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Resume of Music Department Events and Activities from January to May 1954

The new year began for the Music Department with a full enrollment of 214 students. In view of the increasing number of applications for enrollment, the possibility of adding another teacher to the faculty became more definite. The Music Advisory Committee made a favorable decision on this proposition during January and in the month of February Miss Thelma Chock, a recent graduate of the University of Hawaii, was added to the music staff. By the end of February, many new students were enrolled bringing the total to 246. Some of the new students were enrolled in violin since Miss Chock is able to teach string instruments.

Plans were laid early in the year for a benefit music concert to provide for the annual scholarship needs of the department. Staff members were overjoyed to hear that we had found a buyer for the 2800 lau-laus which were left over after the December Carnival. It had been a worrisome topic of discussion at weekly staff meeting for two months. Some of us developed a "lau-lau complex" over the matter.

For the April benefit concert, the department organized a children's chorus of 85 grade school children which Mrs. Park trained. The concert was built around the Children's Chorus singing Bach and Handel in two parts, the First Methodist Church Choir and an ensemble of outstanding instrumentalists from the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. This second annual benefit concert was designed to raise funds and to make a contribution to the steadily growing cultural resources of Honolulu. The two-nite concert raised \$750. and won many new friends for the work of the Settlement. Mr. George Barati praised especially the Children's Chorus and Mrs. Park for her skill in working with such young children.

An unusual concert stirred the hearts of many Honolulu music lovers in January with the presentation of Beethoven's 9th Symphony for the first time in Honolulu's music history. The Settlement had its part in this successful event with John Kelly training the 175 choral singers and the soloists. The public demand brought a third performance which with the other two was sold out. The chorus stayed together after the Beethoven and is now a permanent group known as the Honolulu Community Chorus preparing to concertize this summer and again with the Symphony next season.

Student recitals and Parent's Nites have occupied a significant place in the activities of the department since January. With nearly 260 students now plus the band members all needing opportunities to perform publicly, the recitals need to come more often. A program is underway to better inform new parents of their role in the home-study problems of their musically minded children.

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With the kokua of the Settlement director, the music department and the music advisory committee a fine opportunity for mainland study was made available for Mrs. Keum Nyu Park. She will take advantage of the liberal policy of the agency toward self advancement with its provision for an extra month of leave after three years of work and attend the Robert Shaw Workshop in Choral Art to be held at San Diego State College this summer. A grant of \$500. to finance this trip was received from the Juliette M. Atherton Trust.

With the summer months approaching the attention of the staff is turned to the Day Camp music program and the changed schedule of teaching. The music department will again provide a part of the leadership for the Day Camp as over the past two years thus rounding out the program of varied recreational interests for the 200 youngsters who will be enrolled.

The Palama-Kiwanis band is making good progress in it's work under the two students Eugene Yonamine and Hajime Kuwada from the University of Hawaii. The band recently presented a 15 minute concert for the PTA of neighboring Kaiulani School. The Kiwanis is considering another appropriation for additional instruments to enlarge the present group. Small ensembles of players perform at most of the recitals.

A half-hour recital was presented at the American Association of University Women hall in May by children of the music department. The varied program reflected the increasing diversity of instrumental studies offered. A decision has recently been made to offer accordion lessons with Mr. Wiley as the instructor. An appeal must be made for the donation of accordions to assist in getting this offering under way.

John Kelly