

Music and Musicians

MUSIC loving Salt Lakeers will be gratified to learn that Mme. Blauvelt is to appear in the First Congregational church in this city on the evening of March 3 next. This renowned artist is placed by competent critics among the first ranks of American singers, and it is said that in the matter of coloratura Mme. Blauvelt has no superior. She is now on the Pacific coast, upholding ably the reputation she has made on the concert and operatic stage, in the old and the new worlds, and her advent here is anticipated with decided interest.

This noted singer is to appear under the auspices of the Philharmonic Guaranteeing association of Salt Lake City, the object of which is to induce artists of national or international repute to appear here in concert; also, to co-operate with other local musical organizations in securing large companies, such as orchestras, choruses, etc., and in fostering worthy local musical enterprises. There are now on the roster of the association over 200 names of musicians and music lovers in this city and the official staff of the association is an assurance that the direction of the organization is in good hands. The officers are, Mrs. W. A. Nelden, president; Charles F. Stayner, vice president; R. A. Whitehead, secretary; W. A. Wetzel, treasurer.

The association has also arranged to bring Harold Bauer here later in March and will negotiate with Madame Schumann-Heink and other great musicians, so that in the course of the current year there will be fine opportunities for our music loving citizens to listen to an array of artists whose appearance here will be sure to materially assist in the elevation of local musical standards. Many artists pass through this city in the course of a year, and all whether they remain long enough to perform or not, agree that there is not another city in the country of this size that has a musical clientele equal to that of Salt Lake. This clientele, the Philharmonic Guaranteeing association proposes catering to in the best sense; and by making a judicious selection of foreign artists, under economic and advantageous arrangements, to secure results satisfactory from both an artistic and financial standpoint. The association is an organization long needed in this city, as by its systematic and bureau-like management much valuable effort is saved, that under no concentrated direction would be wasted. A good future is predicted for the association.

Concerning Lillian Blauvelt's work, the San Francisco Chronicle, in a partly critical and partly complimentary article, says in its last Sunday's issue: "Scarcely too much can be said in praise of Mme. Blauvelt's singing. Tender, lifting melodies, plaintive, haunting motifs, his, tempestuous notes, all ripple and pour from her velvety throat in a stream of sensuous music. One does not wonder that the critics and dignitaries of Europe decorated this American girl with medals of honor and crowned her the queen of song after she had imbued the creatures of the stage with her art and her individuality. Superior concert singer that she is, it is the dramatic instinct in her that makes her singing so poignant, so emotional and so refreshing.

Perhaps the best numbers of yesterday's program were Schubert's 'Du bist die Ruh,' better known to us as 'Thou Art Sweet Peace.' Could the sentimental and soul-hungry schoolmaster have heard her sing it yesterday the tears that filled his eyes when he wrote it might have overflowed again. This and the three charming German songs following it composed the group of lieder that gave the most pleasure apparently to Mme. Blauvelt as well as to her hearers, though she is wonderfully facile and clever at 'executing' embroidered ballads and showy French chansons.

Uninterruptedly and gratefully successful continues to be the concert tour through the northwest of Miss Emma Ramsey. When the trip was commenced many friends expressed their doubts and misgivings as to the result when she should get out of what was termed local or semi-local territory. Personally she had no fears herself, and strange to say she has done better

in the unknown territory than out of it. Last week when she sang in Spokane, the Spokesman Review had this to say of her concert in that city: "Miss Emma Ramsey at the First Methodist Episcopal church last evening gave one of the most delightful concerts ever heard in Spokane. The audience was not a large one and those who failed to attend missed what is generally admitted by every one present to have been one of the most enjoyable treats ever offered to local music lovers.

Miss Ramsey has a voice of great flexibility, volume and richness and its range is one of its remarkable qualities, running as it does almost from pure contralto to high soprano. Everything attempted, from songs to grand arias, was handled with ease, and there was not a number in which Miss Ramsey did not demonstrate that she is an artist of more than usual ability.

The last number proved the best of all. It was a grand aria from 'Die Freischutz,' and here Miss Ramsey was able to show what her voice is in range, tone, volume, color and difficult vocal execution. It is doubtful if a more inspiring rendition of this Weber selection has ever been heard here.

Miss Jennie Sands accompanied most acceptably and her instrumental numbers were excellent. She plays with force, feeling and an evident knowledge of technique.

In a private letter to a friend in this city, Miss Emma Ramsey tells of a thrilling escape she and Miss Sands had near Seattle last week. They were rounding, very slowly, a point of the mountain above the Puget Sound, when with a mighty roar a great land slide came down the mountain front, covering the railroad track for several hundred yards. One edge of the slide was just ahead of the train. Of course the train had to be abandoned, the passengers carrying all of their baggage for a quarter of a mile through a drenching rain storm and in a darkness that was only broken by the lanterns of the trainmen. The experience was anything but pleasant, but not a single person in the lot complained. On the contrary, every one felt that he had had a marvelous escape, and should be thankful therefor, which he was. The train was but a few feet above the Sound at the point where the accident occurred, and the engineer and fireman escaped by jumping upon the landward side.

Prof. J. J. McClellan is in receipt of an interesting letter from Madame von Klenner, in New York, the vocal instructor of Mrs. Luella Ferrin Sharp, in which Madame says: "I have had so many fine voices from your city, that like Oliver Twist, I am calling for more. Of course you hear of the really splendid work which Luella Ferrin Sharp is doing this season in preparation for her operatic career. She has already finished two roles in French, for which language she has a real talent. While in Paris last summer I made arrangements for her appearance at the opera next season, providing she had five operas in perfect French. The prospects are that she will be able to do this with ease. Her coloratura has also improved wonderfully. Last month an English manager, a friend of mine, offered her a fine leading position in his English company, but I advised her to wait another year."

"Mlle. Carmen de Padilla, who has just arrived in America to make me a visit, is delighted with Mrs. Sharp's voice, and thinks she is the coming American singer. Mlle. de Padilla is the daughter of the great Desiree Artot, after Mme. Viardot, the greatest teacher and artist of the last 50 years. She is therefore competent to judge. I know as a friend you will be glad to hear of Mrs. Sharp's progress."

Provo is just now experiencing a thrill of patriotism over the beautiful rendition by local talent of the charming opera of "Priscilla." It was produced under the direction of Prof. A. C. Lund, musical director of the Brigham Young university, on Washington's birthday, and was for the benefit of the fund that is being raised in the school to purchase a campus out of town. Prof. Lund secured most of his principals from the students' ranks, which accounts for the peculiar fact that scarcely any two of the players belong to the same town. The performance is said to have been remarkably clever, especially the chorus work, and there is talk of bringing the company to Salt Lake. The cast follows: Priscilla, Hazel Taylor; Provo, John Alden; Alonzo Acord, Spring City; Miles Standish, Bert Eastman; American Fork; Governor Bradford, Willard Andelin, Rich-



MISS JUDITH EVANS.

A Clever Young Pianist Who Excels as an Accompanist.

Miss Judith Evans, daughter of J. B. Evans of this city, is a talented young pianist who by earnest and persistent attention to her art, has come to be highly appreciated by the local musical public. Miss Evans excels as an accompanist, and it is only fair to say that an accompanist up to the requirements of the position is one whose services will always be in demand by soloists. She has excellent musical judgment, and is of a temperament that naturally brings her into intelligent sympathy with the more artistic standards of her art. The appearance of Miss Evans' name on a program is always an assurance of good work. She has for some years been a pupil of Miss Flan-

field; Resignation, Mattie Salmon, Coalville; Hatedad Higgins, Joe McAlister, St. George; Faith, Florence Jepson; Barbara, Lydia Thurman, both of Provo; Prudence, Jennie Thompson, Springville. And to cap all, the young man who played Squanto, the Indian, came from Indianapolis.

The last time Salt Lake saw "Priscilla," H. S. Krouse was the musical director, Edith Clawson Knowlton the Priscilla, John Robinson the Miles Standish, George D. Pyper the John Alden, John D. Spencer the Hatedad Higgins, and E. H. Pierce the Governor Bradford.

In the list of eastern organists published as scheduled to play at the coming World's fair are a few performers of decidedly modest merit. In fact most of them would be considered as hardly able to handle an organ costing over \$5,000; and in most cases, a \$1,000 to \$2,000 instrument is about their calibre. And yet, an organist able to handle the largest instrument in the United States, and who has a reputation extending over the country at large, is "overlooked" by the master of programs—himself a well known musician, because forsooth he lives so far to the west (in Salt Lake) as to be out of even telescopic reach!

The Imperial vocal quartet is making rapid headway under the guidance of Prof. Anton Pederson; the corners and the angles are being polished down, so that the quartet is getting into excellent shape.

Miss Emily C. Jessup has successfully passed her senior midyear examinations at Columbia, taking her highest stand in Prof. MacDowell's department.

Mrs. E. F. Holmes has purchased an expensive "Apollo" piano player for the \$4,000 concert grand piano she recently acquired.

The Tabernacle organist is preparing a list of new musical compositions to be performed at the organ recitals during the coming season. Several of the more notable Bach fugues will figure in the list, and more attention will be given to purely organ music, or works especially written and designed for the organ. With some organists, the transposition at sight of piano scores for the organ would merit in indifferent performance, and the fact that the score was piano music would be apparent at once to any one well posted in music. But Prof. McClellan has such an excellent knowledge of organ registration, and is so quick to adapt the same to the exigencies of piano score transposition, that his performance is as good as if the transposed score was on the rack in front of him.

Director Peabody of the Orpheus club is much gratified with the progress and the status of the organization. The club is doing good work in the rehearsal, and the management is hoping to make arrangements for a concert about the 10th or 11th of March in the First Congregational church. The vocalization is now well balanced.

The first ward choir has got together again after a season of incoherent des-

seated, and is preparing to do good work again.

There is a big piano auction on today, and a good article can be had at a reasonable figure.

Held's concert band will present the following program tomorrow night, in the Grand Theater: "The Handmaster"....Willard Caprice, "Patrol of the Gnomes," "In Old Alabama"....Gruger, and Ellenberg Grand selection, "Little Christmas"....Caryl and Gorker Imperial Quartet—Ashworth, Phillips, Christopher and Squires, Grand selection from "Romeo and Juliet"....Gounod Popular selections from "The Sultan of Sulu"....Ade Imperial Quartet.

"Any Range"....Clark "Bedelia"....Jaume and Swartz Grand selection from "Sémiramide"....Rosini

"The Song of the Redeemed," an anthem composed by choirmaster Evan Stephens and sung at the dedication of the Logan Temple, has been republished, and will be sung shortly by the Tabernacle choir in this city.

There is a difference in the experience of local music houses in making collections, due doubtless to a difference in methods of conducting business. One firm today, reported collections as all right, and as coming along satisfactorily. At another and old established house, the manager told an entirely different story, stating that collections "are just something fierce." An average would be "fair to middling."

Miss Nora Gleason is preparing a list of programs for the St. Patrick's entertainment to be given in the Salt Lake Theater on the night of the 17th of March next, and the best talent of the cathedral choir and All Hallows college will be impressed.

SHARDS AND FLATS.

A banker, who is a grand-nephew of Mendelssohn, has just paid the record price of \$25,000 for a Stradivarius violin.

Felix Weingartner has been engaged to conduct a music festival in London next April. It is to include seven concerts, with an orchestra of 100 and a chorus of 300.

Sheridan's comedy, "The Rivals," has been set to music. The libretto was written by Randolph Phillips, and the music by Albert Miltenberg, the composer of "The Wood Witch."

Lydia Thompson, who was the forerunner of musical comedy in this country a score of years ago, and who retired in 1889 after being the recipient of a benefit that brought her in \$10,000, is to make her appearance again on the stage.

Emperor William, at a soiree given in Berlin on Feb. 6, took occasion to express to Frau Cosima Wagner his sym-

pathy with her over the matter of the unauthorized performances of Parsifal in New York by Heinrich Conried.

De Wolf Hopper will begin his season under the management of William A. Brady next October at the Academy of Music, Montreal. Mr. Hopper's new vehicle, "A Runaway King," was finished last week and was said to be a worthy successor of "Wang."

Anna Held is rehearsing a new version of "Mlle. Napoleon," and a new tour is looking for her. It was reported that the little actress was to revive "Papa's Wife." Her husband and manager, Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr., has lost enormously on his two costly ventures, "Mlle. Napoleon" and "The Red Feather."

Siegfried Wagner's new opera, "Der Koldid," was produced at Hamburg two weeks ago in presence of the Wagner family. It is said to have some peculiar features in which the young composer is usually at his best, while the music as a whole lacks spontaneity and originality. The opera lasted four hours, and seemed to fatigue the audience.

Seventy-five organists from America and France will at different times give recitals upon the organ at the St. Louis exposition. The list includes Gullman, the celebrated French organist, E. H. Lomare, the English organist, now a resident of Pittsburgh, and Clarence Eddy.

One of the disappointments of the musical season has been the failure, once more, of Mr. Josely to give a concert in New York city. Perhaps he will relent the play, after all. In the meantime, he is the proud possessor of a letter from Saint-Saëns, in which that great composer says in regard to the new Josely "School of Advanced Playing." "It is really marvellous to discover so much that is new in a field which seemed exhausted by innumerable harvests."

M. Bruneau has resigned his post of conductor at the Paris Opera Comique, where he will be succeeded by M. Lalo. This is in accordance with a ridiculous rule which forbids the production of an opera by a conductor, so M. Bruneau's new opera, "L'Enfant Roi," to Zola's libretto, can now be mounted at the Opera Comique, and M. Bruneau himself will feature his duties of musical critic, this time on Le Matin.

The western "Prince of Pilsen" company has the agreeable task of reopening the Chicago Studenhalter theater this week. This establishment, already one of the safest and most commodious playhouses in the world, has been thoroughly overhauled to meet the most advanced ideas of modern constructions. The Pilsen-Laders musical comedy is drawing audiences fully as large and enthusiastic as those which greeted it the first time in Chicago.

The Viennese violin expert, Herr C. H. Volz, became possessor the other day of a violin in a wonderful state of preservation by Carlo Bergonzi, Antonius Stradivarius' best pupil. The instrument bears the original label, "Carlo Bergonzi, Cremona, 1723," and

comes from the Taffel collection. The violin, which is covered with the most beautiful original varnish, has now become the property of the German consul-general, Freiherr Alfred von Liebig, who is also the owner of the famous "Leon Josephus Guarnerius."

A cablegram from London, to George W. Stewart, manager of the World's Fair Music bureau, announces that the participation of the Royal Grenadier band of London in the world's fair musical program. This band of 65 pieces will give two concerts daily for six weeks, beginning Aug. 29. Eight band stands have been planned, some of them designed to accommodate massed bands of 250 musicians. Other bands will come from Mexico, France, Germany and other countries.

Mme. Emma Calve says there is too much German at the New York Metropolitan Opera House since Conried assumed charge. She said: "I will never sing in the Metropolitan Opera House after this engagement, but I will sing next year in America, principally in New York. I love the American public as they love me, and I shall sing here, in spite of my determination not to sing in the Metropolitan Opera House. I shall return with a company of artists from the Opera Comique in Paris and shall sing my repertoire."

A Handel anecdote recorded by Miss Hawkins is cited in the London Musical Times: "Handel had done him (Hawkins) the honor frequently to try his new productions on his young ear; and my father, calling on him one morning to sit down and listen to the air 'See, the conquering hero comes,' concluding with the question: 'How do you like it?' My father answered, 'Not so well as some things I have heard of yours,' he replied: 'Nor I neither; but, young man, you will like to see that a greater favorite with the people than my other fine things!'"

Salt Lakeers will, considering the experience some other cities have had with Patti, regard themselves as singularly fortunate. Concerning her cancelled engagement in the Copper City and what came of it, the San Francisco Dramatic Review has this to say: "When Patti went to Butte she was followed by a bill from Spokane for \$300 or \$400, with instructions to 'Uncle Dick' to hold it out of the Patti receipts at the Broadway. Mr. Sutton had a bill of a few hundred dollars against the diva for advertising, and other expenses incurred for her benefit, and at her instance and request, when Patti and her manager called the concern off they forgot to pay the bills your Uncle Dick was holding against them. It was only by chance that Uncle Dick succeeded in reminding them of the bills before they got out of Butte on their way to Denver. He called to their attention, they easily observed that 'The New York office' would pay them. That wasn't all, it wouldn't be satisfactory to any one else. The next thing your Uncle Dick did was to send his bills to a Denver attorney, with instructions to attach the cash register of the old lady with

the noted middle register, and in a day or two he received word that the trick had been done to the tune of \$44. Mme. Mmes. Adelina Patti, the Harpness Cederstrom, sang at the Central Presbyterian church during her Denver engagement.

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