

Liturgists, Musicians Look to Future of Church Music

By FATHER PETER E. SHEEHAN, C.S.B.

This is the final article in a series devoted to church music. Father Sheehan, of St. John Fisher College, has served as editor of the series and contributed the first article. He is a member of the diocesan liturgical commission, secretary of the music commission, executive chairman of the 1967 Rochester Bach Festival, and a director of the Rochester Oratorio Society. The line drawings which illustrated the articles of the series are the work of John C. Menihan, a member of St. Louis Parish, Pittsford.

When the members of the diocesan music commission first conceived the project of publishing six articles in the Courier-Journal, they intended to devote the final article to the future of church music as viewed by music educators. Two factors, however, now make it necessary to modify the scope of this article as it was originally intended. First, the articles in the series have, to some degree, already treated of the problem of musical education. Secondly, a most important conference of the nation's leading liturgists and church musicians was held recently in Kansas City to discuss the future of liturgy and music.

The conference in Kansas City, sponsored jointly by the U.S. Liturgical Conference and the Church Music Association of America, was entitled "Harmony and Discord: An Open Forum on Church Music."

It can be said of the participants what was said of Ascot Opening Day in "My Fair Lady": "Everyone who should be here is here" — Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta, newly-elected chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Liturgical Commission; Father Frederick R. McMann, director of the Secretariat for the Bishops' Commission on the Liturgical Apostolate; Archbishop Bernbert Weakland, chairman of the Music Advisory Board of the same Bishop's Commission; Father Godfrey Diekmann, editor of "Worship"; and, luminary of the arts, Barry Ulanov — to mention but a few of the 450 in attendance.

The Diocese of Rochester was represented by Father Benedict A. Ehmann and the present author, both members of the liturgical and music commissions, and by Sister M. Florian, S.S.J., of the music commission. Father Ehmann, in fact, played a prominent role in the conference as a discussion leader and as chairman of the resolutions committee which drafted the final proposal of the participants. The Eastman School of Music was also represented by the Reverend Dr. M. Alfred Bichsel, chairman of its department of church music.

High Masses Now in English

London—(NC)—The bishops of England and Wales officially announced that the Mass may be sung in the vernacular and recommended that the music selected be easily adapted to full congregational participation.

Giving pastors discretion to decide which parts of the Mass are to be sung, and also allowing the use of some Latin in otherwise vernacular Masses, the bishops said that the local Ordinary must approve any departure from the official text used in sung Masses. The bishops also requested that the tradition of the Latin sung Mass not be lost.



Father Ehman, Dr. Bichsel and Dr. Selhorst at Eastman School of Music discuss problems Catholic musicians face in change from Latin to English texts for church rites.

As often happens at such meetings, so much depends on who speaks first. Archbishop Weakland of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, opened the conference with an address which shaped subsequent discussions. His subject was "The History of the Theology of Liturgy in Relation to Sung Worship." In his talk he pointed out that two things happened as a result of the Second Vatican Council's "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" which radically changed the status of church music. First, congregational activity has been made an integral part of the liturgical action, whereas it previously had not been the norm. Secondly, the liturgical language was changed.

Root of the Problem
The result of these radical innovations is that both Gregorian chant and classical polyphony have been rendered liturgically obsolete. Neither of them ever really was the people's song in fact, since they were usually sung in monasteries or by choirs. Furthermore, the musical settings of the Latin liturgical prayers, whether in chant or other forms, simply do not fit the English texts any more than they do the Japanese or the French.

The present crisis in church music, however, was caused by the total lack of preparation for the changes made by the Constitution on the part of church musicians. Ours then is necessarily a time of musical creation and experimentation. It will also be a time of "quiet desperation," the Archbishop observed, until we find a new musical expression proper to our present liturgy.

The chief problem facing church musicians, according to the Archbishop, is their tendency to live in the past and seek a golden age. This is exemplified by those who look to the "Motu Proprio" of St. Pius X and its quasi-consecration of chant and classical polyphony as a sort of "eternal" music which alone is worthy of the sacred liturgy. Neither of these, however, is really what is needed in the church today. We are being asked to experience community at Mass and we just do not have community music from the past which can really be called the people's music. For the time being we are musically dispossessed, he said.

In presenting his historical perspective, Archbishop Weakland stated that "No age was a golden age as far as music is

concerned. We cannot preserve the treasures of the past without coming to terms with the false liturgical orientations that gave birth to this music. Nor can we preserve them according to the false aesthetic judgments of the last century. They can only be preserved for that which they are: beautiful pieces of music that served the past generations of the Church and of which we can be rightfully proud."

Sacred vs. Secular Music

In terms of the future the Archbishop said that sacred music must learn that sacred music is not only an art in its own right but also one which, from the nature of its liturgical use, will always be subordinate to the liturgical action and needs. Part of our present anguish comes because we look upon the music of the past as something we love purely for its own sake and

not its liturgical function. In the future we shall have to remain open and permit everything, musically speaking, which will give contemporary Christians a rich, relevant instrument for expressing their liturgical prayer. He said that "we must be willing to stumble into the future."

A final point from the conference's opening address will serve as a corollary to what has been reported so far. If the Church is really in dire need of artistic creativity and musical experimentation, then musicians and liturgists must be prepared to lessen the distance between the so-called sacred and secular music.

The Archbishop maintains "There is no supernatural music — not of the past, nor of the future. If history teaches us anything about the conflict, we constantly pose

for ourselves between sacred and secular music, it is this: the most fruitful period was that when such a distinction did not exist." In support of this we can mention the productive ages of Palestrina, Lassus, Bach.

A few days after returning from the conference in Kansas City, Father Ehmann, chairman of the diocesan music commission, met with two men who are in positions finely tailored to the future needs of church musicians in our diocese, Dr. Alfred Bichsel and Dr. Eugene Selhorst. The former, as has already been noted, is chairman of the church music department at the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Selhorst, a member of the diocesan music commission, is associate dean for graduate professional students and professor of music literature at the Eastman School. In August he participated in the International Congress of Church Musicians which was held in Milwaukee. During his interview Father Ehmann put several questions about the musical future to the two professors. What follows here will be reporting on their assessment of the present and their prognostications for the future.

Communication, Education

This era of renewal, Father Ehmann observed at the beginning of the interview, is a time of tensions and dialogue between musicians and liturgists, musicians and clergy, musicians and the people. Since no packaged solutions are available, differences will have to be settled through communication and education. He asked what the Eastman School of Music as an institution for the education of professional musicians can contribute to the local com-

COURIER-JOURNAL 1C
Friday, Dec. 16, 1966

Noted Athlete To be Nun
Rome — (RNS) — Elsa Pasquali, 25, one of Italy's leading woman athletes, has abandoned sports to enter a Benedictine convent, it was reported here. Hailing from Schio in northern Italy, she set an unofficial women's record last year for the one mile run.

GENEVA, N.Y.
Lynch Furniture Co.
For Over Fifty Years
Geneva's Home Store
479 Exchange St.

GENEVA MILK CO.
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS
W. North cor. Maple Street
Phone 3704 Established 1909

GENEVA MILK CO.
MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS
W. North cor. Maple Street
Phone 3704 Established 1909

MOVING is our business
Service is what we sell
Agent for NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES
GEORGE M. CLANCY CARTING CO., INC.
8 Circle St. 473-3120

AUBURN, N.Y.
FIVE POINTS LIQUOR STORE Inc.
Phone AL 3-6051
14 Franklin St. Auburn, New York

OCKENDEN DAIRY
Golden Crown Premium Milk
"Auburn's Finest Dairy Products"
117 Dunning Ave. AL 3-7951

HORNELL, N. Y.
JACOBS BROS. SHOE STORE
Home of Jumping Jack Shoes
"WE FIT THE HARD TO FIT"
121 Main St. Hornell, N.Y.

STEUBEN TRUST COMPANY
62 MAIN STREET
HORNELL, N.Y.
DRIVE IN OFFICE
GENEVA AT MAIN AVE.

DUNN'S DEPENDABLE DRUGS
Russell Stever Candies
MAIN and BROADWAY
HORNELL, N.Y.
Phone 324-3355
Prescription Dept. 324-0891
FREE PILLMOBILE DELIVERY TWICE DAILY

Your Shoppers' Guide

..... when you want the best

GENERAL BUSINESS		DRUG STORES	
THE HOFFMAN MUSIC SHOP 467 N. Goodman Phone 454-5645 OPEN EVENINGS	Ehmann's Market Choice Meats Cut to order FREE PARKING SPACE North Clinton at Avenue A	BLESSED SACRAMENT BLAUWY'S PHARMACY Established 1851 So. Goodman at Clinton BRowning 1-4199	OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHILSON PHARMACY 1704 Monroe Ave. GR 3-6402 Prescription DELIVERY SERVICE
SMITH & LOTZE FUNERAL DIRECTORS FURNITURE William J. Elliott Frank L. Klicik Bruce H. O'Dell TR 2-1412 — Webster, N.Y.	PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS	CORPUS CHRISTI MILLIMAN'S PHARMACY NO. Goodman at Main Phone 454-3332	YOUR CONFIDENCE OUR CARE WINTON Pharmacy 492 N. Winton BU 6-6500 Stamps • Money Order • We Deliver
Ask Your Friends and Relatives About ART BONSIGNORE A Trusted Name for MONUMENTS Let us call at your home and you will save 20-30% Call for ART for ART in stone! CALL GL 8-5301	ASSUMPTION PARISH FAIRPORT, N.Y. EMERY FUNERAL HOME INC. 76 SOUTH MAIN ST. FAIRPORT, N.Y. CLAUDE W. EMERY AIR CONDITIONED ALBERT H. KNAPP FR 7-4493	GOOD COUNSEL PARISH Wolff Pharmacy Professional Pharmacist Lowest Prices 481 Thurston Rd. ID 6-9841 3 Doors from Brooks, Free Delivery	ST. CHARLES BORROMEO DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY Prescription Specialists COSMETICS • TOILETRIES PHOTO FINISHING 1818 Dewey Ave. University 1-3210
PAUL W. HARRIS FUNERAL HOME AIR COND. OFF STREET PARKING LI 4-2041 954 CLIFFORD AVE.	F. H. McELWEE & SON FUNERAL SERVICE Since 1915 QUALITY FURNITURE PHONE 394-2220 481 S. Main St. 151 S. MAIN ST. CANANDAIGUA, N.Y.	St. ANDREW'S PARISH PRESCRIPTION'S Carefully Compounded MANDELL'S PHARMACY By Mandell HO 7-0879 GO 4-9554 DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES Portland Ave. at Norton	OUR LADY OF LOURDES LA MAY DRUG CO. 1800 EAST AVE. BRowning 1-2896
Haubner & Stallknecht FUNERAL HOME, INC. EDWARD E. HAUBNER SARTO W. STALLKNECHT 828 JAY ST. ROBERT P. ZIMMER FA 8-2323	ASSUMPTION PARISH AMPLE PARKING ROOT and KEENAN FUNERAL HOME 41 S. MAIN ST. FAIRPORT, N.Y. FR 7-1780 RICHARD H. KEENAN	Only The Finest Browncroft Liquor Store 268 WINTON RD. NO. Near Blossom — Free Parking 10 A.M. To 10 P.M.—HU 2-4533	BILL'S LIQUOR LOCKER 336 MONROE AVENUE Near Alexander BILL & MARTHA COX We Deliver 14-2207
APPLIANCE REPAIRS — PARTS LEWYT - CLEANERS SPEED-SAKS, HOSES ELECTRIC RANGE SURFACE and OVEN UNITS FOR ALL MAKES K & M APPLIANCE SERVICE 21 LYELL AVE. Near Lake & State Phone 546-2240 ATTACHMENTS	ST. MARY'S CANANDAIGUA Alice R. Farrell WOMEN'S APPAREL 106 S. MAIN ST. CANANDAIGUA, N.Y.	Because your family deserves the Finest DAIRY Milk Phone 325-2520	O'NEILL'S LIQUOR STORE FRANK O'NEILL, Prop. 1316 Dewey Ave. GL 8-1940
MODERN BEAUTY SHOPPE YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT. PHONE 763 Parkway Plaza CANANDAIGUA NEW YORK	\$3995 Rochester Ceiling Co. \$3995 Yes you can buy a 10x12 Ceiling (includes material and installation) for only \$39.95 39 JEFFERSON RD. • BE 5-5530 \$3995 Rochester Ceiling Co. \$3995	NORTHGATE LIQUOR INC. PHONE 3-4100 Mon. - Thurs. Incl. 10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fri. Sat. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Town of Greece	Alex J. Moore Wines & Liquors Inc. 508 STONE ROAD NO. 3-5897 at Dewey
BURNS - HANNA HOpkins 7-5745 1795 Ridge Rd. E. SPACIOUS PARKING	\$3995 Rochester Ceiling Co. \$3995 Yes you can buy a 10x12 Ceiling (includes material and installation) for only \$39.95 39 JEFFERSON RD. • BE 5-5530 \$3995 Rochester Ceiling Co. \$3995	Holiday Arrangements of Fresh Cut Flowers Centerpieces... Corsages... Plants Sours FOR FLOWERS 160 EAST AVE. FREE PARKING AT 5500 STATION 546-2486	ATLANTIC MILLWORK COMPLETE BUILDING MATERIALS 2715 West Henrietta Rd. • 1512 Ridge Rd. W. In Stone Ridge Plaza • 1800 Empire Blvd

Black Velvet Imported Canadian Whisky

Up in Canada, smooth, mellow Black Velvet is so popular, that it has become the fastest-growing whisky in its class. Buy a bottle of Black Velvet Canadian Whisky today and find out why!

80 PROOF. IMPORTED BY HEUBLEIN, INC., HARTFORD, CONN