Adah Kelenkin's MOMENTS MUSICAL

The number of events featuring choirs and other vocal ensembles during this season attracts our attention to the magnificent possibilities of choral music as a means of art expression.

From time immemorial, choral singing has been associated with worship, in most religions and especially in our Judaic-Christian traditions.

There have been periods when the church defined the role of music in worship, as in the days of Palestrina.

In the evangelistic religions more emphasis has been placed on the emotional appeal of music and its role in worship.

* * *

WHEN CHORAL music is used as a medium of art expression, rather than as a purely religious experience, it then falls in the same category as any other musical performance, as does a symphony or a vocal or instrumental soloists.

The criteria for listening and evaluating what one hears is then based upon musical standards.

This is not to say, by any means, that choral music used in worship services, should be performed with lower musical standards.

With the growing access to conservatories, music departments in colleges and well conducted studios and the excellent choral programs heard on television and radio (if one selects with care), there is little excuse for choral conductors and singers not learning and using good basic techniques.

* * *

"LUSTY, HEARTY singing, "with plenty of rhythm" does not compensate for poor enunciation, lack of phrasing, bad tone quality, poor breathing habits, and careless attacks and releases.

If choral conductors have little knowledge of these techniques it would seem wise to avail themselves of the opportunities to improve themselves and, subsequently, their groups.

Time is precious and everyone has a busy schedule. It is unfair to musicians, amateur or professional, to waste valuable hours and energy, not to mention carfare or gasoline, attending rehearsals where basic technics of good choral performance are not taught and practiced.

On the local scene there are conductors and choral groups tha maintain consistently high standards of study and performance. May their tribe increase!

It is not often that one may indulge in superlatives, but the occasion of the annual performance of "The Messiah" by the music department of Douglass High School, is one such opportunity.

Such a polished and truly beautiful rendition of the Christmas section of this great oratorio would have done credit to any senior ensemble, let alone to students of high school age.

In fact, the entire production was given largely by young people. Here was ample proof that, given inspired and highly competent leadership, such as Georgianna McMechan Chester and her co-workers possess, our young people can achieve results that are little short of amazing.

Having heard the Douglass chorus do this work several previous years, one felt that this particular performance was marked by a relaxed atmosphere that was not present before.

There was an absence of the tension that somehow communicates itself from stage to audience when a masterpiece of such magnitude and difficulty as "The Messiah" is being sung. Perhaps, this year, there was a greater familiarity with the work than before and a broadening of its spiritual significance in the minds and hearts of the performers.

The soloists were in excellent shape, vocally. Junetta Jones grows to fuller musical stature at each hearing and was especially fine in "Hear Ye, Israel." The timbre and resonance of Dorothy Lofton's contralto, is reaching ample proportions.

Both are students at the Peabody Conservatory under the tutelage of Joseph Ladenburg. In Leroy O. Dorsey, of the music department of Howard University, one heard a bass who could achieve the florid writing of Handel with remarkable flexibility and ease. Joseph McCall, tenor, of Southern High School music faculty, lent distinction to his role. All of the soloists sang in excellent taste, neither belittling the moments of high drama nor oversinging the elaborate runs and trills.

Robert E. Anderson, of Douglas faculty, played the organ score with crystal clarity, yet without the bombastic style that can overpower the singers. The orchestra, conducted by Chester Rowlett, played the "Pastoral Symphony" with admirable simplicity. The concert was sponsored, by the Douglaas Parent-Teachers Association, Rev. Marcus Wood, pres., Mrs. Catherine J. Mayo, secy.-treasurer; Mrs. Mary C. Frazer, assistant. Mrs. Lillian Parrott, is principal; Mrs. Edna Over Gray and Feliz Barre, vice-principals.

The invocation and benediction were pronounced by Rev. Geo. Crawley.

* * *

A near-capacity audience field the Pennsylvania Ave. AME Zion Church for the pre-holiday concert by the Town Choir. Under the direction of William H. Wright, they were enthusiastically received.

The program was enhanced by the choir's official narrator, Mary West Griffin, who also gave several dramatic readings.

The chorus, which has been in existence for six years, sings with enthusiasm, no doubt, because they "love-to sing," as Mrs. Griffin stated. They give their conductor studious attention and the group had the potential for becoming a choir of enviable accomplishments. The soloists, a number of whom have an ample degree of talent were: Shirley Thomas, Naomi Ruth Sienenska, organist, soloist. Tickets are available at the Central Ticket Agency, 206 N. Liberty St.

* * *

SUNDAY, Jan. 6th at 7:30 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, Fremont and Edmondson Avenues: Schwarz Studios of Musical Art present piano and organ classes in recital, conducted by Arthur Fiedler, with Ruth Sienenska, organist, soloist. Tickets are available at the Central Ticket Agency, 206 N. Liberty St.

* * *

SUNDAY, Jan. 27th at 4 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church, since her early school days.

It was unfortunate that in several numbers with solos, as "Inflammatus" the volume of the chorus forced the soloists to use full voice where shading and delicate phrasing would have been much more expressive. One of the problems almost every choral group must conquer, is the achieving of a real "pianissimo" (very soft tone where needed.

This does not mean a lifeless whisper, but a vital, resonant tone, with sufficient breath to sustain, yet without volume.

The concert was sponsored by the Nurses Unit of the church, headed by Mrs. William Valentine, with Mrs. Lucille Anderson and Miss Plymouth McCoy as co-chairmen; Rev. G. M. Edwards, pastor.

* * *

THE GREAT Hymns Choir conducted by Rev. Daniel Rideout, was heard in a pre-holiday broadcast over Station WBAL.

Although the familiar Christmas carols have a heart-warming appeal, it is enjoyable to hear newly discovered ones. There is a rich store of these from countries of Central Europe in particular and many were brought to this country by immigrant settlers.

The Great Hymns Choir sang three delightful carols of Slovak origin, giving the full benefit of the interesting rhythms. The plain song "Veni, Emmanuel," one of the oldest of Christian hymns, was sung with simplicity of style and the pure tone that is traditional with music of that period.

Nearly all of the hymnals contain several of these "Noel songs" and it is a pity that choir masters do not use them more frequently.

The familiar Hymn of the Crusaders "Fairest Lord Jesus" was done with the descant (a sort of obbligato above the regular melody) by Peggy Nash. Altho the soloist seemed a little too close to the microphone the effect was pleasing on a whole. Descants have been written to a number of the carols and the talented choral conductor can supply his own if none are obtainable in print.

Another interesting device which adds variety and color to hymn singing, is the use of solo voices on one or more verses, with the full choir opening and closing.

This was heard to excellent effect in the 16th century hymn "I Will Praise My Maker," with Christina Connor, as soloist, "Balm of Gilead," a spiritual was done with simple, yet moving effect by Wendall Wright. Rev. Ridout is fortunate in having a sensitive and sympathetic accompanist in Frances Jefferson.

Calendar: Saturday, Jan. 5th at the Lyric at 8:30 p.m. the Boston Pops Tour Orchestra, Admission is free to the public.

Sunday, Jan. 27th at 4 p.m. McCulloh and Mosher Streets, Veronica Tyler, soprano, in concert.

'King, Four Queens' on screen at Met

A western with sex appeal comes to the Met Theatre starting January 1st. It is a delightful piece of screen entertainment called "The King and Four Queens."

"The King," aptly enough is none other than Clark Gable. And his four "Queens" are: the lovely Eleanor Parker: sloe eyed, blonde Barbara Nichols; gentle, sweet Sara Shane; and Jean Willes, an exotic, dark-haired beauty.

Ruling the roost over these four Queens, is the hard-bitten whip-handed Ma McDade, played by Jo Van Fleet, who will be best remembered for her Academy Award winning performance in "East of Eden."

Margaret Fitts' story, which was adapted for the screen by her and Richard Alan Simon, tells now three out of four of a gang of desperadoes are killed — and no one knows who the survivor is.

Season's Greetings
LINCOLN
936 Pennsylvania Ave.
On Our Giant Screen
SUN.-MON.-TUES. DEC. 30-31 JAN. 1
Richard Widmark in "THE LAST WAGON"
PLUS
Robert Ryan in "BACK FROM ETERNITY"
"Blazing The Overland Trail" Chapter No. 9
WED.-THURS. JAN. 2-3
Jeff Chandler and Rory Calhoun in "THE SPOILERS"
PLUS
"A KISS BEFORE DYING"
"Federal Operator 99"-No. 3
FRI.-SAT. JAN. 4-5
Ray Milland in "MAN ALONE"
PLUS
"VAGABOND KING"

Season's Greetings
ROOSEVELT
$12 West Biddle St.
On Our Giant Screen
SUN.-MON. DEC. 30-31
ROBERT WAGNER in "A Kiss Before Dying"
PLUS
"HOT CARS"
TUES.-WED. JAN. 1-2
7 MEN FROM NOW
RANDOLPH SCOTT
PLUS
DANA ANDREWS in "BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT"
THURS.-FRI.-SAT. JAN. 3-4-5
BURT LANCASTER AVA GARDNER
KILLERS
PLUS

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SEE the Sacred Ritual of the Sun Death!
The MOLE PEOPLE
STARRING JOHN AGAR CYNTHIA PATRICK
and 2nd BIG HIT!
SEE the massacre in the City of Albinos!
A man and woman... trapped in the forbidden Amazon wilds facing dangers never before brought to the screen!
"CURUCU, BEAST OF THE AMAZON"
VOO-DOO RITES OF HEAD-HUNTERS!
MAN AT GRIPS WITH JAGUAR FURY!
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TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY JAN. 8-9
June Allyson in "OPPOSITE SEX"
—ALSO—
"REBEL IN TOWN"
THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY JAN. 10-11-12
Esther Williams in "UNGUARDED MOMENT"
—ALSO—
"FRONTIER WOMAN"
Cartoons: "TWO LITTLE INDIANS" Also "POPEYE"

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RUBY FOUGHT... BIRDIE TEASED... ORALIE CRIED... SABINA WAITED FOR HIM WITH A SMILE...
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THE KING and FOUR QUEENS
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Music composed and conducted by Alex North · A NUNDI-PECO-GEMCO Production · Released thru United Artists
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The Raging, Rawhide Saga Of The "Tin-Star Tornado" Who Cleaned Out The West's Dirtiest Kitty-Town!
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RAW VIOLENCE...NAKED FURY!
Her fate staked on the ant-hill...
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2nd BIG HIT
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THE MAN IS ARMED
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with BARTON MacLANE
A REPUBLIC PICTURE

SHOW BILL

APOLLO — Now playing "SEVEN MEN FROM NOW" with Randolph Scott, also "CALLING HOMICIDE" with Bill Elliott. Tues. Wed. Thurs. "THE LAST WAGON" with Richard Widmark, also "THREE OR JAMIE DAWN" with Lorraine Day.

ROYAL NOW THRU MON. NEW YEAR'S DAY
MIDNITE FROLIC FRI., DEC. 28
★ ON STAGE ★
MR. SHOWMAN IN PERSON!
W-I-T-H's HOT ROD AND HIS ROCKET SHIP REVUE
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★ DANNY TAYLOR
★ VIV McWILLIAMS
★ GROUNDHOG
★ THE THORNS
★ GAUCHO
★ THE PLANETTES
★ TRACY McCLEARY'S ROYAL MEN OF RHYTHM
SCREEN — "HE LAUGHED LAST"
COMING TUESDAY (NEW YEAR'S DAY)
SEE THE PICTURE THEY'RE TRYING TO STOP!!!

ELIA KAZAN'S production of TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' boldest story!
baby doll
Only once in a great while a very special new star like CARROLL BAKER!
FROM WARNER BROS. STARRING KARL MALDEN-CARROLL BAKER-ELI WALLACH
PLUS — ADDED ADVENTURE ATTRACTION
"THE AMAZON TRADER"

HARLEM
STARTS TUES. (NEW YEAR'S DAY)
The Story of the Year
WOW
Written On the WIND
STARRING ROCK HUDSON · LAUREN BACALL
ROBERT STACK · DOROTHY MALONE

BRIDGE — Sun. Mon. Randolph Scott in "SEVEN MEN FROM NOW" also John Ireland in "BACK THE NIGHT" Tues. Wed. Joan Crawford in "THE SHARKFIGHTERS" also James Mason in "BIGGER THAN LIFE" Thurs. Fri. Dana Andrews in "BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT" also Paul Newman in "THE RACK"
EDEN — Now playing Robert Wagner in "A KISS BEFORE DYING" also Cornel Wilde in "STAR OF INDIA"
HARLEM — Now playing, "THE MOLE PEOPLE" with John Agar also "CURUCU" with John Bromfield.
MET — Now playing Walt Disney's "WESTWARD HO THE WAGONS"
NEW ALBERT — Now playing "FLESH and the SPUR" with Jean Sagar, also "THE MAN IS ARMED"
PARK — Sun. Mon. "THE SEARCHERS" with John Wayne, also "OUTSIDE THE LAW" with Ray Danton. Tues. Wed. "SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROCK" with Fats Domino, also "FRONTIER WOMAN" with Cindy Carson.
REGENT — Now playing "THE BLACK WHIP" starring Hugh Marlowe, also "THE QUEEN OF BABYLON" with Rhonda Fleming.
ROOSEVELT —
RITZ — Fri. Sat. Burt Lancaster in "THE KILLERS" also Richard Conte in "THE SLEEPING CITY". Sun. Mon. "THE LAST WAGON" also Van Johnson in "BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE". Tues. Wed. Victor Mature in "HE SHARK FIGHTERS" also "SOUTHWARD PASSAGE"
WALBROOK — Now playing Steve Allen in "THE BENNY GOODMAN STORY" also Jeff Chandler in "SEVEN MEN FROM NOW". Sun. Mon. Paul Newman in "THE RACK" also Dana Andrews in "BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT"

Bluefield grad crowned Miss Sepia Southwest

PULASKI, Va. — Miss D. M. DeBerry, a local elementary school teacher, recently was crowned "Miss Sepia Southwest" in coronation ceremonies at New Century Methodist Church.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calab DeBerry of Jenkinsjones, W.Va., the queen was crowned by Walter Wheatley, director of the Roanoke YMCA. The affair is sponsored annually by the local Corbin YMCA.

Miss Sepia Southwest is a magna cum laude graduate of Bluefield (W.Va.) State College and was sponsored by Albert McClanahan, who also acted as her escort.

* * *

THE AFFAIR got under way with a parade which included a motorcade, floats, decorated bicycles and pretty girls and climaxed with the coronation ceremonies.

Othe contestants and their sponsors are as follows:

Miss Prince Ella Hash, Radford, sponsored by Edward Claytor; Miss Rebecca Dobbs, Blacksburg, Miss Ester Byrd; Miss Dottie Homes, Pulaski, Mrs. Percy Homes; and Mrs. Eutha Brown, Mrs. McClanahan.

ESCORTS for contestants were Charles Stewart, Jr., James Cater Eutha Brown, and Joseph Clark.

The coronation program participants included Miss Patricia Sinkford of Bluefield, W.Va., who sang several selections. She was accompanied by Mrs. Helen Davis, also of Bluefield.

The queen was paid tribute by the Camera Club, 3434e Ladies Auxiliary, Cherokees, Mary White Bufords Woman's Club and the second grade class.

Other program participants were the Rev. I. G. Howard, religious director of Corbin YMCA; Wilson C Outten, general secretary of the YMCA; Valere Cook and Tokey Price, crown bearers.

A SOCIAL followed the coronation and program.

Out of town guests included Mrs. Calab DeBerry and granddaughter of Jenkins Jones W. Va.; Lt. and Mrs. Albert Brown, Roanoke; Samuel Richardson and Mrs. Stanley Sinkford and daughter of Bluefield, W.Va., Mr. and Mrs. M. Johnson of Blacksburg and Edward Claytor of Radford.

Ex-boxer faces Feb. 14 trial

WASHINGTON

Aaron Perry, 32-year-old former District welterweight boxing champion, will go on trial in District Court Feb. 14 on charges of criminal assault.

He is accused of attacking a 20-year-old woman after picking her up at a bus stop. The victim said she was going to a party, but Mr. Perry took her to the Soldier's Home grounds where he beat and criminally assaulted her.

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—2ND BIG HIT—
THE DESPERADOS ARE IN TOWN

37 in running for 7 county council seats

Eager to help Baltimore County launch its new charter form of government, 32 candidates are in the race for the seven seats on the County Council.

Of that number, 24 are Democrats, and eight are Republicans.

The Republican State Central Committee put up a slate of seven men, and one Republican filed as an independent.

Seventeen Democrats filed as independents, and seven others were nominated by the Democratic State Central Committee.

Republican candidates are: First District — John K. Davis;

Second — William C. Coleman, and Vernon L. Piel.

Third — Gordon G. Power.

Fourth — William B. Edeler.

Fifth — John Lassahn.

Sixth — Eugene B. Skarle.

Seventh — Charles G. Irish.

Democratic hopefuls are:

First District — Dr. J. Fred Andrews, Edwin J. Elmore Jr., T. Burgess Hamilton Sr., Edward D. Hardestry and Wilson C. Warren.

Second — Arthur B. Price Jr., Harry S. Shapiro, and Joseph Luskin.

Third — Douglas Parks and Richard L. Graham.

Fourth — J. Cavendish Darrell, Frank W. Miller, George W. H. Pierson, Mrs. Muriel B. Maynadier, William E. Chamberlain, and Herbert H. Tyler.

Fifth — Gerald V. Caldwell and John Bohlen Jr.

Sixth — Joseph L. Schield and Ellis S. Rickmers.

Seventh — James M. Barry, William Gattus, Walter Brooks Bradley and Joseph Gjacubeno.

Wins $10,000 in housepower contest

Mrs. Mary Brown, secretary to a school principal and mother of two grown children, was named the grand prize winner in the national "How's Your HOUSEPOWER?" contest sponsored by the Edison Electric Institute. She received a check for $10,000.

Mrs. Brown, who lives 1314 N. 57th St., Philadelphia, is secretary to the principal of the George Brooks School. Her husband is a receiving supervisor at the John Wanamaker Co.

The couple have a grown son and daughter. Mrs. Brown intends to use the prize money to help less fortunate members of her family and to help her husband pay for their home.

SHE WAS selected as grand prize winner in the nation-wide contest by a panel of five judges and her entry was chosen from among 25 top monthly winners in the contest which ran from May through September.

All winning entries were judged on the basis of their ability to properly fill out a 12-part entry blank and the quality of their written answers completing the statement, "It's smart to invest in full HOUSEPOWER because . ."

The $100,000 cont st, which was designed to help educate the public in the recognition and aims of the HOUSEPOWER program to update the wiring in an estimated 20,000,000 American homes, attracted 316,771 entries from all parts of the nation.

$111 gift in pennies to center

ASBURY PARK — The true meaning of Christmas was touchingly demonstrated here last week when members of the Golden Age Club presented $111 saved in pennies to the West Side Community Center for its building fund.

The presentation was made by Mrs. Mary West to F. Leon Harris, president of the center's board of trustees, at a party honoring members of the Golden Age Club.

The party was sponsored by the Jersey Shore Woman's Club, with Mrs. William Morgan as chairman.

The club of aged citizens is affiliated with the center.

Vandals wreck Camp Atwater

PALMER, Mass. — The Rev. Eugene Sparrew, director of Camp Atwater, said this week that contributions are sorely needed to repair damage to the camp's facilities resulting from acts of vandalism.

Following an inspection of the 21-year-old summer camp which is owned by the Springfield Urban League, the Rev. Mr. Sparrow said that a minimum of $800 would be required to repair buildings and equipment.

Two juveniles, now in the custody of police, are accused of having broken into nine of the camp's buildings and gone on a wholesale spree of destruction in which doors, windows, games and sporting equipment were smashed.

THE REV. MR. SPARROW pointed out that the entire funds for operation and maintenance of the camp are ob-

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"COCKLESHELL HEROES"
JOSE FERRER
—ALSO—
"STORM CENTER"
BETTE DAVIS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 3 BIG FEATURES 3 JAN. 4-5
No. 1—"THE SHARK-FIGHTERS"
TECHNICOLOR! VICTOR MATURE
No. 2
"THE GAMMA PEOPLE"
PAUL DOUGLAS