

SING OF THEIR JUBILEE: Saengerbund's Anniversary Joyously Celebrated. ...
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Joyously Celebrated.

VAST AUDIENCE AT THE NATIONAL

The Fine Chorus, Assisted by Noted Soprano and Violinist, Earns Enthusiastic Applause, in Which the German Ambassador Leads—President Claudy Decorated with Magnificent Badge After His Speech—Address by Simon Wolf—Celebration of Three Days.

The Washington Saengerbund began the celebration of its golden jubilee last evening with a brilliant concert at the National Theater. Every seat in the theater was occupied, and many people who came late were compelled to stand throughout the concert. The large crowd was anticipated, and as early as 6 o'clock people began to arrive at the theater, the early arrivals securing the choice of seats. An hour before the concert began there were no vacant chairs on the lower floor.

The Saengerbund chorus of more than fifty voices was assisted by an orchestra, the forty members including many of the leading musicians of the city. The soloists were Mme. Charlotte Maconda, one



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of the leading sopranos of America, and Mr. Franz Wilczek, the noted Austrian violinist. The concert opened with the overture "Oberon" by the orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Xander, musical director of the Saengerbund. This was followed by two choruses, "Standschen" and "Lenz" by the full Saengerbund chorus, Mr. Xander again leading. The selections were enthusiastically received by the audience, and both director and singers were heartily applauded.

The singers remained upon the stage while Mr. Frank Claudy, president of the Saengerbund, delivered a short address in German. It was an idealistic address on

of the leading sopranos of America, and Mr. Franz Wilczek, the noted Austrian violinist. The concert opened with the overture "Oberon" by the orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Xander, musical director of the Saengerbund. This was followed by two choruses, "Standschen" and "Lenz" by the full Saengerbund chorus, Mr. Xander again leading. The selections were enthusiastically received by the audience, and both director and singers were heartily applauded.

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music, its noble inspiration, and the traditions of song. The histories of singing societies in general was touched upon, and the history of the Washington Saengerbund in particular. He appealed earnestly to the society to continue its splendid work, and to make the next half century of its existence even more glorious than the past half century has been. The triumphs of the society were recounted, and the prediction made that the future will see even greater successes.

President's Badge Presented.

When President Claudy had finished speaking Mr. Simon Wolf, one of the honorary members of the Saengerbund, came to the front of the stage, and in a few graceful words presented Mr. Claudy, as the representative of the society, with a gold president's badge, the gift of friends and admirers of the Saengerbund. The medal is set with a large

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diamond, and is an exquisite piece of workmanship. It is suspended from a bar bearing the semi-centennial dates, "1851-1901." To this bar is attached an open music sheet, on which is engraved the opening bars of the first song rehearsed by the society fifty years ago. On the face of the medal is a lyre in relief, and around the edge a wreath of delicate leaves. The obverse side of the medal bears the following inscription:

In Commemoration
of the
Fiftieth Anniversary
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April 21, 1901.
By Friends.

The medal has a long gold chain attached. This was placed around Mr. Claudy's neck and the medal pinned to his coat by Miss Bushman, who had accompanied Mr.

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Wolf on the stage. Mr. Claudy accepted the gift on behalf of the society, thanking the donors, and promising that it should be handed down from president to president so long as the society existed. While he was speaking two ushers brought down the center aisle a large lyre made of roses, a gift from the Ladies' Club to the Saengerbund chorus.

When the presentation ceremonies were over, the programme was resumed with the violin solo, "Fantaisie Caprice," by Mr. Wilczek, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Xander. At the conclusion of the selection the violinist was given an ovation, the German Ambassador, Herr von Holleben, who with his party occupied one of

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the boxes, leading the applause. Mr. Wilczek returned to the stage and bowed acknowledgment, but the audience was not satisfied, and he was compelled to respond to the encore with another selection.

Mr. Wilczek was followed by Mme. Maconda in the scene and aria from "Lucia di Lammermoor," accompanied by the orchestra. Mme. Maconda has a full, rich contralto voice, and rendered the difficult passages with fine effect. The flute obligato was by Mr. Henry Jaeger. Mme. Maconda won applause, no less enthusiastic than that which had greeted Mr. Wilczek, and response to an encore was insisted upon. At the conclusion of the second number, Herr von Holleben requested Mr. Claudy to convey to the artist his appreciation of her singing.

Following the solos, Mr. Simon Wolf delivered a jubilee address in English, as follows:

"The fiftieth anniversary of the Washington Saengerbund is an event of more than local character. Fifty years of existence of an individual is always celebrated as a period marking not only the past, but indicative of the future; fifty years in the life of a nation is like a span of time, and may not fill more than a page in the history of the country, but the history of an association exclusively devoted to music, song, and social amenities is indeed an important factor in the development, growth, and prosperity of a city.

"And, in this direction, the Saengerbund is unquestionably a contributor to more than its quota, for it has not only a local reputation, but it also enjoys to an eminent degree the esteem and regard of the friends of culture, refinement, and lovers of music and song everywhere, and its fame has even traveled across the waters and is recognized in the musical centers of Europe. This fact should fill us Washingtonians with pride and satisfaction; residing in the Nation's Capital, we are well aware that whatever tends to the fame of our city is a link in the great chain of achieved results and recognized work.

"The development of a love for music and song in the United States has been of slow process. When the Saengerbund was founded it was a dark continent, so far as a knowledge of musical results was concerned, on the part of the great American public. Independent of church music, which even in those days was somewhat crude, there was nothing national except the plantation songs and plaintive melodies of the negro, and it was German emigration that infused new life, spirit, and vitality into the departments of music and song, and it has grown steadily in every prominent center of our country until to-day the chorus-singing of large masses is recognized and regarded with favor and admiration.

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Sponsor for Social Enjoyment.

"It has been stated 'Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who writes its laws,' is surely applicable in the refining and uplifting influence that characterizes music and song. To this end the Washington Saengerbund has spared no pains and has been ready at any and all times to show a self-sacrificing spirit, whether in winter or in summer, on occa-



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sions of joy and festivity, as well as of sorrow and death. In all matters of a public character where its aid and support was needed, either individually or collectively, this association has stood at the forefront, and has stood sponsor for that personal liberty and social enjoyment for which man in his higher development is so eminently fitted.

"Therefore, the golden jubilee of the organization, having no mercenary or mercantile purposes to serve, but solely those of a moral and intellectual character, should receive the acclaim not only of its friends, but of every lover of his country. Armies come and go, countries are victorious or vanquished, but the love of music and song glows in our heart of hearts for ever and aye; it lulls us to sleep when our mother's love is near us, it woos us to regions of highest enthusiasm when the maiden of our choice sings to us love ditties, and it rouses the patriot and the lover of liberty when the national air resounds.

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"May, then, this spirit of all that is grand and excellent continue to exercise a beneficent influence and voice for ages to come that kinship which is based on the results of music and song, and may the Saengerbund at the close of the 100th year of its existence be domiciled not only in a home of its own, but also with halls sufficiently large to accommodate all of its friends, so as to, indeed, represent every phase and element of national life and to give voice to all of its inspiring influences."

Mr. Wolf's address was followed by the jubilee song, "Jubelklänge," the words of which were written by Mr. Claudy and the music by Mr. Xander. The selection was by the Saengerbund chorus, accompanied by the orchestra, and it was the



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first time it had been rendered in public. The words and music aroused the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm, which found expression in prolonged applause. Both Mr. Claudy and Mr. Xander were compelled to come forward and bow their acknowledgments.

The programme was concluded with the following selections: Violin solo, "Zigeunerweisen," Mr. Wilczek; soprano solo, "Polonaise," from "Mignon," Mme. Maconda; coronation march from "The Prophet," orchestra, directed by Mr. Xander.

The following active members of the society sang in the chorus: First tenors, William Beuchert, H. Klinge, F. Knoop, F. Kruger, H. G. Minster, L. Mortfeld, J. D. Schreiber, R. Schwertner, L. Stiefel, and E. Waldman; second tenors, G. Auckmann, J. Behrend, William Berens, jr., R. Brauner, William Hannemann, C. Hick, A. F. Jorss, W. F. Meyers, R. Pluym, G. Ritter, S. A. Sawtell, G. W. Scheuermann, George L. Storm, A. Weil, C. B. Xanten, and C. Xander; first bass,

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The officers of the Saengerbund are as follows: Frank Claudy, president; John Waldmann, vice president; Louis Kimmel, financial and corresponding secretary; Frederick Carl, recording secretary; Louis Faber, treasurer; William Hagemann, librarian; Henry Xander, musical director; K. Xander, H. Schulze, F. Altrup, A. Levy, R. Schneider, E. Kuebel, board of directors.

The members of the music committee, which had charge of last night's concert, are W. F. Lutz, chairman; L. Stiefel, William F. Meyers, and H. Scheuermann.

President Claudy's Career.

Frank Claudy, president of the Washington Saengerbund, was born at Mayence, Germany, and is about fifty-five years of age. He came to this country during the civil war, and enlisting in the Federal army served throughout the conflict. He now holds an important position in the Pension Office. Mr. Claudy has written a number of poems of more than ordinary merit. His most important work is a translation of Goethe's "Faust," which is regarded by many critics as the best of the English translations. For a number of years he was president of the German Democratic Club, and has long been prominent in the literary and musical life of National Capital Germans.

Mr. Waldmann, the vice president, was born in Wurtemberg, fifty-three years ago. He came to this country in 1865, and a year later took up his residence in Washington, where for many years he has been engaged in business. He was one of the early members of the Saengerbund, being elected in 1869. He has served three terms as president of the society, and is now serving his eighth term as vice president.

Mr. Xander is the youngest man who ever served as musical director of the Washington Saengerbund, but none of his predecessors has been better equipped. He began his musical studies under Prof. Heyman, and in 1880 entered the conservatory at Stuttgart, where he made rapid progress, and during his last year there was made official accompanist of the conservatory. While still a student at Stuttgart Mr. Xander attracted considerable notice by the composition and rendition of a sonata. In 1885 he entered the Royal College of Music at Berlin, where he remained a year, and the next year he continued his studies in Paris. In 1887 he returned to Washington, and appearing at a number of public concerts he immediately took rank among the leading musicians of the city.

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The other Saengerbund officers, as well as members of the chorus, are musicians of recognized ability, and the public concerts the society gives at regular intervals are always of a high order of merit and appreciated by Washington music lovers.

The jubilee celebration will be continued this evening with a fancy ball at National Rifles' Armory, admission to which will be confined to members of the Saengerbund and their specially invited friends. To-morrow evening there will be a stag banquet and smoker at Saengerbund Hall, which will bring the celebration to a close.

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