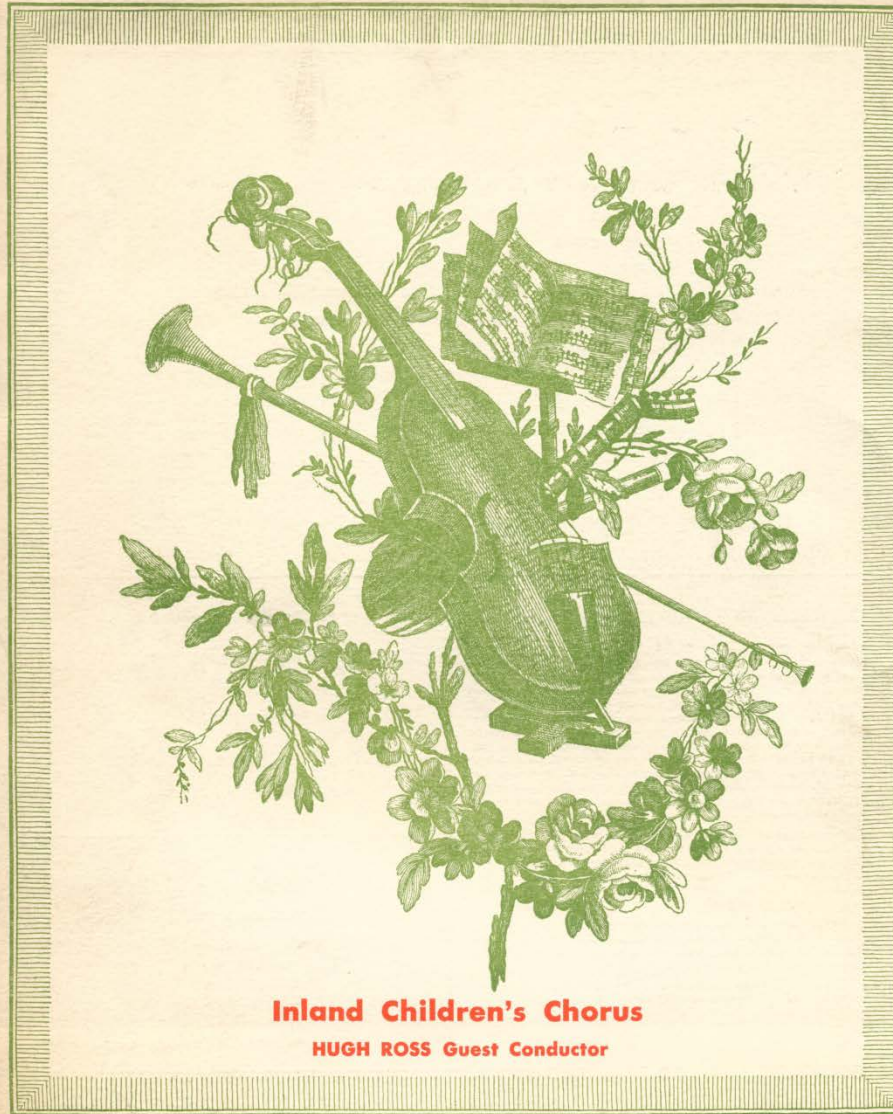


December 20, 1953



Inland Children's Chorus

HUGH ROSS Guest Conductor

DECEMBER 20, 1953

Program page size: 8½ x 11 inches

The Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra takes great pleasure in welcoming the return of the Inland Children's Chorus after a year's recess.

And at the same time the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra acknowledges with sincere thanks the tremendous cooperation extended by the Sponsors of the Chorus, the Director and all attaches of the Chorus who have had such a vital part in making this world premiere of the Stage Presentation of Benjamin Britten's "Saint Nicolas" such an auspicious occasion.

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Before I get all wound up about lamps—I think we have just the painting for over the mantle. The colors are just perfect. And you said you wanted some prints for the den too which we have a terrific selection of right now. You'll have to see the stunning small pictures that will be perfect for that bare wall space we've been worrying about for so long.

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Yours truly,
Matilda

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Fourth Concert—Twenty-first Season

Sunday afternoon December 20, 1953

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra

HUGH ROSS, Guest Conductor

Inland Children's Chorus

RICHARD WESTBROCK, Director

DAVID LLOYD—Tenor

PROGRAM

CONSECRATION OF THE HOUSE.....*Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)*

In 1811 Beethoven composed the opera "The Ruins of Athens" which was based on a play by a fashionable playwright of the time, August Friedrich Ferdinand Von Kotzebue. When this opera was again presented for the opening of the Josephadt Theater in 1822 Beethoven wrote an entirely new overture which became known as the "Consecration of the House."

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ACADEMIC FESTIVAL OVERTURE, OPUS 80.....*Johannes Brahms (1833-97)*

The title of this overture is self-explanatory. On May 11, 1879 the University of Breslau conferred an honorary doctor's degree on Brahms and Brahms in turn showed his gratitude to the university by composing this work.

The overture contains some of the melodies of very well known student songs. Brahms referred to the overture as "a very jolly potpourri of students' songs a la suppe."

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SAINT NICOLAS.....*Benjamin Britten*

Nicolas was born at Patara in Asia Minor and died during the first half of the fourth century, having long served as Bishop of Myra, the capital of his native country Lycia. He is the hero of many popular legends, but few facts of his life are certain.

In 1087 his relics were captured from his tomb at Myra and carried away to the Italian city of Bari, where a new church was built to enshrine them. Here they continued, as at Myra, to work miracles: the shrine, which is said to exude a miraculous, sweet-smelling oil, became a place of pilgrimage from all parts of Europe.

In the Middle Ages four hundred churches were dedicated to his honour in England alone. He is the patron-saint of Russia and Greece, and is universally known to children in his disguise of "Santa Claus."

Nicolas was born of wealthy parents. From his babyhood he showed signs of exceptional grace and refused to feed on canonical fast-days. He was taught by the Church in boyhood and youth, and when his parents died of the plague he gave all his wealth to charity and went in pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Coming back to the city of Myra, he was chosen Bishop according to a revelation made before his arrival, and served this diocese faithfully until his death.

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During the persecution of the martyrs (303-311) Nicolas was imprisoned under Diocletian. Later he was one of the three hundred and eighteen Bishops summoned to attend the first great Church Council at Nicaea, where he is said to have disgraced himself, but given great glory to God, by striking the founder of the Arian heresy.

Most legends of Nicolas are concerned with his care of the poor and oppressed, and with his power of appearing from great distances to rescue those who called on him.

- Scene 1 Saint Nicolas as a Saint
Scene 2 The Birth of Nicolas
Scene 3 Nicolas devotes himself to God
Scene 4 He journeys to Palestine
Scene 5 He comes to Myra and is chosen Bishop
Scene 6 Nicolas from Prison
Scene 7 Nicolas and the Pickled Boys
Scene 8 His Piety and Marvellous Works
Scene 9 The Death of Nicolas

INLAND CHILDREN'S CHORUS

DAVID LLOYD, Tenor

Isabel Herbst, Organist

Official accompanist of Inland Children's Chorus

Mathilda Gilbert, Pianist

Paul Jones, Pianist

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INLAND CHILDREN'S CHORUS

RICHARD WESTBROCK *Director*

Concert Group

SOPRANO—GIRLS

Arnold, Rosanna
Baker, Karen
Bailey, Sheila
Borton, Melanie
Brun, Marilyn
Chapin, Margaret
Cunningham, Alice
Davis, Barbara
Gorham, Joan
Hinders, Judith Ann
Hunter, Donna
Kelly, Sharon
Kramer, Karen
Kramer, Julie
Lamoreux, Jeanne
Liddy, Kathleen
Moritz, Carolyn
Moritz, Veda
Nelson, Cynthia

Small, Charlotte
Troutman, Sandra
Waltemathe, Judy
Wenzler, Barbara
White, Sara

ALTO—GIRLS

Albaugh, Julie
Bachman, Sharon
Bilbrey, Barbara
Channell, Carla
Gingell, Winifred
Klosterman, Roberta
Layman, Linda
McCord, Ellen Ann
Milthaler, Julia
Slavin, Sharlene
Wessalowsky, Judy
Westbrock, Mary Lou

SOPRANO—BOYS

Altick, Robert
Brown, Jerry
Brun, Richard
Davidson, George
Eaton, David
Frederick, James
Hallman, Ludlow
Hoke, Dennis
Kimble, John
Meyer, Tom
Milligan, Denis
Rado, Ronald
Tunney, Louis
Westbrock, Tom
Wetzel, Michael
Wimmers, Alfred

TENOR and BASS

Ashworth, Mark
Balas, Joseph
Balmert, Barry
Besanceney, Jerome
Browning, Douglas
Cichanowicz, Stanley
Coon, Kenny
Davis, Wayne
Gitzinger, Richard
Homan, Harley
Jones, Fred
Kendinger, Conway
Lienesch, Richard
Montgomery, Don
Rush, Larry
Sawyer, Tom
Wenzler, Tony

Junior Chorus

SOPRANO—GIRLS

Adams, Patricia
Arnold, Janice
Besanceney, Mary
Blankenship, Jill
Borton, Shiela
DeMange, Mary Ann
Forthofer, Nancy
Francis, Cathleen
Frey, Judy
Hale, Marilou
Hamden, Nancy
Herman, Bonnie
Hoover, Beverly
Hoover, Linda
James, Judy
Kelso, Diana
Kramer, Connie
Kronauge, Frances
Little, Frances
Maher, Patricia
Maher, Judy
Slayback, Judy
Spitler, Nancy

Stines, Patti
Tunney, Theresa
Walther, Carolyn
Westbrock, Barbara

ALTO—GIRLS

Albaugh, Jane
Albaugh, Joan
Baird, Carol
Channell, Alicia
Christian, Peggy
Coalt, Shirley
Donisi, Nancy
Fraser, Patricia
Gingell, Patricia
Gruber, Joyce
Hixon, Patricia
Huber, Jacqueline
Larson, Sandra
Milthaler, Judy
Olt, Susan
Overman, Judy
Price, Linda
Roode, Linda

Shuey, Beverly
Silcox, Judy
Sparks, Mary Ellen
Wenzler, Mary

SOPRANO—BOYS

Alred, Jerry
Ashworth, Philip
Ashworth, Tom
Brun, Larry
Caufield, Pat
DeMange, John
Frederick, Robert
James, William
Koepnick, Richard
Leyes, Francis
Liddy, John
Marshall, Charles
Meyer, James
Milligan, Pat
Neu, Robert
Raley, Ronald
Stauffer, Denis
Waltemathe, Douglas

Westbrock, Gregory
Walters, Michael

ALTO—BOYS

Bachman, Edward
Bilbrey, Dale
Christian, James
Cichanowicz, Charles
Deis, Larry
Deis, Michael
Gitzinger, James
Hussong, Nicholas
Ivory, Robert
Lurz, James
Milthaler, Joseph
Mott, John
Raley, Robert
Rath, Kenneth
Toth, David
Wening, Billie
White, John
Wilson, Barton

SOPRANO

Bakan, Mary
Beck, Bertha
Brinkman, Naomi
Cooper, Mary
Delzeith, Mae
Fitzharris, Barbara
Gilbert, June
Haller, Helen
Hallman, Mary
Hieb, Mary Eileen
James, Susan
Kreitzer, Patricia
Lisankis, Mickey
Lowrey, Peggy Seiser
Mauch, Virginia
Milthaler, Nancy
Ojsterday, Mary
Phillips, Phyllis Jean
Richter, Adele
Routsong, Lolalee

Senior Chorus

Russell, Lorraine
Schmitz, Jayne
Steinbrunner, Carole
Tunney, Norma
White, LaDonna Jean
Whiting, Shirley A.

ALTO

Bender, Joanne
Brun, Nancy
Buehler, Doris
Deis, Pauline
Huber, Mary Anne
Liddy, Marilyn
Lombardo, Wanda Lee
Lucas, Barbara
Mains, Patricia
O'Connell, Maureen
Reichard, Maureen

Rhodes, Lois
Seiser, Rita
Shay, Paula
Shay, Theresa
Tunney, Florence
Wening, Eileen
Wening, Mary Lou

TENOR

Brun, Fred
Clingman, William Jr.
Eckley, James
Heitkamp, Norbert
Hixson, Fred
Nevis, James
Pittsinger, Roger
Shay, Gene
Swigart, James
Turner, Carl

Westbrock, Bernard J.
Willhelm, Louis
Willhelm, Pete
Willhelm, Robert

BASS

Barnhorn, Arnold
Brookey, James
Brown, Rocky
Collins, Gerry
Connair, Robert J.
Cordonnier, David
Curtis, Kenneth
Hinders, Cletus
Hussong, Jack
Kelly, Denis
Loges, Tom
Pittsinger, Jerry
Reichard, Jack
Russell, William
Thomas, J. A.

INLAND CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The Inland Children's Chorus was organized in 1936 to provide musical training for children of Inland employes, and as a source of musical entertainment. Richard Westbrock organized the group and has been the only director of the Chorus. Ages of members range from eight to sixteen years. Since its inception, 1347 children have benefited from the training.

Each year the Chorus gives concerts in the Spring and at Christmas time. The Chorus enjoys the distinction of having sung on a national radio network and was featured on a nationwide television program.

For this performance the graduates of the chorus are joining the present members. This is the first time these groups have joined forces.

RICHARD WESTBROCK

Richard Westbrock is a native Daytonian. His training includes voice under Marcus Kellerman, Detroit; and Itallo Picchi, Cincinnati College of Music. He organized and directed the Westbrock Singing Boys. He has been the only director of the Inland Children's Chorus.

HUGH ROSS

Conductor of the Schola Cantorum and St. Cecelia Choir in New York, Faculty member of the Manhattan Music School, Sarah Lawrence School, Berkshire Music Festival since its inception, is considered the leading authority on Choral music in the United States. Mr. Ross has appeared as guest conductor with the New York, Philharmonic, Boston, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Orchestras on many occasions. He was Music Director of the New York World's Fair in 1939. Has collaborated

Who's Who

innumerable times with Toscanini, Koussevitsky, Mitropoulos, Barbicelli, Rodzinski, Ormandy, Munch, and Monteux. His services in organizing choral groups have taken him all over the world. Considers his collaboration with Richard Westbrock and the Inland Children's Chorus in presenting the World Premiere of the stage presentation of "Saint Nicolas" one of his most rewarding experiences.

DAVID LLOYD

New York City Opera Tenor is probably the performer most likely to be suggested when a conductor wants to do a special work. Soloist with the Boston Symphony a dozen times—appeared with the New York Philharmonic—has sung Beethoven's Ninth Symphony 25 times. Mr. Lloyd is one of the busiest tenors on the concert stage today. His singing the role of Saint Nicolas this afternoon marks Mr. Lloyd's first appearance in Dayton.

ROBERT ALLEN DAVIS

Designed all the sets and costumes for the "SAINT NICOLAS" cantata. Mr. Davis is a member of the Society of Illustrators, of which he is Curator, the Salmagundi Club, and the Artists Guild. Besides teaching anatomy, portrait painting, and illustration at Marymount College, Mr. Davis is a well known portrait painter (many of his works are on exhibition in the Grand Central Art Galleries in New York). In designing the sets and costumes for "SAINT NICOLAS" Mr. Davis spent many hours on finding authentic source material for his designs. It is interesting to note that the set for the "Pickled Boys Scene" was fashioned after a painting of Saint Nicolas which hangs today in the Vatican.

Fifth Concert

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra

Monday - January 25, 1953 - 8:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall

An Evening of Opera

Soloists: Gertrude Ribla, Soprano
Richard Tucker, Tenor
Robert Weede, Baritone

Dayton Chorus
William Rapp, Director

PROGRAM

- I. Overture "Mignon".....Thomas
II. Cavalleria Rusticana (Concert Version).....Mascagni
Miss Ribla, Mr. Tucker and Mr. Weede
Dayton Chorus
III. Solos
Mr. Tucker
IV. Solos
Mr. Weede
V. Solos
Miss Ribla
VI. Duet—Solenne in Quest'ora from "La Forza del Destino".....Verdi
Mr. Tucker and Mr. Weede
VII. Duet—From Act I "Tosca".....Puccini
Miss Ribla and Mr. Tucker

NOTE: Because of a change in the Metropolitan Opera Company's schedule it became necessary to change the date of this "Evening of Opera" from Thursday, January 21 to Monday, January 25. The change in date necessitated a change in cast. Gertrude Ribla, soprano, will replace Herva Nellí, unable to be here because of a conflicting engagement.

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra Personnel

PAUL KATZ, Conductor

Violins JAROSLAV HOLESOVSKY, Concertmaster Marjorie Kline Carl Rubinoff Gwenn Garber Arthur Clark, Jr. Juanita Miller William Scutt Miriam Smith Elizabeth Walker Jeanne Wiltse Adon Foster Hobart Schoch Donald Gibson John Beronet Lois Vornholt E. Mannes Lubow Elma Rhinehart Emma Burley Edgar Livingston Violet Tomosvary Martha Ziemann James Bohl Louis Rhodes Mary Schuler Kidwell Mariel Burtanger Mary Ballou	Violas, Cont. Eric Kahlson Dariel Fahnestock Esther Elliott Margaret Wessel Cellos Russell Rausch Eleanor Foster David Baumgartner Margaret Kirk Arthur Knecht Marvelle Kadel Charles Findlay Joan Cano Miriam Esposito Basses Joseph Van Reck Gustave Gerhardt Harold Roberts David Horine Patricia Stratton Harold Beerman Flutes David Vornholt William Foster Vaughan Johnson	Oboes John Wildman Andre Andraud English Horn Andre Andraud Clarinets John Kemp, Jr. Joseph Saum Robert Enoch Bass Clarinet Robert Enoch Bassoons Roland Small Leo Reines Contra Bassoon Leo Reines French Horns Jerry Knop Hilbert Mosher Nicholas Poccia Phil Shellhaas Trumpets Paul Blagg Paul McCrea Frank LeFevre	Trombones John Reger William Meeks William Coates Tuba Douglas Baker Timpani Ralph Ballou Percussion Charles Gastineau Henry Needham Jane Burnet Harp Anna Bukay Celeste Margaret Kirk Piano Paul Jones Mathilda Gilbert Organ Paul Jones Librarian Emma Louise Odum Personnel Manager William Coates
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on its

21st Anniversary

and

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Isabel Herbst

Hugh Ross

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Bill Johnson

Inland Children's Chorus

HUGH ROSS Guest Conductor

DECEMBER 20, 1953

Larry Collins

Fred C Brun

Don Montgomery

Congratulations to the

Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra Association

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Devis Kelly

on its

*Jim
Eckley*

*Have
Columbus
Ohio*

21st Anniversary

and

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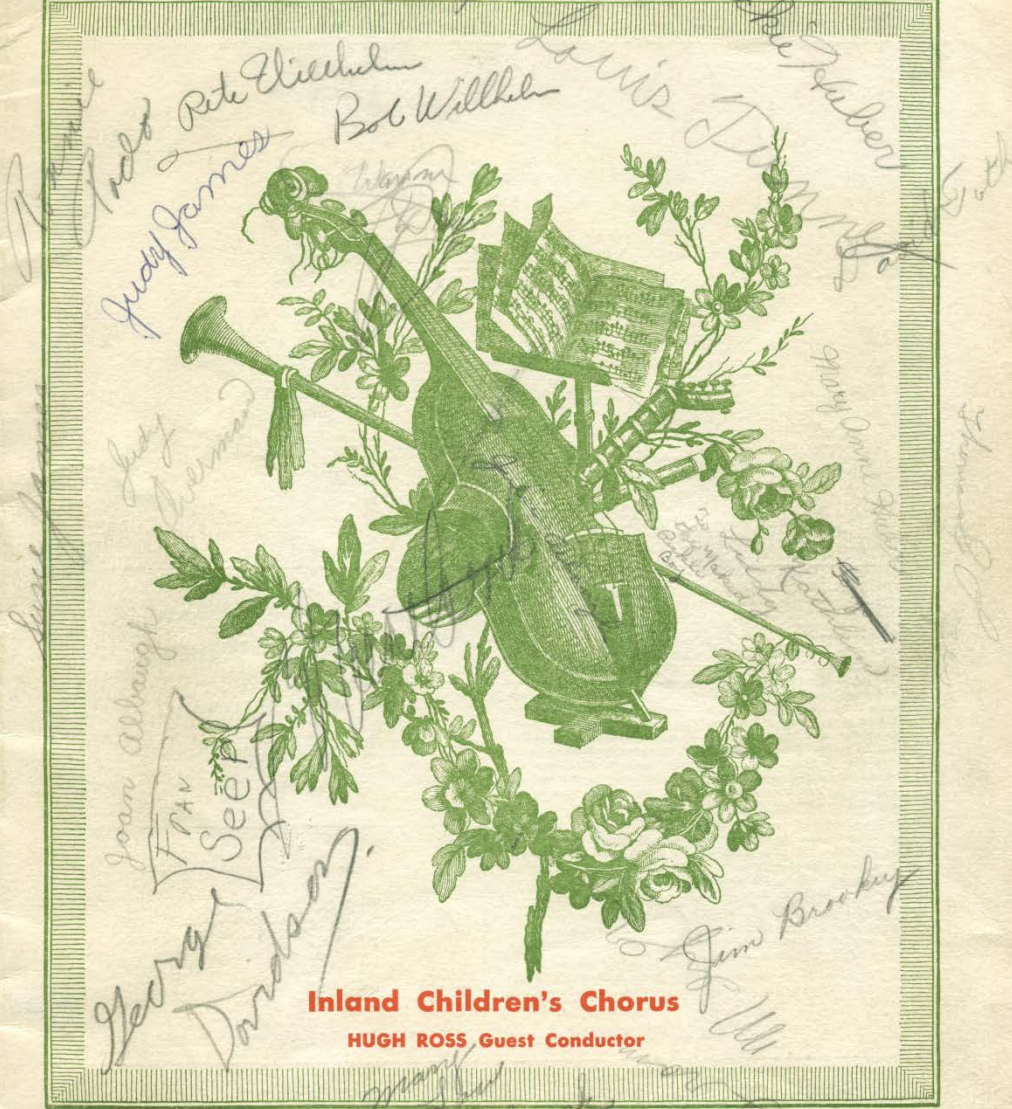
Successful Season

Fred Fouch

The National Cash Register Company

*Rocky
Perry*

Jim Frederick
Bob Ivory
Isabel Herbst



Inland Children's Chorus

HUGH ROSS, Guest Conductor

DECEMBER 20, 1953

Jerry Reichard
Westbrook
Mary Ann

Courtesy of Tom Meyer

Jim Brooker '48

Merry Skay '49

Shirley & Robert

Michy Lisandis

Madeline Ferber

Mary Sue Henning

James Bondel
Bill Clugman '40

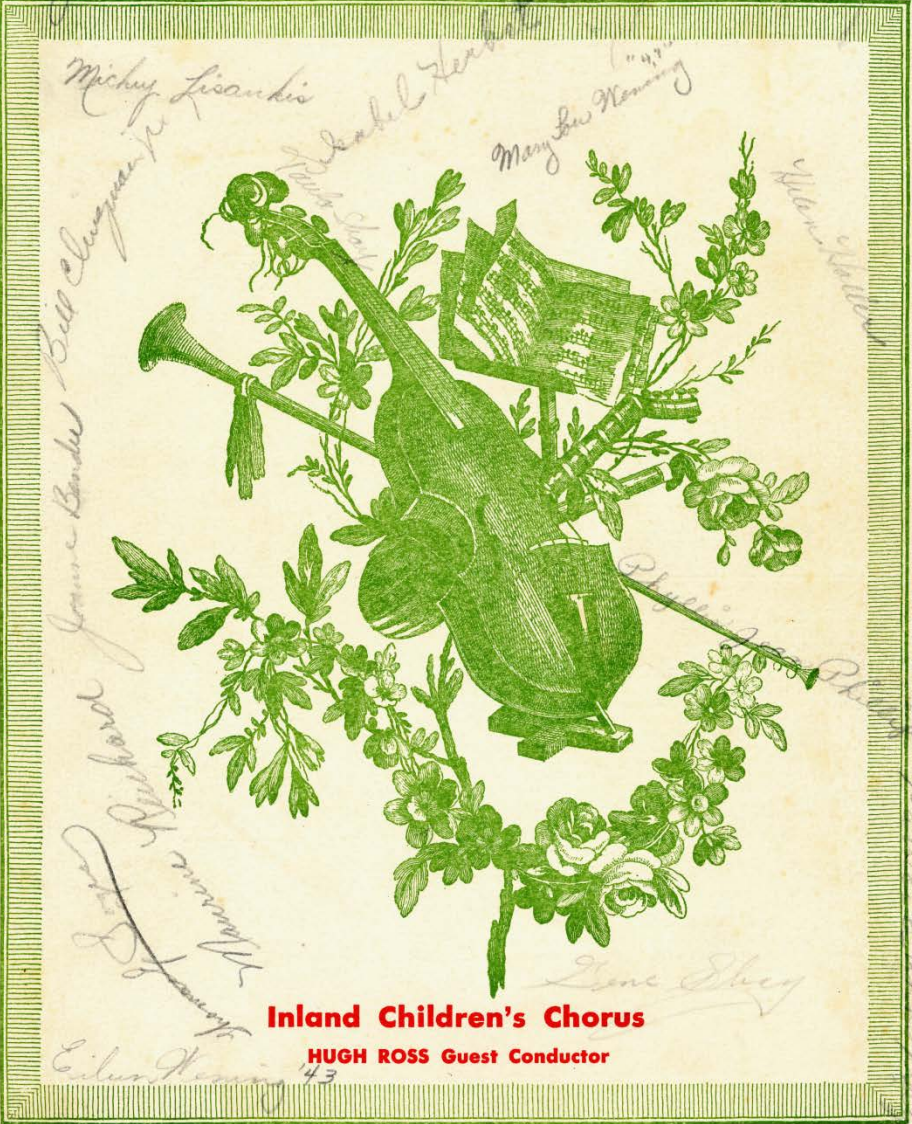
Richard
Loren
Thomson

Eileen Henning '43

Wendy

Phyllis
Patsy

Lore Shey



Inland Children's Chorus

HUGH ROSS Guest Conductor

DECEMBER 20, 1953

Mary Ellen Hub Bob Willkins

Courtesy of Shirley Whiting

La Donna White

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And at the same time the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra acknowledges with sincere thanks the tremendous cooperation extended by the Sponsors of the Chorus, the Director and all attaches of the Chorus who have had such a vital part in making this world premiere of the Stage Presentation of Benjamin Britten's "Saint Nicolas" such an auspicious occasion.

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Matilda

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December 20, 1953
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Dayton Hears Britten 'First'

THIS AFTERNOON at 2:30 the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Paul Katz, conductor, will give a concert in Memorial Hall, Dayton, Ohio. The concert will consist of Beethoven's Overture, "Consecration Of The House"; the Brahms "Academic Festival" Overture; Christmas carols sung by the Inland children's chorus and a performance of Benjamin Britten's "Miracle Of St. Nicholas." This will be a world premiere as a stage performance with costumes and sets.

★ ★ ★

THE BRITTEN composition will be conducted by Hugh Ross, conductor of the Schola Cantorum of New York.

David Lloyd, tenor of the New York City Center Opera, will be soloist in the leading role of St. Nicholas.

The orchestra and 250-voice children's choir will take part in this cantata which is also scored for piano duet, organ and mixed chorus.

★ ★ ★

TICKETS MAY be purchased at the concert hall in Dayton.

Songs Of Joy Rise To Open Christmas Week . .



Inland Chorus, Philharmonic Are Hailed

By MERAB EBERLE
Journal Herald Music Editor

Local talent has never before appeared in so spectacular a production as it did yesterday afternoon at Memorial hall when the Inland Children's chorus, augmented at some points to 200 voices, and the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra presented Benjamin Britten's "Saint Nicolas."

DAVID LLOYD, NATIONALLY KNOWN TENOR, is shown, center, as he sings the main role in Britten's musical drama "Saint Nicolas" which was presented yesterday afternoon at Memorial hall. In the foreground is the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra with Hugh Ross, noted eastern conductor, presiding. The Inland Children's chorus stands on either side of the stage.



LEE LEAH DE CARVALHO, conductor of the Rio de Janeiro Symphony orchestra, left, congratulates Hugh Ross, guest conductor at yesterday's concert, and Richard Westbrook of Dayton who rejoined the Inland Children's chorus. Carroll was guest at the performance.

Little that can be vouched for historically remains in the life of Nicolas' life, but legend says he walked the water, raised the dead, gave all he had to the poor, and stilled a storm by his prayers.

Fast Comes To Life

Written, contemporary British composer, has great power to impart color. And through the somber opening music of "Saint Nicolas" he seemed to evoke the long gone past and bring it forth in awesome atmosphere.

The orchestra was seated below the stage. To either side of the orchestra, on tiers, were singing children. On the stage itself, in balcony effect, were more singers and in the center was a smaller stage where episodes in the life of Nicolas were enacted.

Hugh Ross, noted choral and orchestral conductor from the East, directed the performance which progressed with amazing smoothness.

Singers Are Praised

The Inland Singers who had been rehearsed for long weeks by Richard Westbrook did exceedingly well. So did Dayton's orchestra. Isabel Herbst was at the organ. Milthilda Gilbert and Paul Jones were pianists.

Robert Allen Davis, New York

illustrator and artist, designed sets and costumes.

At the opening of the program, Hugh Ross conducted the Philharmonic in the presentation of Beethoven's "Consecration of the House" and Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture." Ross directed with superb energy and great appreciation of dynamics.

The Inland chorus appeared, too, in the presentation of a group of Christmas carols which came to a close with Adolphe Adam's "Holy Night" in which a boy soprano sang to great effect. We are grateful that new supplies in the matter of boy sopranos keep coming.



Review enlarged

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By MERAB EBERLE
Journal Herald Music Editor

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Now, any one who had thought Saint Nicolas would appear in his modern version, Santa Claus, was a surprised individual. For here was no red-garbed, plump, white-whiskered fellow but rather the austere mystic, fourth century Bishop of Myra, from whose deeds of kindness has sprung up the present Santa observance.

Little that can be vouched for historically remains to us of Nicolas' life, but legend says he walked the water, raised the dead, gave all he had to the poor, and stilled a storm by his prayers.

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Hugh Ross, noted choral and orchestral conductor from the East, directed the performance which progressed with amazing smoothness.

While the children called upon Nicolas to emerge from the past, curtains of the center stage drew back to show what looked like a stained glass window centered by Nicolas in all the glittering glory of his bishop robes. And as they pled he stepped forth. And sang beautifully, for the role of Nicolas was assumed by David Lloyd, tenor of the New York Opera company.

Again and again the curtain of the center stage opened upon episodes in the life of Nicolas.

Then, at length, the bishop appeared again as a figure in stained glass window, but the point of devotion had changed to another panel of the window—one depicting the Virgin Mary and the Child.

And while the chorus sung ardent praise, silver Christmas trees at rear of stage and flanking its side sprang to colored light which fell joyously on the long-skirted blue gowns of the girl choristers and the dark garb of the boys.

Singers Are Praised

The Inland Singers who had been rehearsed for long weeks by Richard Westbrook did exceedingly well. So did Dayton's orchestra. Isabel Herbst was at the organ. Milthilda Gilbert and Paul Jones were pianists.

Robert Allen Davis, New York illustrator and artist, designed sets and costumes.

At the opening of the program, Hugh Ross conducted the Philharmonic in the presentation of Beethoven's "Consecration of the House" and Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture." Ross directed with superb energy and great appreciation of dynamics.

The Inland chorus appeared, too, in the presentation of a group of Christmas carols which came to a close with Adolphe Adam's "Holy Night" in which a boy soprano sang to great effect. We are grateful that new supplies in the matter of boy sopranos keep coming.

Cantata Presentation "Delightful"

BY BETTY A. DIETZ

Daily News Music Critic

The Sunday afternoon performance of Benjamin Britten's *Miracle of St. Nicolas* was as much a miracle of production as it was a delightful musical experience. The Inland Children's chorus

joined forces with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra in what was the first stage production of the British composer's Christmas cantata. Hugh Ross, conductor of the New York's celebrated Schola Cantorum, came to Dayton to conduct the performance.

The cantata, which was first performed in England in 1948, tells musically the story of Nicolas, the Bishop of Myra, whose relics continued to work miracles hundreds of years after his death in the fourth century. Patron saint of Russia and Greece, Nicolas today is known to children in many sections of the world as Santa Claus.

Nicolas' story, the text of which was brilliantly written by Eric Crozier, has been movingly set to music by Britten. The work is knowingly paced, having intriguing melodic passages interspersed with recitative-like sections which are well within the ranges of the young singers.

Britten's orchestration for strings, piano and tympani is wonderfully effective, harmonically modern yet light and transparent in texture to point up the children's voices.

The cantata provided natural scene changes for Scenic Designer Robert Davis of New York. Allen's sets provided for tiered sections for the concert choir at the sides of the stage to allow for a small platform in which quick changes could be made. Auxiliary platforms held the orchestra players, junior singers of the Inland chorus and graduates of the organization. Antiphonal singing from the balcony was particularly effective.

The nine different scenes included Nicolas as a saint in his flowing, colorful robes, his birth and baptism, his decision to devote himself to God and his journey by sea to Palestine. The scene in which Nicolas is chosen bishop of Myra is filled with pomp and pageantry.

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continued

ONE OF THE MOST familiar stories of Nicolas is the one in which the pickled boys return to life. Britten has given them a joyous Alleluia. Slides were thrown on a screen as the choristers told of Nicolas' piety and miraculous works. The final tableau resolved into a moving chorale for the entire ensemble.

Ross, who conducts with movements that suggest he is strung on wire, did a magnificent job of holding everything together. So thoroughly was the cantata rehearsed that there was a feeling of security and confidence throughout, a fact amazing in itself when you remember the 200-odd children involved. But the performance of the children was a splendid tribute to the untiring work of their director, Richard Westbrook.

David Lloyd, a member of the New York City Opera company, proved a thoroughly dependable singer. It is no small task, remember, to sing the role of a youth, a man in travail and a man of the church—for such was Nicolas.

Ross also conducted the orchestra in the Beethoven overture, *Consecration of the House*, which can best be described as fustian. The Brahms Academic Festival overture which followed a group of carols sung by the children was a different matter. It was played solidly and brilliantly.

Cultural Preview

The Inland Children's Chorus has made beautiful music synonymous with Christmas in Dayton for many years. Residents long ago ceased to wonder at anything the choir essayed or achieved. But in their concert yesterday at Memorial hall, the youthful singers outdid anything in their organization's past.

Their rendition of Benjamin Britten's St. Nicolas cantata was majestic and breathtaking. It gave a new dimension to Christmas music and, incidentally, to Mr. Britten's work. Until the Dayton performance, the cantata never had been sung with scenery and with stage action. In the hands of guest conductor Hugh Ross, the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra, and the Inland chorus schooled by Richard Westbrook, it became the next thing to a Christmas opera.

In this remarkable performance, the youngsters of the Inland chorus did more than reinforce their undisputed claim to greatness as a children's choir. They gave a strikingly hopeful preview of the cultural future of this city.