

Columbus Boychoir School
Princeton, New Jersey

NEWSLETTER

Vol. V

February 2, 1961

No. 18

REVIEWS of the touring choir's concert in Covington, Va., January 19th are full of praise for the high standards of musical excellence and entertainment attained by the Columbus Boychoir. Excerpts from the Virginian: "Considering the necessity of walking through the snow a nearly packed house greeted the Columbus Boychoir last night at Curfman Hall. The audience, comprised exclusively of members of the Alleghany Chapter of the Virginia Orchestra Guild, was enthusiastic in its reception of an unusual and highly entertaining performance, for it was much more than singing. . . The reviewer was surprised to hear four part harmony from the Boychoir. . . So many of the boys choirs of the past were infiltrated with men for the bass, but these 28 youngsters stood on their own feet and sang with highly trained voices. . . Harmony accuracy and stage presence were superb and the balance and blend was of professional high order. The boys demonstrated wonderful memory, sang in voices true to the music and received such a thunderous ovation that they sang three encores. . . A special feature and hugely enjoyed was the comic opera 'Bastien and Bastienne' in which Allan Tucker of Covington sang the difficult lead of Bastienne with true voice, remarkable memory and noteworthy stage presence. He was supported by Charles Scasserra of Kingston, N. J., as Doctor Fels and Peter Kirwin of Columbus, Ohio, as the roving lover, Bastien. . ."

FROM the Daily Review of Clifton Forge, Va.: ". . . none could perform 'so wildly well' as the Columbus Boychoir. . . The first two groups were a sheer delight. . . The period costumes worn by the cast and choir, and the grace of the court dances, made the opera a distinctive part of the evening's memory. Following intermission was a group of two American folksongs, both humorous: 'Tee Roo' with soloists Charles Scasserra and Royce Anderson, of Princeton, N. J., and 'The Deaf Old Woman' arr. by Donald Bryant, soloists: Peter Kirwin, and John Motsinger, of Roaring Gap, N. C. The closing group of four Negro spirituals: 'Were You There' had a marvelous ethereal tone like the Sistine Choir; 'Little David, Play on Your Harp' featured soloists Alvin Yates, Maywood, N. J., and Michael de Temple, Columbus, O. . . Three encores, all outstanding: di Lasso's 'Echo Song'; Gershwin's 'Summer Time' with soloist Tommy Dick, of Pottstown, Pa., doing some of the best singing of the evening; an exciting rendition of the spiritual 'Set Down, Servant,' with Marshall Price, of Bay Shore, L. I., ably handling the solo part. . ."

HARRIMAN, Tenn., concert scheduled for the 27th had to be canceled because of impassable roads (ice and snow). . . Rocky Bailey nursing a broken toe. . . Dudleys (Jon and mother) and Motsingers at Charlotte concerts.