

MUSIC APPRECIATION SECTION

GREAT COMPOSERS OF MUSIC

By BERT PAUL OSBORN *

III. HAYDN, THE FATHER OF THE SYMPHONY.

IN 1732 in the little village of Rohrau, not far from Vienna in Austria, there was born a baby whose parents named him Joseph. Fortunately for baby Jo-



Joseph Haydn .

seph, his mother and father, though very poor, loved music, and songs and sweet harp tones cheered many a simple meal, for father Hayden (pronounced high-dn) could both sing and accompany himself on his harp.

Joseph's father and mother were simple peasant people, industrious, upright, devout Catholics, and a little more educated than was usually with their class. Although the father had a talent for harp playing, he could not read music. He knew too little to be able to teach music to his small son. This father was by trade a wagon-maker.

Now it happened that the village school-teacher was also a musician, and when Joseph was a very small boy he used to watch the school master with wondering eyes when the teacher played the violin; Joseph wished that he could

play too. The little boy would take two pieces of wood and pretend that he was playing the violin. When his parents sang their evening songs, Joseph would keep exact time to the music by beating with a stick.

In spite of the boy's rather commonplace parentage and the heavy burden of poverty, he developed into a remarkable musical genius. The people with whom he was associated as a boy all liked music, and many of them could play, or sing, or "make up" music. In fact, the boy was surrounded by a race of natural musicians who liked dance and song.

A relative offered to take Joseph to the city of Hamburg so he could be taught music. So when he was six years old, the little boy left his quiet village home and went to the big, noisy city. There he began the study of singing, and playing the violin and the harpsichord. The harpsichord was the forerunner of the piano. (See the *Music Appreciation Section* of the October, 1939, issue of *The Young Citizen*.)

Joseph's teacher was a very stern taskmaster, and made his little pupil work very hard indeed, even for a boy who loved music with his whole soul and who was eager to learn all he possibly could.

The boy worked very hard with his music, so when he was eight years old he was chosen to sing in the emperor's choir in the great cathedral in Vienna. During the next nine years he lived in a

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house close to the cathedral.

He had constant practice in singing, both at the cathedral and often at the emperor's court, with free support and poor instruction at the choir school. He stayed at this school until he was seventeen, although he was half-starved, insufficiently clothed, and carelessly taught. Only his own great energy enabled him to learn anything at all. He practiced very hard on his music, and supplemented his poor school training with much study by himself.

When Joseph was seventeen he was dismissed from the choir school on account of a school boy prank, and was turned into the street. He had a very hard time after that. He played his violin at weddings and dances, he wrote music for people who would buy it, he taught a few music pupils, and did any drudgery that anyone would pay for. In that way he kept himself from starving. Through it all, in his dimly-lighted, unheated attic, in which snow and rain fell on his bed, he continued, as best he could, his own studies in composing. But gradually his condition was improved by some wealthy patrons who recognized his ability as a composer.

In 1760 a nobleman, Prince Esterhazy, appointed Haydn, by that time a young man of twenty-eight, leader of his

private orchestra. This important position he held for thirty years. Prince Esterhazy was the head of a family long famous for wealth, culture, and the development of good music, so Haydn lived during these years amid pleasant surroundings which were favorable for his musical labors. During this period of thirty years he experimented and developed the symphony and the symphony orchestra.

Haydn did not develop anything absolutely new in music, but to him belongs

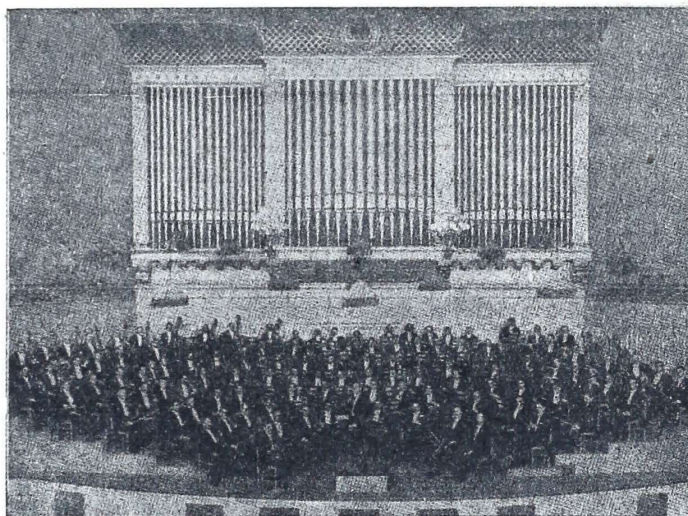
the honor of collecting and combining various points in music. This is shown in the excellent musical compositions as being superior.

Haydn developed the form of music known as the symphony; he also developed the orchestra by selecting and using most of the instruments

of the present time, and arranging them in groups as we now have them. For these reasons Haydn is called the "Father of the Symphony."

During the thirty years that Haydn was musical director for Prince Esterhazy, he wrote many compositions for the orchestra, as well as church music and other compositions. He had an excellent orchestra and a group of good singers, and it was for these organizations that he wrote his music. His fame as

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A Symphony Orchestra

THE GRADUATE . . .

(Continued from page 107)

Life—Young Graduate, you have a long way to go, and a difficult one, too. Without a good, healthy body, you can not go far. Remember this: Health is wealth. You can never be truly happy if you are ill or are suffering from a disease. And so keep yourself healthy and physically strong so that you will be fit to meet all the hardships that you will meet on your long journey.

Ambition—Young Graduate, keep your ambition ever on fire. When you become easily satisfied with things, when you have become complacent, you have stopped growing. Ever keep before you high ideals. Remember what Browning said: "A man's reach should be farther than his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"

Character—Character is what you are in the dark. Whether you are seen by people or not, you must think and say and do only the best. When money is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; but when character is lost, *everything* is lost. I offer you this sword with which to fight anything that's wrong and mean.

Discipline — Young Graduate, your greatest enemy is not disease; it is not the thief, the murderer, or the gangster. Your greatest enemy is *yourself*, the self in you that possesses unclean desires, unholy thoughts, a sharp temper, a loose tongue. Unless you are a master of yourself, unless you have self-control, you can not expect to lead people.

Truth—Truth will make you free. Truth will break the chains of doubts and skepticisms. If you do not know the truth, you are like a person groping his way in the dark. I give you the Bible, the word of God, as a lamp unto your feet and a guide unto your path.

Faith—Young Graduate, you must have faith in yourself, faith in your fellowmen, faith in God's eternal goodness, faith in the final triumph of right over wrong, of life over death. I give you this necklace, a symbol, of the faith that spans the gap between man's belief in the visible and the invisible, the faith that bridges the distance between you and God.

Service—Young Graduate, your mission in life should not be only to take in but also to give out. Give

the best that you have, to the highest that you know, without counting the cost. Let Jesus Christ be your supreme ideal of service, whose shameful death on the cross was the substantiation of his words: "I came not to be ministered unto but to minister."

All the benefactors (together)—Young Graduate, we wish you success.

Graduate—Thank you, every one. With the help of all of you, I shall not fail.

(The Graduate looks at the road ahead of him. Martial music may be played. As the Graduate begins to walk, the benefactors watching him, the curtain slowly falls.)

HAYDN, THE . . .

(Continued from page 115)

a composer of music spread far and wide. Numerous musicians sought him out. He enjoyed very friendly relations with Mozart (pronounced *mot-sart*), who later became a great composer.

When Haydn was nearly 60 years old, he went to England, where he wrote more symphonies. The English people received him very enthusiastically, and Oxford University gave

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HAYDN . . .

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him the degree of Doctor of Music (Mus. D.).

In London he was deeply impressed by hearing much of Handel's oratorio music (see the *Music Appreciation Section* of the February, 1940, issue of *The Young Citizen*), so he finally wrote an oratorio which has become very famous. This oratorio is called *The Creation* and tells the Bible story of the creation of the world.

The last ten years of Haydn's life were uneventful, and as his strength failed, he almost stopped writing music. He died in 1809.

Haydn had a very bright, sunny, lovable nature. He was simple-hearted, hard-working, religious, honorable, and manly. His music is as happy as was his life. It is pleasant to remember that children were always attracted by his gentle, cheerful nature, and that they liked to call him, as did grownups, too, their beloved "Papa Haydn."

TEST QUESTIONS

1. In what country was Joseph Hayden born? When?
2. Can you tell of Joseph's parents?
3. What early evidence

THE DUCK HOUSE

(Continued from page 99)

had been eaten. The ducks splashed here and there, every now and then uttering their funny language.

Rosa and Anita waved their hands to the ducks as the two girls and Mr. Santos rowed away.

Mr. Santos gave Rosa six eggs. She ran home and sat on the steps. She counted the eggs and murmured, "I will cook these eggs for Ma when she comes home."

did Joseph show of musical ability?

4. With what kind of people was the boy Joseph surrounded?

5. What did a relative offer to do?

RAINDROPS

(Continued from page 100)

on our picnic another day." —*Adopted.*

SOMETHING TO FIND OUT

1. What causes the drops of water to leave the river and go up above the earth? (Ask your teacher.)
2. In what form do the water drops go up above the earth? (Vapor)
3. What is vapor? (Ask your teacher.)
4. What is a raincloud?

THE BAROMETER

(Continued from page 117)

the barometer falls, the air pressure has been lessened, because a storm is approaching. Increasing pressure, which causes a rising barometer, is a sign of fair weather.

The height of the column of mercury in the barometer varies with the attitude. Thus when a barometer is carried to the top of a high tower or up a mountain, the mercury falls lower and lower, because the air pressure decreases with the altitude. By comparing the reading at sea-level with readings at other levels, the altitude of any place can be readily calculated.

REVIEW

1. Tell of the German scientist's early experiment with a barometer.
 2. What is a barometer? Describe it.
 3. Why does the barometer indicate weather conditions?
 4. How does the barometer measure altitudes?
 5. Have you studied the diagram on page 117?
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5. Why do the raindrops fall from the cloud?
 6. Into what places do the raindrops fall?