral picture is very bright. We have some very good string players, especially in the violins. While most of these good players are not music majors, still they are interested in the orchestra.



DEERFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

By PAUL L. BROWN

Our string program has been somewhat varied in order to allow for some experimentation with the many ideas and devices set forth in our conferences and demonstrations as well as a few of my own. On the basis of this experience which culminates twenty years of teaching strings in class or privately, I have drawn the following conclusions.

1. With most elementary pupils, the class instruction procedure, well taught, is of more value than the private lesson. This is not to say that the private lesson is not important but rather to draw a relationship between class and private lessons in early string playing.

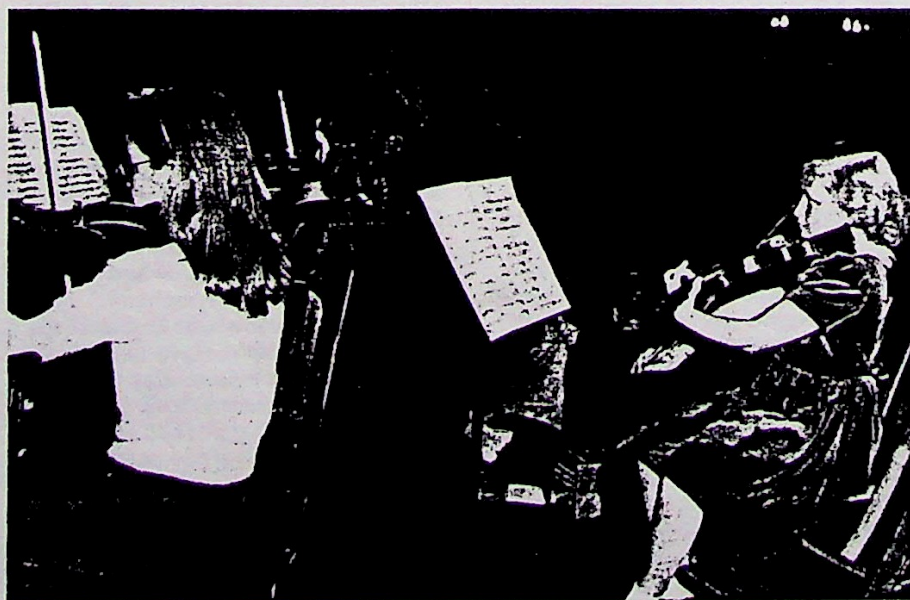
2. Fewer than three lessons per week greatly retards the progress of the class and can be a hazard to the continued interest of the young pupil.

3. Home practice, for those sufficiently advanced, is to be encouraged without being demanded. It seems that that daily home practice remains fairly constant in amount regardless of the frequency of lessons. Thus, the pupil who practices regularly can advance more rapidly with more frequent lessons.

4. Having taught both wind and string instruments most of my teaching career, I have concluded that strings are no more difficult to teach or learn than wind instruments, especially on the elementary school level. This presumes equal facilities, equipment, and supplies.

5. While a tremendous advance has been made in teaching approach, methods, and materials, there is still much to be done in these respects. This is one of the foremost reasons for the organization of string teachers.

6. Music for performance by elementary school orchestras is, for the most part, unsuitable technically or limited in selection. There is need for more music at this level for strings only—music which allows all sections to have an occasional melodic line.



Above: Section of the High School Conference Orchestra. Below: Section of the Junior High School Conference Orchestra.

REPORT OF STRING ACTIVITIES

CONTEST DISTRICTS 1 AND 3

(Chicago Area)

PAUL L. BROWN, Deerfield
ALEXANDER M. HARLEY, Park Ridge
WALLACE NELSON, Maywood
District Chairmen

Argo (5000)

Victor Kase reports forty string players, eighteen of whom are in the grades. The school owns 15 violins, 8 violas, 7 cellos, and 5 basses. There is a lack of violas in the high school but enough of them in the grades. The orchestra participates in operetta, school plays, and in school concerts.

Aurora (48,000)

Vincent Langlitz, orchestra director, reports participation in the Northern Illinois Grade School Orchestra Festival in Oak Park. Two local festivals are sponsored: The East Aurora Grade School Festival and the Fox Valley High School Festival. There are 70 strings above the sixth grade with good balance of instrumentation. The public schools own 56 instruments (30/8/10/8). Fifteen students are reported to take private lessons and 65 study in classes. Private teachers of strings include: Dr. F. Toennings, Robert Myers, Marvin Cornwall, Robert Barclay, and Ruth Kollman.

Batavia (5000)

The High School orchestra under Director Paul W. Peebles presented an exchange concert at Sycamore, played locally in concerts, and in the Senior Play. Grade and H.S. students participated in the events listed in the Aurora report. There are 47 students in all grades. The school owns twenty instruments.

Barrington (3600)

Director Benhart G. Fred reports a local concert and participation in the Oak Park Festival. There are 29 strings in the upper six grades and 15 in the grades. School owns 16 instruments (5/2/6/3). W. N. Sears and Mrs. K. K. Lilien teach privately.

Chicago, Austin H.S. (5400)

Orchestra Director Eugene Creitz presents a Fall and Spring concert. The high school orchestra furnishes music for the Ballet Concert, the Style Show, and Commencement. Students participate in solo, ensemble, and the All City Orchestra Contest. The school owns twenty-nine instruments, violins excluded.

Chicago, Schurz H.S. (4000)

Bernard Fischer, conductor of orchestra, paints an optimistic picture of the up-and-coming orchestra. Orchestra and chorus give Lenten concert on March 21. There are 125 students taking class lessons and 41 study with private teachers. The school has 49 instruments.

Chicago Heights (25,000)

Bloom Twp. H.S.

Florence M. Dangremond, director of orchestra, sends a detailed report. String program is carried in all three levels of public school. A Music Week Festival is planned for grade school music organizations in May. Grade school orchestra plays in assembly for all town students to promote interest in orchestra. The high school orchestra has a full calendar: Christmas Vesper, H.S. Assembly, Spring Concert with Choir, Senior Play, P.T.A. meetings, ensemble for banquets and club meetings. There are 68 string players in all. All grade school pupils have short private lessons in school time without charge. Only small classes at the very beginning. No outside lessons. Public school owned instruments (music supervisors take note!): 66 (40/8/12/6).

Harvey (18,000)

The Thornton Twp. H.S. orchestra participated in the performance of the Mikado. Christmas Concert and May Festival are annual events. Lyle A. Hopkins, director of instrumental music, reports 35 strings in the H.S. and 35 in the grades. Some forty students take class lessons and fifty also study privately. Thirty first-year students show a live string program. Norman Boasley and Mrs. Herbert Butler teach in the school system. Mrs. H. Hall teaches privately. The school at present owns twenty-one string instruments.

La Grange (13,000)

Lyon Twp. H.S.

Director Clarence F. Dissinger sends his students to play in the Chicago Youth Orchestra, West Suburban Symphony Orchestra and to summer music camps. There are 61 strings in Junior and Senior H.S. and 49 in the grades. Thirty beginner students reported. School owns 30 instruments, violin excluded. Doris Dickey teaches strings in the public schools. Mrs. Mabel Heilman and Miss Elizabeth Hagberg teach privately.

Downers Grove (10,000)

Mary Goddard, orchestra director, writes of seventy string students, fairly evenly divided in the lower and upper six grades. Thirty-three beginner students started this year. There is an apparent shortage of violas. A good number of students take private lessons. The school system has 23 instruments (12/3/6/2). Mrs. Margaret Porter Thompson teaches violin and Miss Merna Mosher teaches cello privately.

Orchestra Appearances, 1947-48

Nov. 18-19—Combined High School and Grade Orchestras furnished music for the High School Play—"A Date with Judy."

Dec. 11—Longfellow School string orchestra appeared at the Annual P.T.A. Christmas program.

Dec. 17—High School Christmas Program—Orchestra, Chorus & Band Combined Orchestra played two numbers. String Orchestra played one number.

Feb. 11—Longfellow third grade violin and cello class played for P.T.A.

Feb. 26—Orchestra Association Annual Smorgasbord. The Combined Orchestra played a program.

Mar. 6—Orchestra Festival at Oak Park. Grade School Orchestra played. Two violin soloists entered in the solo competition. Six string players selected for the Festival Orchestra.

Mar. 17-19—High School Orchestra furnished music for the Senior Play—"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay."

Mar. 23—Grade School Orchestra program for Lion's Club. Second grade violin pupils from Longfellow played.

May 2—Orchestra Concert by Grade and High School Orchestras.

May—Two student recitals presenting solos and ensembles.

June—Grade School Orchestra plays for Eighth Grade Graduation.

Deerfield (2200)

District Chairman Paul L. Brown reports 29 strings in the grammar schools. All students study by the means of class lessons. Fourteen instruments. (See separate report on Deerfield Grammar Schools.)

Elgin (36,000)

On March 16, 1948, the Elgin High School Concert Orchestra directed by Marion Laffey, conductor, presented an interesting program. Included in the program was Allegro Vivace from Mozart's Jupiter Symphony, Danse Macabre by Saint-Saens, Offenbach's Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld, Concert Square Dance by Davidson. The orchestra lists twenty-five strings as members. Miss Laffey reports seventy-five grade school string players, with fifty-two beginners. Miss Given Bane teaches in the J.H.S. and Mrs. Helen Gerrer Irwin teaches privately. The school owns 38 instruments (10/11/11/6).

Maywood (27,000)

Russell S. Suppiger reports large increase in grade school student enrollment. Of the eighty grade school students fifty were started this year. Mr. Suppiger directed a grade school string orchestra in the 1947 LaSalle State Clinic. There are 36 instruments in the grades (8/10/12/6). Mr. Wallace Nelson, district chairman of the I.S.P.C., is director of orchestra at Proviso Twp. High School. Several students from Proviso play in the Chicago Youth Orchestra. Mr. Nelson's pictures of violin positions were shown at the U.I. String Conference. Mr. Eldon Sellers teaches strings in the grade schools. Mrs. Frank Padberg teaches in school and also privately.

Park Ridge & Des Plaines (3500)

District Chairman Alexander M. Harley reports 30 students studying in classes and 20 taking private lessons. Mr. Harley has helped to organize and to promote the Chicago Youth Orchestra. Miss E. Wallach and M. Stevens teach in the schools. Doris Ford and Mrs. Grasmussen teach privately. Twenty-one school instruments (1/6/7/7).

West Chicago (3800)

Henry B. Howard, director of orchestra, tells of 14 string students above the sixth grade and ten in the lower six grades. String program is carried in all three levels of public school. There are eight first year students. Mrs. John Kepler is private teacher. Eleven instruments (0/4/4/3).

CONTEST DISTRICT NO. 2

ERNEST SEEMAN, *District Chairman*

Freeport (25,000)

Ernest Seeman, string instructor, reports the Music Contest sponsored by the Freeport Band and Orchestra Patrons Association. In the contest bulletin 49 string participants are listed. Mr. Edwin W. Schuetze, Monroe, Wisconsin, judged all string events. Local students attended all string conferences. J.H.S. string ensembles play in public and in club banquets. Students participate in district and state contests. There are 90 students in Jr. and Sr. H.S. and 41 in the grades. There are 20 first year students. The school system has 48 instruments (18/10/10/10). Karl H. Kubitz is director of orchestra in the high school. Mrs. Seeman teaches privately.

Rockford (86,000)

Miss Astrid W. Gustafson is supervisor of music. June E. Bornor is director of East and West High School Orchestra. Other string instructors in



Combined Rockford East and West High School Orchestras, Rockford. June E. Bornor, director.

the school system are: Miss Emma Green, Mr. Ralph Hall, and Miss Helen Harker. There are 286 strings reported in Jr. and Sr. High with excellent balance of instrumentation. No string activities in grade schools. Private teachers (too numerous to mention) feed high schools with string talents. The Rockford Symphony under the direction of the capable Arthur Zack serves as a powerful motivator for string playing. The high school orchestra presents several concerts annually and appears in school and civic functions. The public schools own nearly a hundred stringed instruments, only six of which are violins.

CONTEST DISTRICT NO. 4

MARK BIDDLE, *Galesburg District Chairman*

Galesburg (30,000)

Edwin W. Lantz, director of the Senior High School Orchestra, tells of a large number (30) of first year string students, with 15 second year students. Forty-five students take class lessons, and ten study privately. In the grades, there are twenty-five string players in the lower six grades. The school owns 30 violins, 13 violas, 13 cellos, and 6 basses. Mr. Lantz reports that his young musicians participated in the area orchestra festival held in Moline on March 20, and that there will be a music festival for Galesburg pupils on April 23. The public school string teacher in Galesburg is Alice Frank, and the two private teachers are Bernice Winchester and Irma Morley.

Streator (18,000)

Director of the High School Orchestra Carl Brix writes that there is some activity in the high school, with three first year students, and one second year student. There are four violin and one bass players in the high school, with three violins in the grade schools. Four students are studying privately. The school owns a cello and bass.

CONTEST DISTRICT NO. 5

FREDERICK SWANSON, *Moline District Chairman*

Geneseo (5000)

Director of Orchestra Robert S. James tells of string activities in the Grade Schools, Jr. and Sr. High School. There are 27 string students in the school system, ten of whom started this year. The school owns fifteen instruments.

Little York (300)

Mrs. Harold Gambrel, music director, makes a valiant effort for strings in this little town. With three violins, one viola, and one cello a recital and a Christmas program were presented.

Moline (40,000)

Supervisor Frederick Swanson reports that there are 35 players in Jr. and Sr. High Schools and 50 in the grades. Thirty students started this year. There are 20 school instruments (2/3/8/7). Private teachers are Mrs. H. A. Fryall and Mrs. F. J. Swanson. For a detailed report look elsewhere in this paper.

St. Mary's High School reports optimistically: "Soon our new Central High School will be built. Then we will have an orchestra."

CONTEST DISTRICT NO. 6

WOLFGANG KUHN, *Urbana District Chairman*

Danville (42,000)

Charles A. Handley, director of elementary music in the Danville public schools, reports active participation in music events: High School — Fall concert, high school assemblies, spring musical, University of Illinois String Conference, and Big 12 Music Conference; and Grade School — P.T.A. programs, music cycle programs, and a spring concert. Seventy-seven students are in string classes, with ten studying

(continued on page 14)

Danville . . .*(continued from page 13)*

privately. Thirty-five of these are first year students, and twenty-two are second year. The lower six grades have thirty-one violins, one viola, and two cellos; the upper six grades, including high school, list thirty-nine violins, no violas, three cellos, and one bass. The schools own 47 instruments (30/5/9/3). The director of the high school orchestra is W. B. Holl. Charles Bergland, Champaign, teaches in the public schools. Mrs. Elmer Brandt and Mrs. Neva Smythe teach privately.

Onarga (1500)

Although there are only two students studying strings at present, the school system owns enough instruments to make expansion of the program quite possible. They have twenty violins, two violas, and two cellos. Of the two students, one is first-year and the other more advanced. J. Fred Fehr is the director of music.

Urbana (18,000)

Walter Duda is director of instrumental music in the Urbana schools. He is assisted by Gladys Lester, Lois Stern, and Charles Bergland, student teachers who teach strings in the grades and J.H.S. and whose work is guided by Paul Rolland and Louis A. Potter, in the violin and cello work respectively. There are almost sixty students taking class or private lessons or both. A group of six children demonstrated special projects for second year violin classes on the Normal State Clinic and on the U.I. String Conference. The program is new, with none of the students studying for more than two years. A grade school orchestra program is being planned for May. At the University High School, James Schrodt is director of orchestra.

Champaign (25,000)

Wolfgang Kuhn reports: "There was no qualified teacher of strings in the school system of Champaign until this year. Through the cooperation of Victor Self, instrumental music instructor, and Wolfgang Kuhn from the School of Music, string classes were started in three grade schools and the Junior High School." There are thirty-nine beginners in all, mostly violins. Verrolton C. Shaul is director of music at the Champaign High School. Miss Louise Ackerman teaches ensembles privately.

CONTEST DISTRICT NO. 7*CHARLES NEWTON, District Chairman***Bloomington (32,900)**

Sister M. Romana, music instructor at Trinity high school, reports two string players in the upper six grades and four in the lower six grades. The schools own eight instruments, six violins and two cellos.

**CONTEST DISTRICT NO. 8***ELMER SZEPESSY, District Chairman***Peoria (105,000)****Manual Training High School**

Fred J. Huber, director of the high school orchestra and band, reports: "Last year, our board of education furnished each of three high schools twenty-five violins, six violas, eight cellos, and six bass viols. These are being used by students in senior high, junior high, and elementary schools. Efforts were made to secure string specialists as teachers. The problems were funds, manpower, and sufficient time in the elementary schedule." In the upper six grades, this year, there are twenty violins, six violas, eight cellos, and six basses; in the lower six grades, there are six violins and one cello. Fifty-four students are in string classes and four study privately. There are fifteen first year students and fourteen second year students. Manual's orchestra gives an annual concert, participates in assembly programs, the Spring Festival, the Big 12 Festival, the Illinois High School Association contests, and was represented at the University of Illinois String Conference. The following give private instruction: A. Cannon, M. Saxton, and I. Nelson.

Woodruff High School

Joseph Brodsky reports the Woodruff orchestra plays at all indoor school events, all evening programs, school plays, and gives a spring concert. There are twenty players in the upper six grades and twenty in the lower six grades.

Twenty-five students are enrolled for class lessons and fifteen study with private teachers. There are five first year students and five second year students. The school owns twenty-four violins, three violas, six cellos, and four basses.

Peoria High School

J. Elmer Szepessy has charge of the Peoria high school orchestra, and he reports that the orchestra will give spring concerts on April 2 and 9; they were represented at the recent University of Illinois String Conference, and that individual grade school groups perform at their schools.

In the lower six grades there are forty-two violins, one viola, and four cellos; and in the upper six grades there are thirteen violins, four cellos, and one bass.

Eight students are enrolled for class lessons and eight are studying with private teachers. There are twenty-six first year students and thirty-four second year students. The school at present owns fifty-one instruments (30/6/10/5).



Mark Biddle and a group of players from the Knox College Sinfonietta.