

1922

## Boy Soprano To Take Part In Celebration



Richard Westbrook 16, son of Undertaker Ben Westbrook, will sing next Thursday night at Keith's Strand theater, in connection with the celebration of Keith's third-of-a-century anniversary.

The boy has received many compliments upon his beautiful, soprano voice and his clear enunciation. He has already made a Genett record.

He is a member of the Choral Art society of St. Marys church. He received his training under Prof. J. J. Fehring.

1928

### Francis Mayhew Pinnoc Studio

#### RECITAL OF PIANO MUSIC AT THE STUDIO

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1928, at eight o'clock

#### PROGRAM

Serenade		Moszkowski
Japanese Sunset		Deppen
	HELEN MACDONALD	
Minuet		Paderewski
	WILLIAM RUDDUCK	
Waltz Arabesque		Lack
	DOLEEN STRAND	
Impromptu		Reinhold
	EVELYN MACLEAN	
Polonaise in A		Chopin
	HELEN MAYHEW	
Impromptu		Schubert
	KARIN BOESEN	
Polonaise in D flat		Chopin
	DOROTHY DEW	
Prophet Bird		Schumann
	VIRGINIA WILLS	
Three Preludes		Chopin
	RICHARD WESTBROCK	
Impressions of Rachmaninoff		Chasin
	ARTHUR JOHNSON	
Waldstein Sonata		Beethoven
	2nd and 3rd movements	
	HELEN MARTIN	
Barcarolle		Rubinstein
	HELEN CULP	
Appassionata Sonata		Beethoven
	2nd and 3rd movements	
	JOSEPHINE CAROLIN	

842 GLADSTONE AVENUE

DETROIT

ca. 1931



Richard B. Westbrook, Dayton boy who is studying voice with Marcus Kellerman, and piano and organ with other prominent teachers in Detroit. Young Westbrook recently returned to Detroit after visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Westbrook, of Xenia avenue.

## Singer Pays Visit To Former Home City

Richard B. Westbrook, a former Dayton boy who is now living in Detroit, where he is furthering his study of music, and may make his home, is visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Westbrook, of Xenia avenue.

For several years young Westbrook was soprano soloist in the boy choir at St. Mary's church, and he became prominently identified in things musically even as a mere boy, appearing as soloist with his brother Henry, on the programs of the Choral Art society.

He is at present studying voice with the famous baritone, Marcus Kellerman; is a member of Kellerman's first choir, and assistant organist in the church of St. Aloysius, Washington boulevard, the most important Roman Catholic church in downtown Detroit. In his capacity of assistant organist at this church, this young musician plays four services each weekday morning, each service being sung by a different member of the clergy of the church.

Besides study of voice and organ, Richard is studying piano with one of the city's most prominent teachers, Francis Mayhew; he is a member of various music societies and a subscriber and student of the symphony concerts.

1933

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1933

# The Realm

## Organization Of New Choir Accomplished

Is to Direct Youth Choir

Richard Westbrook Is to Lead Youthful Singers of Dayton.

(Copy for this page must be in the hands of the music editor not later than Wednesday noon.—Editor.)

BY VIRGINIA D. STURM

During the past couple of weeks we have heard considerable of the Boy Choir which is coming into being under the guidance of Richard Westbrook.

When the call for auditions was issued, the response exceeded the anticipation of Mr. Westbrook, who was unusually enthusiastic about his project.

Only about 50 of the boys will be chosen to take a part in the organization and others will be held back as sort of a reserve in this singing fund. Rehearsals started last Wednesday, and will be held two times each week.

Having had a great deal of practical experience as a choir-boy and especially as a soloist, this director is fitted admirably to handle the situation from a disciplinary angle, and that in itself is one huge task. The writer of this column served as accompanist to a like organization several years ago, and the behavior or, rather the lack of it was a most disturbing element. So, it takes rather an entirely different type of director to train boy choirs than adult organizations.

As times have changed, and the religious objections to a large amount of music in the church service have been gradually decreased, the number of boy-choirs is ever increasing.

Formally, when choirs were placed in isolated positions, and in fact many were placed behind curtains to exclude them from observation, only singers with more experience than children have, could be used. This of course does not apply to the churches which have used boy and young men voices as a part of the ritualistic service for many generations, but to the churches which have since passed through various stages, and have finally emerged with offshoots which left out the parts of the service in which the whole congregation was not a part.

Many are the changes since those days. Choirs have been brought down from elevated positions, and placed nearer the people, who have learned and accepted a part in the service of divine worship.



Richard Westbrook, organizer and director of the Boys' choir, which started last week.

choir, and also for the place it holds in the church service.

Mr. Westbrook plans to carry the movement farther, by preparing his singers for appearances before groups who prefer secular music.

That makes the organization of this group doubly interesting for it will afford many persons the chance to hear it, and will permit it to assume a place among the major musical organizations of the city.

Time a-plenty is required to perfect such a group. There are choirs which have toured in this country, back of which there are centuries of traditions, such as the Singing Boys of Vienna, coming to Memorial hall early in December. But, such a group represents something so unusual that it becomes a star attraction.

There are choirs of the type of the Westbrook venture in other parts of the States, and they have become an important part in the civic life of their city. So carous, and as it is such a worth project, this department wish him well.

1931

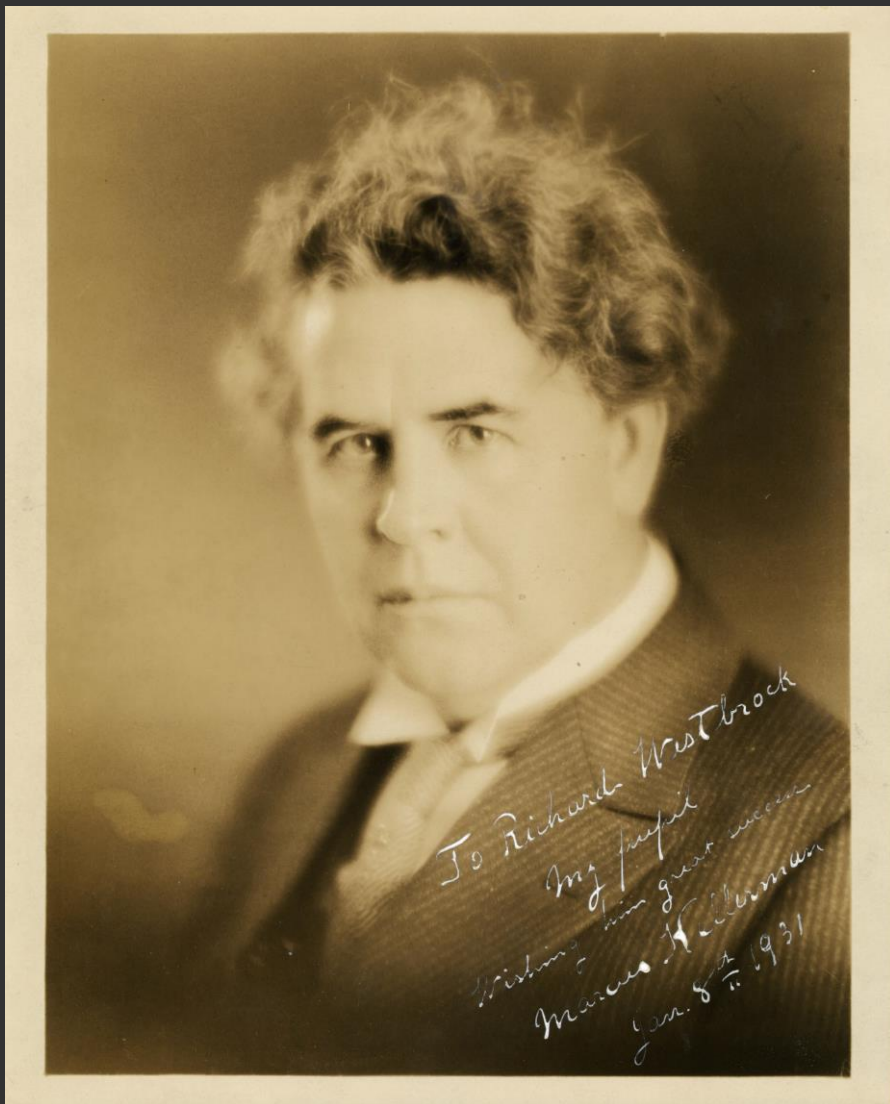


Photo by J.W. Hughes

Photo: 8x10"

1932



Photo: 4x6"

Italo Picchi (above): Bass with the Metropolitan Opera and part of Richard Westbrook's musical education.

To Richard Westbrook  
My pupil  
Wishing him great success  
Marcus Kellerman  
Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> 1931

# WESTBROCK SINGING BOYS



B. J. WESTBROCK, Sponsor



R. B. WESTBROCK, Choir Master

In memory of Henry J. Westbrook, deceased son of Ben Westbrook, a civic group of boy's voices has been assembled and is being fostered under the auspices of the Westbrock Funeral Home. The 'Westbrock Singing Boys' comprised of 40 voices, has been created to further the culture of voice of local boys between the ages of 10 and 16

years. Eight months ago Mr. Westbrook organized this voice unit and its services are available, without cost or obliga-

tion to churches, societies and fraternal groups. Both the deceased son, Henry J., and R. B. Westbrook, an-

other son, who is the choir master, had won wide repute in this vicinity for their splendid voices.

Parents who are interested in having their sons join this choir will do well to become acquainted with the features and advantages which this institution affords. . . . . The initial presentation of the Westbrock Singing Boys will be for the benefit of the Loretto Guild and is to be held at the Dayton Art Institute Thursday evening at 8:30.

## WESTBROCK

FUNERAL HOME INCORPORATED

1712 S. WAYNE MA-3311