

HAS A GOOD START

Topeka Orchestral Society Makes Its Initial Bow. Delights a Large Audience at the Auditorium. TRIUMPH FOR MR. JEBE The Conductor Proved Himself Most Capable. Mr. Klingenberg and Mrs. Jebe Score Personal Successes.

It is now a certainty that in the Topeka Orchestral society Kansas may lay claim to something more than the nucleus of an excellent symphony orchestra. The concert given by the organization at the Auditorium last night exceeded the most sanguine expectations of those of the audience who had not been present at rehearsals and who were unprepared for so finished and artistically satisfying a performance as the society gave under the direction of Mr. Halfdan Jebe, organizer and conductor. To say that the orchestra is not in some respects amateurish would be entirely gratuitous, stretch the truth unnecessarily for such weaknesses as the performance showed were inevitable, considering the youthfulness of the society, and as the defects were undoubtedly as evident to the conductor and the musicians as to the listener any criticism of them would be entirely gratuitous. What may be said of the orchestra with absolute sincerity is that Mr. Jebe has succeeded in collecting from purely local sources some superior orchestral material and that, in spite of lack of experience in ensemble playing—for the society has been in existence only a few months—his players last night proved their ability to cope with a programme of serious intent and considerable technical demands and to master both the intellectual content and the mechanical difficulties of the score. That Mr. Jebe is a finished musician Topeka audiences have had abundant proof in his several concert appearances since he came to the Washburn music school last fall. As soloist, composer and conductor his work is equally distinguished. Last night he had him in the two latter roles only and his achievement was sufficient to arouse extreme enthusiasm. As a conductor he is earnest and unaffected, and while everyone might not agree with his readings there could be no doubt as to the sincerity of his conceptions. In his hands his orchestra, composed of forty more or less inexperienced and amateurish players, became a peculiarly plastic instrument of expression and he achieved with them effects always intelligent and sometimes brilliant to the verge of electrifying. Mr. Jebe has the faculty of skillfully vocalizing a score and the performance was singularly and gratifyingly free from any suggestion of confusion or incoherence, faults which would have been condoned, and are even to be expected in an inexperienced organization. Mr. Jebe conducted the entire programme including Gluck's Iphigenia Overture, a Lohengrin Fantasia, Dall'Abaco's Concerto da Chiesa for

strings, piano and organ, the Grieg piano concerto opus 16, Beethoven's Turkish march and his own tone poem on Tennyson's Rialpha without a score, and although there will always, perhaps, be two opinions as to the artistic necessity of this it is a certain proof of musicianship. Mr. Jebe had played compositions of his own—solo—in Topeka before but his dramatic tone poem on Tennyson's Rialpha, revealed him in a new light. The composition has more than a little of the Norwegian flavor which characterizes all his work and its appeal is universal. Mr. Jebe's compositions previously heard here have been for violin alone but he writes even more ably for orchestra, being more than clever at counterpoint and orchestration. Those of his audience who had expected his Rialpha to be a mere accompaniment to his wife's reading of the Tennyson poem were agreeably surprised to hear a broad, comprehensive and ambitious composition entirely free from the banalities and extravagances of the Strauss imitators, a work of much intellectual and emotional distinction.

Mrs. Sofie Bernhoff-Jebe in her reading of the Tennyson poem made her first appearance on any stage in English and her second appearance before a Topeka audience. Mrs. Jebe was for years a professional actress of the national theater of Christiania, Norway. Shortly after she came to Topeka last winter to join her husband she appeared with Mr. Klingenberg in a Grieg Bjornsen tone poem at a recital at Washburn when she completely enthralled her audience with the beauty of her voice, the grace and nobility of her rare, expressive features and the magnetism of her personality, although her reading was entirely in Norwegian. In a few months she has so far mastered the English language that her reading of Tennyson last night, while invested with the charm of a quaint and pretty foreign accent, was perfectly intelligible, and her pronunciation and inflection pure and flawless. Her interpretation of the Tennyson poem left nothing to be desired in the way of dramatic fervor and convincing realism. Her art is of the quiet, repressed, intense description that leaves an impression of enormous reserve power and her art lent much to her husband's brilliant and powerful score. The feature of the concert was the Grieg piano concerto opus 16 by Mr. Alf Klingenberg and the orchestra. Topeka concert-goers have learned to expect much of Mr. Klingenberg and they have never been disappointed in him. He is a musician of the first class and at every appearance he strengthens the impression of his powerful gifts and achievements. The Grieg concerto which was his number that night contains little grateful passage work and no showy bravura with which to electrify an audience. It demands rather an exalted poetic conception self-abnegation, almost, and a subordination of the soloist to the symphonic whole. Mr. Klingenberg's reading displayed a fine illuminating insight into its spirit and to its interpretation he brought his remarkably clean, clear technique, fine sense of rhythm, beautiful touch, exceptional command of dynamics, precision, verve and controlled and carrying tone quality. He held up the orchestra wonderfully, so seemed to give the youthful players new confidence and zeal and they achieved some of their best effects in this number. Mr. Klingenberg's mastery of the piano is complete. He draws marvelous tonal effects from an instrument which is undeniably unpliant but never forces it beyond its power of sonority. One is not always being overwhelmed by his sound waves for at times his tone has an ethereal quality of exquisite beauty. His poetic conception and artistic manner of delivery unite to make his playing of telling effect and brilliancy and the beauty of the adagio movement,

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WANTED—Competent girl for general housework at 70 Harrison st.

WANTED—White nurse girl, references required. 157 Topeka ave.

WANTED—An experienced dining room girl at 127 W. Gordon st., N. Topeka.

WANTED—Experienced help in several departments, hand ironers for ladies' clothes especially. Mutual Laundry, 34 and Quincy.

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FOR RENT—811 Topeka ave., 3 rooms down stairs. Water, gas.

ROOM and board, pleasant furnished front room in private family with board. Modern; 2 gentlemen preferred. 192 Kansas ave.

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FOR RENT—Furnished room, everything modern. 422 W. 7th st. Cor. Top. ave.

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