

Inland Children's Chorus To Sing With Orchestra

Memorial Hall Yule Program Marks 16th Year They Appear Together

By A. S. KANY

When the Inland Children's Chorus appears with the Dayton Philharmonic in a Christmas program Dec. 18 in Memorial hall it will mark the 16th year the two musical organizations have performed together.

Also, the chorus, in returning to this dual set-up, will bring with it a new director.

Joseph P. Geiger, appointed director of the chorus in July of 1955, succeeds the late Richard Westbrook, who organized the chorus in 1935 and was its director until his death in January of 1955.

Geiger is a native Daytonian, having been graduated from Dayton schools and thereafter from the College of Music of the University of Cincinnati. At the university he majored in piano, organ and Gregorian chant.

During his 27 years of concert work he has devoted much of his time to training the voices of young people and children. He has been the director of a number of Dayton's leading church choirs and choral organizations.

The new director resides at 1431 Chadwick drive in Dayton where the family consists of

himself, his wife Mary Louise, and their 13-year-old daughter, Mary Agnes. Paul Ray Jones is accompanist for the group.

The Inland chorus is the outgrowth of Christmas parties for children of Inland division of General Motors and is in the midst of its 20th season. The chorus, when it appears before the public, consists of 50 boys in Eton suits and 50 girls in Alice blue gowns. There are 80 members in reserve to fill any vacancies that may occur.

Only sons, daughters and close relatives of Inland employes are eligible for membership and they must be between 8 and 16 years of age. It is estimated approximately 1,600 children have sung in the chorus since 1936.

To enable those who desire to continue their work with music after ineligibility to the chorus, Geiger has been at work on a plan to organize an adult or graduate choral group of 100.

During the last several years the chorus has been heard over the air, has participated in civic programs and has been praised as an outstanding deterrent to the tide of juvenile delinquency.



JOSEPH P. GEIGER
... Directs Inland