

The Sunday Spotlight

Before the Masters Were Old

By WILLIAM L. DOUBN (State Journal Music Editor)

As long as you live, you will hear arguments over the "old masters" and the new men of arts, in music, sculpture, painting, literature, and the rest.

In the field of music, particularly, it is difficult to say what works of contemporary composers—or, for that matter, what contemporary composers—will be known and respected tomorrow. The audiences, the critics, the teachers, and the composers of yesterday usually couldn't decide what would live and what wouldn't.

In many cases, fellow composers were the best judges—Mozart, for example, in his appraisal of the young Beethoven.

But in the main the situation was yesterday as it is today. We tend to judge contemporary writers by the standards of their predecessors. We have learned to listen in patterns, and we find it difficult to project our consciousness of music outside the barriers which those patterns become, just as our forefathers did.

Johann Sebastian Bach died in 1850. Who will predict which composers of today will be considered great 101 years from now? Will Irving Berlin be on the list? Milhaud? Schoenberg? Morton Gould? Charles Ives?

Let's go back through the years and find very briefly, what their audiences and critics thought of the men we call "old masters"—before they were either old or called masters.

Of Bach, we learn that "the attention bestowed upon (his) compositions during his lifetime" was "indifferent," although he was considered a great organist.

Berlioz' opera, "The Damnation of Faust," was a "dismal failure" at its opening, as was Beethoven's "Fidelio" (although this composer was one of those whose works were almost unanimously hailed during his life).

Russia's Borodin owed his initial success to the praise of Franz Liszt, as Brahms was introduced by Schumann.

Debussy's dissonances, now popular, were once called "harsh" or "biting" and the first audience booed and hissed "Pellets et Meisande," whose music, said H. Imbert, a Parisian critic, was "indefinite, strange, escaping, full of harmonic hardness."

Another writer said that "rhythm, melody, tonality... are three things that are unknown to M. Debussy."

Cesar Franck's D-minor symphony was attacked in the Parisian press as "without verve or color," a critic finding "a lack of fire of genius, lack of inspiration, lack of freshness."

Gluck's best known opera, "Orfeo," was a failure. But who hears now of Puccini, his greatest rival? And Gounod's "Faust" likewise was disapproved by its first audience and its first critics. The composer could not even get it published until several years after the opening.

Well, that gives you a sketchy idea. A volume could be written.

One might come up with the conclusion that those who were successful during their lifetimes were the ones who wrote largely in the styles and by the rules of their predecessors; that those who achieved success only after death were the ones who made sharp breaks with tradition, who jarred their listeners.

Obviously, there are exceptions to both. But I have a hunch that one could document this viewpoint easily through the vast amounts of source material available.

Maybe I oughta write a book.



Uncle Ray's Corner

Belgian Invented Saxophone

There are dozens of kinds of musical instruments, but very few of them carry the names of their inventors.

The piano and the organ have long histories, but we cannot call one person the inventor of either of them. Many men in many countries have worked to make the present-day piano and organ what they are.

Even harder would it be to speak of an inventor for the harp or the horn. In one form or another, the harp and horn go back for thousands of years.

Sax Invented Saxophone

Of the few instruments which carry the names of their inventors, the best known is the saxophone. It was named after Adolphe Sax.

When Napoleon adopted the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium, Sax was an infant. His family lived

only 40 miles from the battlefield.

At the age of 28, Sax moved from Belgium to France, and it was in France that he made the first saxophone. This instrument he patented 105 years ago.

Adolphe Sax was a very busy inventor. Not only did he construct the alto, tenor and soprano saxophones, but he also altered the bass clarinet by placing keys over the holes. Another of his inventions was an improved train whistle.

Sold 'Musical Thunder'

A man described as a "salesman of musical thunder" seems to have been the first to place the saxophone in American bands. His name was Patrick Gilmore. At one concert, Gilmore used eight saxophones in a band of 100 players.

A saxophone has a tube which is doubled over at the bottom and curved upward. The reed mouthpiece is like that of a clarinet; it is slanted away from the main part of the tube, almost at right angles to it.

On the tube are many finger-keys. These keys open and shut the holes along the side of the tube.

Saxophones are widely used in military bands, and are important in producing jazz.

A Frenchman named Sarus also gave his name to a musical instrument. He invented the "sarrusphone."

Hornlike in shape, the sarrusphone is commonly made of brass. It gives out sounds very much like those of the bassoon, and it can be used as a substitute for the bassoon in a band.

Religion

8:30 a. m. — Capital Cathedral (WIBA): "Things Taken for Granted," the Rev. Charles A. Puls.

9:35 a. m. — Bethel Lutheran (WIBA): "Let Freedom Ring," the Rev. L. A. Benson; anthem, "This Is My Father's World," soloist, Marion Schuchardt.

10 a. m. — Religion for Today (WIBA): "Society Is Your Responsibility," Fred I. Cairns.

10:30 a. m. — Catholic Hour (WKOW): "It Did Happen to an American," the Rev. A. R. Breines.

11 a. m. — First-University Methodist (WISC): "Responsibility Unlimited."

11:15 a. m. — First Congregational (WIBA): "The Family of Man and the Family of God," the Rev. Richard L. Snyder.

1:30 p. m. — Graham Newsy (WHA): "Background of the News" on WHA-FM at 8:45 p. m.

2 p. m. — American Forum (WIBA): "What's Ahead — War or Peace?" Sens. Harry P. Cain (R-Wash.) and Robert S. Kerr (D-Okla.).

2:30 p. m. — Chicago Roundtable (WMAQ): "European Delusions About Prof. Walter Johnson."

3:30 p. m. — Theatrical Guild (WIBA): "The Loneliest Fear of All" with Fredric March, Florence Eldridge.

3:30 p. m. — Proudy We Hall (WFOV): Lee Tracy in "Mr. Truly and the Horn" — Mr. and Mrs. Blannings (WMAQ): Cary Grant and Betsy Drake build history's most expensive barn.

4:30 p. m. — "The Loneliest Fear of All" (WMAQ): with Fredric March, Florence Eldridge.

5 p. m. — Charlie Wild (WKOW): counterfeiter's wife gives some betting tips.

7:30 p. m. — Theater Guild (WIBA): Katharine Cornell in first radio production of "Candida."

8 p. m. — Meet Corlis Archer (WKOW): croquet set starts family feud.

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Classified Highlights of Today's Radio Schedule

Table with columns for radio stations (WIBA, WISC, WKOW, WBU, WBBM, WENR-WLS, WGN, WMAQ) and their respective programs for Sunday.

WFOV-FM

Table listing WFOV-FM programs including 'The Big Show', 'The Loneliest Fear of All', and 'Theatrical Guild'.

WHA and WHA-FM

Table listing WHA and WHA-FM programs including 'The Loneliest Fear of All', 'Theatrical Guild', and 'Proudy We Hall'.

Grace Chimes for Week Listed

Text describing the Grace Chimes for the week, including hymns and church services.

Advertisement for Madison Radio Shop, featuring 'Special Radio Repairs' and contact information.

Advertisement for 'All Diamonds Were Not Created Equal'.

Advertisement for 'See What You Buy with the Diamond Scope'.

Advertisement for 'Zenith '75 Hearing Aids'.

Advertisement for 'The Prescription Pharmacy, Inc.'.

Advertisement for 'W. E. Lentin & Son'.

Sunday's Crossword Puzzle

A large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for words.

Word list for the crossword puzzle, including words like 'Absorbed', 'Pronoun', 'Heard', etc.



CORNELL TRUMAN

Special Events

3 p. m. — Festival of Music (WIBA): Madison elementary and junior high school choruses, band, and orchestra.

10 p. m. — Catholic War Veterans (WISC): highlights of banquet at Hotel Loraine.

Drama

9 a. m. — Destination Freedom (WMAQ): "The Test," story of intelligence exam for draft deferment.

2 p. m. — The Falcon (WMAQ): night club fire uncovers murder.

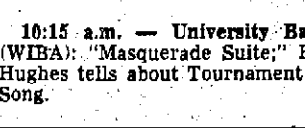
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KERR PONS

Music

10:15 a. m. — University Band (WIBA): "Masquerade Suite," Bill Hughes tells about Tournament of Song.

Advertisement for 'Tired of Imperfect Hearing?' featuring 'TONECRAFT' hearing aids.

Large advertisement for 'Lady Borden Black Raspberry Ice Cream' with an image of the ice cream container.