MUSICAL MOMENTS

Holiday concerts featured talent, religious plays

By ADAH K. JENKINS

A highly successful holiday concert was held at Dulaney High School under the direction of William O. Myers.

Performing were the Musica Antiqua Ensemble, mixed and concert treble choirs, brass ensemble and baroque orchestra.

Robert Dure, gue stenor soloist, who has appeared with a number of local groups, including the Baltimore Civic Opera, was heard in arias from "Messiah."

Dulaney soloists were: Paul Wilson, Sandy Spring, soprano; Sandra Fitch, contralto and Eric Shaffer, bartione.

The combined concert choir and orchestra concluded the concert with "Hallelujah Chorus" from "Messiah." Ralph Lanning and Fred Frey were in charge of the instrumentalists.

A letter Mr. Myers received from Mr. and Mrs. D. Benson, two parents of the school, evidenced the interest and appeal of the program.

"We just can't believe that you have accomplished with these youngsters in three months ... It is the first formal concert given by the Dulaney students ...

"The mechanics were there very solidly as base from which beauty and expressiveness could soar ... The Madrigal (Musica Antiqua) is a charming group, as appealing as they are technically accomplished ... The young musicians, as adults, will be thronging iur concert halls as a result of the breadth and inquiry being brought to their work with you ..."

The Young Dulanians, a jazz singing group at the school, will be conducted by Mr. Myers at the USO, Gebernors and Aberdeen Clubs this month.

In the traditional candlelight at Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church a beautifully ordered morning service introduced Saint-Saen's "Christmas Oratorio."

our concert halls as a re-

Conducted by choirmaster Clarence Henderson, the Senior Choir gave a meaningful interpretation of the work, which is one of praise and inspiration rather than a relating of the Christmas story.

As guest soloists, Roberta Long, soprano, and George Harshaw, both well known, experienced singers and voice teachers from Washington, added their talents and musicianship to fine effect.

From the choir Odelle Battle, meezo and Ronald Staggers, tenor handled solo assigments with their usual dependable skill.

M. Almira Miller at the organ, gave ample support, matching the registations to the voices very effectively.

The religious worship was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Reginald Daniels, who also is a member of the choir.

At the evening service Mack Statham, well known organist, gave a concert of seasonal music.

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The combined choirs of Douglas Memorial Community Church presented the annual Christmas musical on a recent Sunday under the direction of J. Spencer Hammond, choirmaster.

Their program ranged from 17th century Sacred Songs by Schuetz and an anthem from Mendelssohn's "Christus" to spirituals arranged by Work and Dawson.

The Douglas choirs, which have achieved an enviable reputation for performance of modern as well as traditional works, did "The Three Kings," a six-part contemporary composition by Williams.

The refreshing voices of the Youth Choir and excellent voice leading by a male ensemble were highlights of the evening.

Juanita H. Davis at the organ, lent dependable support to the choral and solo performances.

The Rev. Marion Bascom, pastor, offered the opening and closing prayers.

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Robert E. Lee Junior High School No. 49 held its annual holiday assembly in the auditorium of Mt. Royal Elementary School.

Staged and conducted by William H. Meredith Birche Jr., the program included a guest soloist from the community — Gladys Purnell Goodwyn, "the singing nurse."

The school choir, accompanied by flute, xylophone and drums, offered a cantata "Christmastide" by Riegger. Works by Bach, Byrd and Fleming were sung by the youthful choristers also.

A "Sing-a-long" afforded the audience participation with Robert Rossbottom, L. Creighton, J. Parker and E. Blue leading.

The Robert E. Lee Little Players presented a playlet. The entire program was aided by a faculty committee and student staff members. Theodore A. Woronka is principal.

The medieval custom of presenting religious plays in the church has seen an interesting revival in recent years. One of the most authentic and beautiful ones was held at the Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal) when the Candlelight concert Series of Peabody presented "The Play of Herod."

The 12th century musical drama was performed by the New York Pro Musica, an intercultural group, directed by John Reeves White.

With its Gothic-modern architecture and subdued lighting the sanctuary provided a suitable setting, with the stage mounted high above the alter.

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The story was developed by the choristers, accompanied by reproductions of medieval instrumen's that blended effectively with the plain chant.

Narration written by the famous author, Archibald MacLeish and given by Igors Gavon (in English) added a modern philosophy to the Biblical story.

As most of the cast entered through the church aisles, a close view was afforded of the authentic costumes. A capacity audience attended the concert which was the fourth in the Candlelight Series.

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CALENDAR: Sunday, Jan. 19 at 3:30 p.m. at Payne Memorial AME Church, Madison Ave. and Laurens St. Gladyce Purnell Goodwyn, mezzo soprano, in recital, with William Meredith H. Birche Jr. at the piano, presented by the Ways and Means Committee for Women's Day.

Sunday, Jan. 19 at 5 p.m. in the parish hall of Metropolitan Methodist Church, Carrollton Ave. and Lanvale St. a film on piano playing, presented by the Piano Teachers Activity Group. Free.

Jan. 19 at 8:30 p.m. at Goucher College, Masuko Ushioda, violinist with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Elliott Galkin.

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 8:30 p.m. at Goucher College, a harpsichord recital by Joseph Stephens, sponsored by the Bach Society of Baltimore.

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Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the Lyric at 8:30 p.m. the Baltimore Symphony, with Leopold Stokowski, guest conductor, in music by Bach, Beethoven, Britten and Stravinsky.

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 3 p.m. at the Baltimore Museum, the German duo pianists, Alfons and Aloys Kontarsky, sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Baltimore, in music by Debussy, Stravinsky, Stockhausen, Bussosotti and Messiaen.

Sunday, Feb. 2 at 3 p.m. at Philharmonic Hall, New York the Symphony of the New World, directed by Benjamin Steinberg, with Sanford Allen, violinist and Gerald Warburg, cellist.

Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Baltimore Museum, The Wandering Opera Players in scenes from "Mikado," "Hanrel and Gretel," "Traciata" and "La Boheme." Presented by Young Audiences.

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