

Radio Highlights

By Richard L. Coe

From Vatican City comes the singing of a new Mass by Msgr. Refice. The work, composed in honor of the Virgin of Sorrows and dedicated to Pope Pius XII, has been designed as an appropriate conclusion to a year of sadness and will be sung by a choir of 50—WMAL, 8 a. m.

The Right Rev. James E. Freeman, Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Washington, reflects on the old and new years—WJSV, 10 a. m.

Heard infrequently on the Radio City Music Hall of the Air, the Music Hall's celebrated Glee Club sings three seldom performed choral works of Jan Sibelius: "Hail O Moon," "Sailing Seaward" and "Song Now Stilled." The String Symphony, under Erno Rapee, plays the First Movement of Schubert's Quintet in C major; Sinigaglia's Etude-Caprice and, with Henrietta Schumann at the piano, Mendelssohn's Concerto in D minor—WMAL, 12 noon.

Editors of the Associated Press select the "Ten Biggest News Stories of 1939" for dramatization on a special N. B. C. program. Making no attempt to rank the stories in order of importance but listing the events chronologically, the newsmen deemed only three happenings prior to the signing of the Russo-German pact worthy of inclusion—WRC, 1 p. m.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt contributes a New Year's message to "Curtain Calls of 1939," a two-hour program that will include a galaxy of nationally-known figures: David Sarnoff, president of RCA; Walter Damrosch, Frank Black, Bill Stern, sports announcer; Joe DiMaggio the American League's most valuable player; the Information Please battalion; the ten actors who, through the years, have played Jeeter Lester in "Tobacco Road"; Carmen Miranda, John Charles Thomas, Alec Templeton, Glen Miller's Orchestra and a repeat performance of Arch Oboler's "Mr. Pip"—WMAL, 1:30 p. m.

That amazing youngster of six, Alan Bendiner, whose expert knowledge of music won first honors a fortnight ago on So You Think You Know Music, returns to the amusing quiz to show Leon Leonigoff, producer, and Erica Morini, violinist, that his triumph was no fluke—WJSV, 2:30 p. m.

University of Chicago professors gather at the Round Table to view the trends of 1939—WRC, 2:30 p. m.

John Barbirolli leads the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Society Orchestra: Overture, "L'Italiana in Algeri," Rossini; Symphony in A major, Mendelssohn; "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring," Delius; "Enigma" Variations, Elgar—WJSV, 3 p. m.

Paul Robson returns to the Pursuit of Happiness to sing "Ballad for Americans," of which his first rendition two months ago brought an audience to its feet. Ethel Barrymore and Clifton Fadiman dramatize a scene from George R. Leighton's book "America's Growing Pains"—WJSV, 4:30 p. m.

New Year's Day, 1790, as the New York Daily Advertiser reported it, is brought to life on the World Is Yours—WRC, 4:30 p. m.

Alfred Wallenstein continues his Bach Cantata series with Genevieve Rowe, soprano; William Hain, tenor; Mary Hopple, contralto; and Raoul Nadeau, barytone—WOL, 7 p. m.

Biting the hand that feeds him, Gene Autry burlesques "South of the Border" and Eddie Cantor, bearing in mind Marlene Dietrich's success at out-westerning the westerns, joins him on the Screen Guild—WJSV, 7:30 p. m.

Charlie McCarthy says au revoir to some of his playmates, for the new year will find that blockhead's program sawed in half. Dorothy Lamour and Don Ameche will be on the limb—WRC, 8 p. m.

The American Forum of the Air, through an authoritative group, views "America's Outlook": Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins; Eugene Meyer, publisher of The Washington Post; James L. Fly, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission; Milburn L. Wilson, Under-Secretary of Agriculture; Paul McNutt, Federal Security Administrator; Frank Graves, president of Phi Beta Kappa; W. Gibson Carey, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce; Sam A. Lewisohn, Art and Music patron, and Walter B. Cannon, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science—WOL, 8 p. m.

Orson Welles dramatizes the Edna Ferber novel, "Come and Get It"—WJSV, 8 p. m.

Grace Moore sings on the Sunday Evening Hour: "Pomp and Circumstance," No. 1 Elgar; "Midnight Bells," Kreisler; "Un Bel Di," from Mme. Butterfly, Puccini; Farandole, Bizet; "Hail Ye Time of Holidays," Branscombe; "Toi Soule," Chaikovski; "Naila" waltz, Delibes; "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny," Marche Slav, Chaikovski—WJSV, 9 p. m.

The Mutual, Columbia and N. B. C.-Red networks present a maze of dance orchestras until 4 a. m. when, after some weary hours, 1940 comes to the Hawaiian Islands—WOL, WJSV and WRC, 11:15 p. m.

From the steps of the Capitol Building comes an interfaith Watch Night Service, arranged by the Committee on Religious Life in the Nation's Capital. The Rev. John K. Cartwright, Dr. Albert J. McCartney and Rabbi Norman Gerstenfeld are to speak and a choir under the direction of Mrs. Ruby Smith Stahl will sing—WMAL, 11:30 p. m.

From old Trinity Church at the foot of Wall Street in New York, come chimes to herald 1940—WMAL, and WRC, 11:59 p. m.