

We watched the first half of the program on the television in the hotel. It was finally time for us to go. We lined up and walked over to the hall.

Back stage we could hear the chorus finishing their piece. It was now time for us to go on stage. As we got seated on stage we could see everybody dressed in their best gowns and suits. Soon the hall was quiet and Mr. Bernstein was standing in front of us. After the piece was over we could see everybody standing up. It was an experience which I will never forget. - Arthur Ster

THE CLIMAX of hard work doing Mahler's Eighth Symphony came to an end when the new Philharmonic Hall opened its doors to a festive gathering Sunday.

At 4:20PM people were going into the new hall for the concert. By 7:30 there were at least a thousand people gathering around the building.

As soon as the First Lady had taken her place the concert began. The concert began with the national anthem and then the Beethoven Mass. The people were amazed at the opening number; but the critics thought there were too many soloists.

The Copland was difficult but was "put over nicely," said the critics.

Our part came at the end. It was one of the best of the evening. However, the First Lady did not hear the last part of the program. - Mark Leonard

RIVERSIDE CHURCH - This church was visited on our first trip for rehearsals to New York. It has one of the city's largest congregations, and is non-denominational. The building is of Gothic architecture and has a twenty story tower which houses one of the largest and finest carillons to be found. Many of us were fortunate enough to be in the tower when the carillon struck at the quarter hour. The sanctuary of the church is remarkably beautiful, with many intricate carvings in the chancel. In it is the famous organ which has five manuals; Virgil Fox, who will play the first solo recital at Philharmonic Hall, is the church's famed organist. - Rick Funk

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY - While we were in New York a group of us saw a small portion of Columbia University. We saw the Statue of the Alma Mater, the huge library, and the gymnasium. We would have stayed longer but we had to go to rehearsal.

Even though it was a short trip, it was very interesting and informative. - B. Yaches

GRANT'S TOMB - We walked up a good many steps, with statues of eagles on both sides of us. We entered the tomb through big doors, these doors led to a big room that had a pit in it. This pit had two marble coffins in it which had been lowered by a big crane. These coffins contained the bodies of General Grant and his wife.

These coffins and bronze busts are seen clearly by big spotlights overhead. Along the side of the tall marble wall are pictures of Civil War maps. Along the other side of the wall are documents, maps, money, and personal belongings of General Grant. - B. Peters

PHILHARMONIC HALL - The first building of Lincoln Center to be opened was Philharmonic Hall. It is a structure of concrete. Around the outside are tall white pillars. Between the pillars are huge glass windows. Inside the hallways and lounge, the walls and carpets are beige. The interior of the auditorium is midnight blue walls and gold carpets and seats. - S. Grunder

THE SUBWAYS - Some of us took the subway on the way to various places in New York City. The tokens were fifteen cents and we put them in a slot and went through a gate. The trains were about ten to fifteen cars long. They go about fifty miles per hour. I found it to be an exciting experience. - S. Taylor

UNITED NATIONS - Our group of twelve boys went to the UN with Mr. & Mrs. Peters. When we arrived we were interested to see a pendulum that was given to the UN by the Netherlands. Mr. Rhine, who met us later, went to the desk and asked for tickets for a tour. When our time came to tour the UN we found out that we had a very pretty guide to show us around.