

December 17, 1948  
The Dayton Herald

*Inland Chorus, Philharmonic Combine*

# Concert "Visual Spectacle"

The "tradition" that is Dayton's to have and to hold as long as current artistic standards are maintained again enriched a capacity audience in Memorial hall last night.

It was the annual combination Christmas concert of the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra, conducted by Paul Katz, and the **Westbrook** Inland Children's chorus of 100 voices, organized and directed by Richard Westbrook.



Though the format of presentation was similar to those of previous years, ohs and ahs still burst forth from a delighted audience as the myriad of tiny blue lights nestling in tiers of whitened cedars were turned on.

Then came more enthusiastic approval as the 50 girls, clad in

blue gowns, and the half-hundred boys in their Eton jackets and long trousers marched with studied precision to their places. This is a visual spectacle as well as an aural pleasure that brings the spirit of Christmas a step closer to actuality.

The youngsters sang beautifully, whether directed by Katz and accompanied by the orchestra, or under the guidance of their own teacher without accompaniment. With the orchestra they sang "Glory to God in the Highest" and the evening prayer from the opera, "Hansel and Gretel," which has practically become their theme song.

Also they charmed the audience with their fine interpretation of three Christmas carols, "Gesù Bambino," "The First Noel" and "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," all with orchestra. But the climax came when, with a soft blue haze flooding the stage, they gave new meaning to "Silent Night," unaccompanied, under Westbrook's direction.

Except for the opening number, which was a Bach chorale, "My

Heart Is Filled With Learning," played in memory of the late Werner J. Blanchard, the orchestra contributed lively selections.

Especially noteworthy was its presentation of Morton Gould's "Latin-American Symphonette," which in three movements catches the intricate rhythms of the guaracha, tango and rhumba. Gould is so adept at orchestration that such a selection, so well played as it was by the orchestra, becomes a brilliant addition to the players' repertoire.

The orchestra also played the four narratives from Rimsky-Korosokoff's "Scherzade," sweeping dance melodies that bring up visions of colorful ballet. Some fine violin solo work was contributed by Milton Wohl, urged along to a resounding climax and then died away in the Scheherazade motive.

Much of the success of the corps is due to the persistent support of J. D. O'Brien, general manager of the Inland Manufacturing division of General Motors. He announces that tonight the children will give their annual concert for Inland employes, their families and friends—A. S. KANY.

