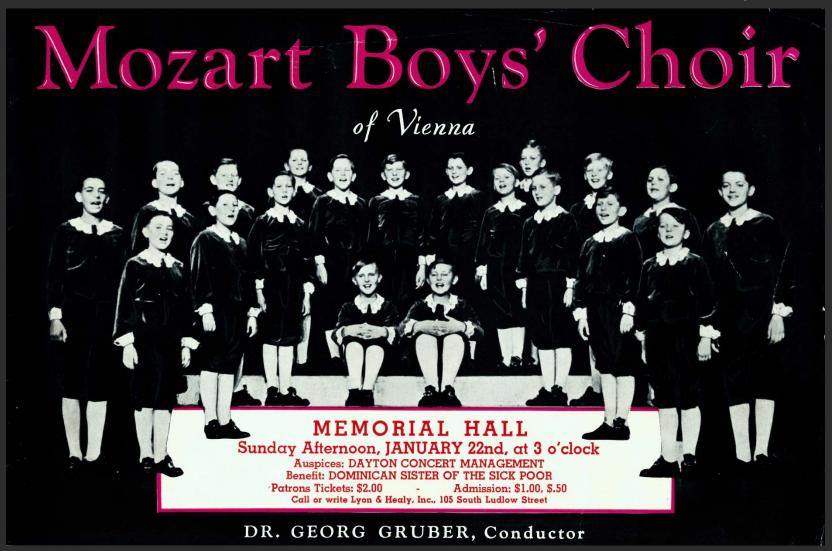
MOZART BOYS' CHOIR OF VIENNA

CONCERT

DR. GEORG GRUBER, Conductor

Memorial Hall Dayton, Ohio 3 o'clock January 22, 1939

61/2 x 10 inches with fold at left



6½ x 10 inches with fold at left

Often mistaken for the Vienna Boys' Choir, the Mozart Boys' Choir was formed in 1937. For the remarkable story of this group and its fate during WWII, see the last page of this document.

Mozart Boys' Choir of Vienna



DR. GEORG GRUBER Conductor

Dr. Georg Gruber (who was conductor of the Wiener Saengerknaben on their first American tour) is now director and conductor of the Mozart Boys' Choir. A Vienness by birth, he was graduated from the State Academy for music in 1926, and that same year was appointed conductor of the Haydn Basilica Choir. Later, Dr. Gruber became conductor of the Vienna Male Choir of 500 voices, the oldest and most important choir of its kind in Austria. In 1936, he conducted the Bach-Mozart Festival at the Colon Theatre in Buenos Aires, also orchestral concerts in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

The Mozart Boys' Choir is from the time-honored Haydn Basilica in Vienna, and is not to be confused with another organization of Wiener Saengerknaben, which is from the Hofburg Chapel.

The covered distinction of singing under Toscanini has already come to three of the youthful soloists of this choir. The occasion was the 1937 Festival at Salzburg in Mozart's "Magic Flute." That Toscanini should have turned to the Mozart Boys 'Choir for his choice of the Temple acolytes is the

highest praise for Dr. Gruber, the inspired leader of these young singers.

The Choir has already toured extensively throughout the British Isles, Canada, Mexico, and South America. January of 1938 marked their introduction to this country. The enthusiasm that greeted them at their two New York concerts left no doubt as to their success. The fresh young voices, the beautifully finished art, the naive and thoroughly delightful performance that they gave of the little operettas,—all this was a refreshing revelation.

The return of the Choir to the United States for the winter of 1939 will mark their first transcontinental tour.

Repertory Includes

BASTIEN AND BASTIENNE 1-act Opera by Mozart

HANSEL AND GRETEL by Humperdinck

TALES FROM THE VIENNA WOODS

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and arranged by Dr. Georg Gruber

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Mozart Boys' Choir of Vienna

Dr. Georg Gruber, Conductor

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PART II

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Musical Play by Dr. Georg Gruber

Based on melodies by Johann Strauss

William, a young student, loves Rosemary, the pretty proprietrees of the inn, "The Golden Dragon." She likes him but ejects his attentions because a young student is not for her. She wants to marry a man of high standing. His friends want to help him and at the same time give a lesson to Rosemary. They plan a comedy. John, the factotum of the college, acts as a millionaire; some students as servants . . . All is proceeding as they thought. Rosemary falls in love with the rich man. The students surprise her at a meeting with him, and when she discovers that her "millionaire" is no nobleman after all, she returns to her faithful adorer, John, and the little play ends with the happy reunion of the two lovers.

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MOZART BOYS' CHOIR

of Vienna

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MOZART BOYS' CHOIR OF VIENNA

Often mistaken for the Vienna Boys' Choir, the Vienna Mozart Boys' Choir was formed in 1937 by a former conductor-in-chief of the Vienna Boys' Choir (1930-1937), Dr. Georg Gruber, using several former members of that choir and others from Austria.

This choir (with members aged nine to fourteen) was the ill-fated group that got caught, literally, in the middle of World War II in Sept. 1939 when their ship (and return passage home) was taken over for the war effort. Stuck in Australia during their last leg of their world tour, everyone of these boys, save one, would remain in Australia not only throughout the duration of the war, but throughout the duration of their own lives.

What started out as a goodwill gesture with Melbourne's Archbishop Daniel Mannix allowing the boys to become members of his newly-formed 'St. Patrick's Cathedral Boys Choir' and local families providing a place for the "Twenty Nightingales of Vienna" to live, within a short amount of time, when Australia joined the war, the boys were seen as the enemy. Still, as a matter of survival (there was nothing they could do, they couldn't travel abroad and their families back home insisted they stay; also their leader, accused of being a Nazi, was imprisoned, never to be seen again by his very loyal choir), the boys persevered and nonetheless found a way to survive so far away from their families.

Many years later, when these boys, now old men, would recollect their ordeal, all said it was better that they had stayed in Australia, for a return home to Austria certainly would have been a death sentence.

Gruber ("Prisoner V2127") was finally released in November of 1947 and returned home to Austria where he was cleared of all charges following a deNazification tribunal. In 1953, he relocated to South Africa, obtaining the post of professor of music at Rhodes University. He founded the Rhodes University Chamber Choir. He was remembered as a quiet man, devout Catholic and 'everybody's kindly uncle'. He died there in 1979. [D. Miller]

https://www.boysoloist.com/artist.asp?VID=5428