

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Monthly report to the Director for September 1954

The fall plans for the Music Department were laid in September and envisaged the following projects:

Two benefit concerts -

a Baroque Chamber concert - Oct. 29
a Children's Chorus concert - Dec. 3

Public launching of the Palama-Kiwanis band in Dec. or Jan.

Recitals and new-parents meetings.

Faculty active in Community Music affairs.

The Benefit Concerts

With \$922 left to raise for the 1954 Scholarship and subsidy fund, the staff decided to divide efforts between a chamber music concert at the First Methodist Church designed to appeal to long-hair music enthusiasts and a Children's Chorus concert featuring the Palama Settlement Children's Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Keun Nyu Park and accompanied by Miss Thelma Chock.

The Chamber concert will feature the popular 5th Brandenburg Concerto of Bach, a difficult but rewarding work for small chamber orchestra with three solo instruments: flute, violin and piano; Prelude and Fugue in D major for organ by Bach, one of the great organ classics which will be performed by Mrs. Dorothy Young Mallory, our recent addition to the piano faculty; the fourth cantata from the Christmas oratorio by Bach with the First Methodist Church choir assisted by the chamber orchestra.

It is hoped that upwards of \$500 will be raised in this first concert, with the balance coming from the Children's concert.

The Children's Chorus started rehearsals in September with an enthusiastic 75 children attending. A considerable amount of time has been spent in getting the parents to understand the importance of the singing experience and also in helping to keep the attendance up.

The staff is looking forward to the possibility of an inter-island tour for the chorus during Easter vacation in 1955.

The Palama-Kiwanis Band

The two student-conductors, Hajime Kuwada and Eugene Yonamine have been doing a good job in strengthening the work of the band this summer and the results are readily evident. The attendance is steady around 25 with less turnover now that the prospects of public performance are nearing.

Sept. 1954

A fine parents group was formed of fathers and mothers of the band members during the summer. At their first meeting since vacation, they made plans for a fund raising project for the purpose of augmenting the \$500 pledged by the Kiwanis for band uniforms. The parents have expressed a deep appreciation for this free interest activity for their children. One father said to me, "My son was doing poor work in school and wasn't interested in anything. Since he started playing the instrument (clarinet), he works at it all the time and he's really interested. We feel better about it now."

The band will perform at the World Adventurers showing in December or January.

Recitals and New-Parents meetings

Plans were laid for frequent student recitals for the fall period, the first of which took place October 16 with an attendance of 75 parents and children. The students performed well and played without much nervousness, the emphasis being placed more on the element of informality and 'playing for one another' than on the usual frightening recital atmosphere.

The first new-parents meeting of the fall period took place in September at which time teachers outlined their philosophy concerning problems of home practicing, group study and parental help, rates of progress among different children, purchase of new pianos, and other topics. Parents displayed a keen interest in the discussion and the few parents of more experienced students who were present brought out salient points which they have found useful in their own experiences. These meetings will take place from time to time as new students are added to our rolls.

Faculty active in Community Music

The Honolulu Community Chorus which performed in the successful Beethoven concert last January with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra has again been invited to perform this season. The major choral-orchestral work will be Haydn's "Creation", one of the great oratorio classics and will be performed with chorus, soloists and orchestra in the February series of concerts. Mr. John Kelly, head of the Music Department is musical director of the chorus and will train both the chorus and the solo ensemble. Miss Thelma Chock, another of our piano teachers is accompanist for the Honolulu Community Chorus.

Mrs. Dorothy Young Mallory, who is one of the leading young organists in the country having recently won a national competition in the organ field, will present a public organ recital at the Central Union Church in the month of January.

Mrs. Keum Nyu Park returned in August from the Robert Shaw Choral Workshop in San Diego brimming full of enthusiasm and eager to apply her enthusiasm and new ideas to the work of the Palama Children's Chorus. Her trip was made possible by the combined efforts of the McInerney Trust, the Music Department and the Friends of Palama.

Mrs. Leola Wilkins, our flute & piano teacher, is first flutist with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and is active in the public school instrumental demonstration program as well as in local chamber concert activities.

John Kelly, Dir.
Music Department

