

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Monthly Report
September
1952

Beginning of Fall Session

The Music Department commenced lessons September 2. Although all parents had been called before the August vacation in regard to their children continuing in September, some had not been able to give definite answers for various reasons. Hence, the build-up to full attendance took the first three weeks of the month. A few children continued for the first week or two and then were dropped for reasons of financial difficulties or lack of interest. These billets were filled as rapidly as possible from the waiting list. Some parents of summer school children had asked to have a place reserved for them during the fall, but did not make the decision of whether or not the child was to continue until the second or third week in the month. Hence it was not immediately possible to fill the enrollment to capacity. As of September 30 the number of children actually taking lessons and planning to continue was 162. As of October 10 the number was 175.

Scholarships

A rapidly increasing number of children are desiring to apply for scholarship privileges. As of September 30, the number of scholarship students was 40, or 25% of the enrollment. Thirty of these are on full (\$5) scholarships and the remainder are on partial scholarships. Total monthly scholarship disbursement equals \$187.60. There is need for enlargement of the scholarship funds available, not only to meet extension of present commitments into the future, but to expand this necessary area of work. With the exception of a small number of individuals who miss altogether not more than two scheduled activities per month, all the scholarship children are taking full advantage of their opportunity for learning and recreation in the music program. These one or two cases per month are those of children whose interest was initiated by a friend to register for music lessons but whose parents were indifferent to the activities of the child and so little or no encouragement is forthcoming from the home environment. It is felt that the small incidence of such cases justifies a generous attitude toward children who do wish to begin music but whose parents are not the ones who initiate the contact. Only after the child has had the chance to try and the teacher an opportunity to work with the child is it possible to determine with fair accuracy whether the child's interest will be sustained.

The music staff feels that the scholarship children exhibit a noticeably greater amount of talent than the non-scholarship children, although there is less direction and stabilizing influence toward continuous study than on the part of children whose parents assume financial responsibilities.

626

Music Appreciation Classes

Classes in music appreciation, notation, theory, etc., commenced the third week in September after the school schedules of the children became more definite. All the students in the department were classified according to age plus previous music experience and study. Thus there is a beginners class for each of the following age groups: 7,8,9, 10 to 12, and 13 to 17; an intermediate class for 7 to 9, 10 to 12 and two intermediate classes 13 to 17; a Music for Tots age 4 to 6. In addition to these classes there are two classes in folk dancing Saturday mornings, one for older children and one for younger children. Approximately two-thirds of the total number of children enrolled are actually reporting for classes. A few are excused by request due to conflict with language school hours in the afternoons and a few simply do not attend.

Other Activities in the Department

On Wednesday evenings the Music Department is used for rehearsals of the La Traviata chorus preparing for the Honolulu Symphony Society's forthcoming production. One faculty member is involved. On Friday nights the new "442nd Club" men's chorus rehearses also under the direction of music staff. Approximately 30 persons are involved in the former and from 15 to 20 in the latter. The Territorial Sight Conservation Group Club plans to continue use of the department facilities for their monthly meetings.

Staff Changes

Mrs. Leola Wilkins assumed the secretarial duties September 15. Decision to add another faculty member to the staff was reached during the month and steps have been taken to fill the new position.

Program

A modest Christmas program of gift giving is planned for December 18 among the children during the afternoon. The formal program for parents and the public is being planned for January 9. It was felt that rather than crowd up the usual Christmas period with repetitive Christmas programs, a New Year's program would be staged along the lines of the Oriental tradition of celebration during the first few weeks of the new year. This would make possible the use of some of the musical and dance material of Oriental folk culture.