

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Minutes of Staff Meeting Held on August 1,2, 1955.

Present: Thelma Chock, Dorothy Mallory, Zaneta Richards, Eleanor Ho, Setsuko Masuda, John Kelly, Walters Ehlers, and Winnie Chun.

Mr Kelly gave a brief resume of the objectives of the Music Department as part of Palama for the benefit of new members of the staff. The main objective for this coming September will be to offer a more broadened and diversified program in the musical field. In the past, the music department has been more or less a glorified piano studio and we are now to introduce other instruments such as violin, cello and band instruments.

### Semester Dates and Fees

The Fall and Spring semester will each contain 17 teaching weeks of which the following fees will be charged:

\$25.00 for group instruction

\$35.00 for private lessons

The summer session will run for 7 (teaching) weeks and the rate will be:

\$10.00 for group instruction

\$15.00 for private lessons

### Problems of Semester Plan

One of the main problems would be the shifting of a combined student in the middle of a semester to a private lesson. This would mean an adjustment of the fee at the beginning of the next school year.

All group instruction to remain in the \$25.00 category until the end of the second year when they will be shifted to a private fee basis, except as noted above.

Another problem was that although a copy of the policies of the Music Department is given out to all parents, a good percentage of these parents either do not know how to read or do not understand the contents of the policy. It was agreed that a policy be printed in Japanese since approximately 2/3rds of our enrollment comes from Japanese families.

### Recitals and Concerts

The general feeling of the music staff was that all of the students should be given a chance to play during the year. It was estimated that with an enrollment of 300 it would be necessary to present at least 8 recitals per year. Miss Chock felt that this would be too many-with 2 concerts per year to prepare for and she felt that she needed at least 5 weeks to prepare a student for a recital. It was agreed that small recitals will be given by each teacher during some Saturday or Sunday afternoon and the more advanced pupils to be presented in a "Students Concert" 3 times a year-in the evenings. (Once each semester)

Mr. Kelly reported that in the proposed budget for 1956, the scholarship fund (which was raised by the department) has been lowered to \$2600 from \$3600.



It was proposed that two concerts will be presented during the year to <sup>be</sup> raise <sup>help</sup> this amount. One of these concerts (Spring) will feature the Children's Chorus, the Kiwanis-Palama Band and outside talent. This concert will be held in the Palama area (Farrington High School) and the ticket sales will be concentrated among the parents of the students from this department. The other concert will be of a smaller scale and will be presented elsewhere, featuring chamber music, to be performed by members of the staff and what contacts they can make.

The Children's Chorus will also work towards a Christmas Program (in conjunction with any other Palama program at that time) to be presented for the neighborhood but will not be a fund raising project. It was suggested that this program be presented before the public schools are out for their two week vacation, otherwise it would be difficult to get the children together for rehearsals.

### Children's Chorus

The staff was asked who would be the possible leader and conductor of the Children's Chorus for the coming year. The general feeling was that Mr. Kelly would be the best probability since he has had the experience and knows the problems involved. Wini Chun suggested that Mr Kelly refrain from teaching piano students and only teach Voice if handling of the Chorus plus administrative duties might present problems. It was also agreed that Chorus can only be held successfully on Saturdays and the past Chorus rehearsals scheduled for week days were a complete failure due to language school conflict. Mr Kelly suggested that an outing for the Chorus once a semester might stimulate the objectives of the Chorus. By this means, he felt that the Chorus could be transported to a beach or mountain for picnic and participate in informal singing.

After much discussion, it was agreed that 9:00 a.m. Saturday be set as rehearsal time for the Chorus with the first meeting scheduled in early October.

The "juice break" will occur after one hour and then they will continue for half-hour, thereby making the rehearsals one and one half hours in length.

### Theory Classes

The following three class schedules were proposed to begin the week of October 3rd.

Tuesday 3:15

Wednesday 3:15

~~Thursday 4:15~~

*changed to Fri. 4:15*

The problem of who is going to teach these classes was discussed. One suggestion was to have Mr Homer Keller handle all three classes and teach less piano. This would make it possible to have one teacher prepare all the material and would then be easier to fit the children in the particular class he should be in. It was decided that this would be discussed with Mr. Keller and if this is not suitable the classes will be divided among the teachers with perhaps Mr. Keller choosing the material to be used.

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The new members of the staff were informed of the past difficulty of scheduling of these classes due to the language school conflict.

Parents Nite

It was agreed that a "Parent's Nite" meeting for all new parents was an absolute necessity to orientate them to the problems and how they should be solved concerning practice hours, parental help and lesson schedules. Setsuko was asked to tell the parent to attend this meeting during registration time and that it would be compulsory for at least one parent to attend this meeting. The first Parent's Nite was scheduled for September 28, which would include all new parents from the summer and fall enrollment.

Submitted by: *R. Hoyer*  
Approved by: *Jack*