

November 1, 1953
The Dayton Daily News



CHRISTMAS CONCERT IS PLANNED

*When the Inland Children's chorus sings Benjamin Britten's *The Miracle of St. Nicholas* with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra Dec. 20 at Memorial hall, Tenor David Lloyd, left, will be soloist. Richard Westbrook, center, director of the children's chorus, consults the score with Hugh Ross who will be guest conductor for the performance. Ross is director of the Schola Cantorum of New York. Lloyd and Ross were in Dayton for rehearsal over the weekend.*

Courtesy of Gerald Alred
and Fred Moore

December 19, 1953



TO DIRECT

Hugh Ross, conductor of the Schola Cantorum of New York, will direct a performance of Benjamin Britten's Miracle of St. Nicolas when it is presented by the Inland Children's chorus and the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra next Sunday. The concert is scheduled for 2:30 p. m. at Memorial hall. The work will be repeated Monday night for Inland employes and their families.

Hugh Ross Obituary

The New York Times

Hugh C. M. Ross Is Dead at 91; Conductor of Schola Cantorum
By DENNIS HEVESI
Published: January 21, 1990

Dr. Hugh C. M. Ross, a choral director who, as conductor of the Schola Cantorum of New York, worked with some of the greatest figures in 20th-Century music, died of a heart attack at his home in Manhattan yesterday. He was 91 years old.

As recently as 1985, when Dr. Ross conducted "Liberte/Liberty," a celebration of the Statue of Liberty at Alice Tully Hall, The New York Times critic, Donal Henahan, wrote that he "led the program with a commanding vigor."

Dr. Ross, who took up the baton at the Schola Cantorum in 1927, had directed the chorus in association with every conductor of the New York Philharmonic for more than half a century. The list of his friendships in music was studded with names like Toscanini, Boulez, Stravinsky, Villa-Lobos, Koussevitzky, Mitropoulos, Stokowski and Bernstein.

"He was a tall, spare, scholarly looking person," Dr. Ross's friend and neighbor, Gay Pauley, said yesterday.

'A Tremendous Sense of Humor'

"He always had impeccable manners, an impeccable Britisher, although he had long since become a U.S. citizen," Mrs. Pauley said. "He was gentle, always thoughtful, reserved, but with a tremendous sense of humor, a wry humor."

Born in Langport in Somerset, England - what he called "King Arthur's country" - Dr. Ross was the elder of two sons of David Melville Ross, the canon of Wells Cathedral. His mother taught him piano from an early age.

One day, when he was 6, Dr. Ross later told an interviewer, his mother overheard him singing - on key - an aria from "The Messiah" in a room away from the piano. "Well," he said, "then she saw that I had some ability."

Before long, he had been introduced to the head of the Royal College of Music, studied organ, piano and violin and became a fellow of the Royal College of Organists at the age of 17 - the youngest student ever enrolled at the college. During World War I, he served as an artillery officer in France while simultaneously continuing his studies at the Royal College of Music and at Oxford University.

Summer Conductor in Canada

At 23, he was dispatched by Sir Hugh Allen, then head of the Royal College, to fill in for the summer as conductor of the Winnipeg Choir in Canada, a male ensemble that he took to Carnegie Hall in 1923. Dr. Ross remained in Winnipeg until 1927, when he came to New York to lead the Schola Cantorum. In 1933, he became a professor at the Manhattan School of Music, running the institution's chorus and madrigal groups and teaching musical history.

Courtesy of Shirley Whiting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1953

Merab Eberle,
Editor

Inland Children Sing Holiday Musical Play

**Philharmonic Orchestra, Chorus
To Stage Christmas Fantasy**

The Dayton Philharmonic orchestra and the Inland Children's chorus will present a Christmas program at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at Memorial hall. Hugh Ross, director of New York's Schola Cantorum and St. Cecilia choir, will conduct. Ross has appeared as guest conductor of the New York Philharmonic-Symphony, the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Boston orchestras.

The chorus which has been rehearsed for performance by Richard Westbrook will appear in a group of Christmas carols and Benjamin Britten's 50-minute "The Miracle of St. Nicholas." This musical play will have its world premiere as a stage production.

Britten is one of England's foremost contemporary composers, and this means that Dayton is to witness a music event of top significance.

Robert Allen Davis, member of the Society of Illustrators and a portrait painter of note, has designed the sets and costumes.

During the presentation of the "miracle" the chorus will form a great angle in which the stage will be placed. Here David Lloyd, tenor, will enact and sing the role of Nicholas. Lloyd is a member of the New York Opera company.

Nicholas, fourth century Christian, is the hero of many popular legends, but there are few facts of his life known to be true. As tales of his generosity flourished he became popular as a gift giver, and is known to children as Santa Claus.



DAVID LLOYD

... Role of St. Nicholas

The Philharmonic will present Beethoven's "Overture: Consecration of the House" and Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture."

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