



A PAGE ABOUT THE AREA DEVOTED TO Information For Visitors

Music Hath Charms — Especially In Brevard

By CHRISTINE M. BAERMANN Staff Writer

These mountains are still new to me. But only nine months of living with and in them has made me a mountain fan. I am also a music fan. And last week-end I had the chance to indulge both. I drove from Waynesville over Mt. Pisgah through 4520-foot Wagon Road Gap for the opening week-end of the Brevard Music Festival.

The festival is held for 3 weeks in the mountain setting of Transylvania Music Camp, just outside the little town of Brevard, 40 miles from Waynesville. Although the festival climaxes a summer of music learning for about 100 teenagers, the concerts are presented by professionals—symphony players, chorus and famous soloists who come to the Smokies especially for these events. The whole is under the near-miracle conducting of James Christian Pfohl.

A summer storm followed us across the mountains and became a veritable cloud burst as we passed

dramatic Looking Glass Rock and Falls on the far descent. Winding up Pisgah there was, as always, that thrill of seeing flowers which have long since faded down here in our 3,500-foot "lowlands."

Once we started a fawn by the roadside. He stood speckled and frightened—just long enough for us to see the whiteness around his tail, his delicate spots and grace. The rain didn't spoil the grandeur of high vistas. They looked even more primeval in their sombre greens, mists and dark, dark woods.

Artists In Person

That evening I had the surprise privilege of having dinner with the very celebrities I had come to hear. This came about through the gracious invitation of Mrs. Frieda Knopf, of Waynesville, summer-time hostess to artists at the camp and festival.

Jorge Bolet, the pianist, a tall, athletic, rather Spanish-looking type, was quite a contrast to Joseph Fuchs, violinist, who had a short, stocky build with a face that reminded one of Charles Boyer.

(There was a loud whisper at a nearby table, "Why, they don't look a bit like musicians!") Also with us were two very charming and very young duo-pianists, known professionally as Neal and Nelson, but who are Mr. and Mrs. Neal in their rather un-private life. They live like gypsies in a van which carries their two pianos, their personal effects and themselves, have "barnstormed" small and large towns with more than 100 concerts in the past year, and are working toward their first appearance at



A LONG WAY UP describes the 300-foot monolith of Chimney Rock. An elevator shaft rises through the living rock of the mountain to an observation lounge at the base of the chimney, and a ramp invites the visitor to climb to its top.

Town Hall in New York.

Hair-Dryers For Piano

The dinner conversation of course, turned to music with many great names spoken with familiarity, with criss-cross arguments about the philosophy behind music, and a great deal of talk about that most common of subjects—the weather. For as with a farmer, a musician, it seems, is greatly concerned over the weather. Bolet was somewhat nervous about his evening performance because of the dampness remaining after the storm. It kills sound-carrying quality like a blanket of cotton to keep any instrument in tune, especially in the open shed where concerts are held. Students had, he said, kept three hair-dryers going for most of the afternoon full blast at the felt pads and strings of his piano in order to dry them out. Later at the concert, we noticed that the orchestra had to re-tune their instruments between almost every movement.

The program that evening included the Overture to "The School for Scandal" by modern composer Samuel Barber, then Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony No. 3, played superbly by the 90-piece orchestra, and finally the Third Rachmaninoff Concerto with Bolet at the piano. This was fireworks indeed, and a display of virtuosity to make one gasp. Certainly no lack of excitement as evidenced by the cheering audience who called Bolet and Conductor Pfohl back for some 8 curtain calls. My own feelings were that I would like to have heard Bolet's talents applied to music of a less spectacular, romantic type. I wanted to see what he could do with a Beethoven or a Chopin. But my longing for "musician's music" was fulfilled the next afternoon.

Fuchs Plays Mozart

Sunday offered a program which I consider a high spot of many years of symphony going. Following the Beethoven "Egmont" Overture, Fuchs' playing of the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4 was a masterpiece of balance and team-work between soloist and orchestra. The Concerto was played with restraint and true craftsmanship as well as musicianship. The audience was visibly but quietly moved.

Last two works were modern, and ones which I knew were extremely difficult for an inexperienced orchestra—Delius, "On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring," a delicate, impressionist work; and Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite" with its complicated orchestration and syncopations. In spite of the fact that Pfohl had

only 4 days to rehearse his orchestra, unpracticed as a team even though made of musicians from many symphonies, he conducted both works with the greatest control, getting sharp contrasts and never once allowing either "to fall apart" as can so easily happen, even with the greatest of orchestras. There was a unity and an understanding behind these difficult pieces which made their hearing a true experience.

The trip home during the sunset hours was broken by a side jaunt out three miles of bumpy dirt road, to the right just as you reach Wagon Road Gap. Again breathtaking views were capped by the most breath-taking of all from the porch of Pisgah Inn, literally lost on this mile-high mountain top. Here we had a buffet supper before a roaring wood fire before the last 20 cool miles down the mountain and through pastoral Pigeon Valley.

One last work on practical matters. There are few motor courts in Brevard, but many homes are open to visitors. The Brevard Chamber of Commerce and the Festival's Public Relations Department may be able to help you find good housing, and I don't think I have ever met such friendly people as I saw on the streets and in the shops. There are at least two good restaurants, Gaither's and Galloway's, and probably others.

My week-end was just a beginning. I'm hoping to go back for some of the coming concerts. Friday and Sunday, August 14 and 16, offers the duo-piano team, Luboshutz and Nemenoff, playing Mozart. That program includes works by Respighi, Carl McDonald and Tchaikovsky. Robert Harrison, violinist, and Gordon Epperson, cellist, will play a Brahms Double Concerto with the orchestra Saturday night, August 15. Also to be heard are the Brahms "Academic Overture," an Enesco "Roumanian Rhapsody" and Suite from "Der Rosenkavalier" by Richard Strauss.

Richard Dyer-Bennet, tenor with Spanish guitar accompaniment, will give a solo program of folksongs and ballads Tuesday night, August 18.

The week-end of August 21, 22 and 23 features vocal and choral works with Eileen Farrell and Beverly Wolf as soloists and the presentation of several 17th and early 18th century works climaxed by Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Yes, I can recommend the 18-year-old Brevard Music Festival. It is one of Western North Carolina's prize possessions.

Junaluska Queen To Be Crowned In Gala Program

The coronation of a new "Queen of Lake Junaluska," an annual highlight of the Methodist Assembly's summer program for more than 20 years, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday in the main auditorium.

The queen-elect is Miss Joyce Carter, Lake Junaluska resident and a rising junior at the University of North Carolina. She and the members of her court, 20 young couples, will be presented to the retiring queen, Miss Betty Anne Robinson of Hickory, who will preside over the opening exercises.

Following a colorful pageant with a Robin Hood theme, Miss Carter will be crowned as the 1953 queen and seated on the gaily-decorated throne. Serving her as "Maid of Honor" will be Miss Lucy Neeley, Columbia, S. C., who was runner-up in the recent election.

Also in the court will be the two other candidates, Miss Mary Moore, Columbus, Ga., and Miss Louise Leach of Lake Junaluska. Arthur "Smiley" O'Neill, recreation director at the lake, and his staff are in charge of arrangements for the coronation. The stage of the lakeside auditorium will be decorated in keeping with the Robin Hood motif.

A reception for members of the court and cast will be given after the coronation by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Carter, parents of the new queen; at their home on Lakeshore Drive.

Bible Study Vital To Christianity, Dr. Bullock Says

More Bible reading and home study were cited as Christian education goals by Dr. Henry M. Bullock, Nashville, Tenn., in his address Wednesday night at the Lake Junaluska Methodist Assembly.

"Let us work to bring it about that every member of every Methodist Sunday School studies his lesson at home, using his own Bible from the junior age upward," Dr. Bullock said. He is editor of Methodist church school publications and executive secretary of the Board of Education's editorial division.

"Too few of our children consider that it is expected and desired that they shall study their Sunday School lessons, and teachers too often do not emphasize lesson preparation and parents do not try to assist or even remind their children to do it," he continued.

"Our adults have widely come to regard Sunday School as a lecture by the only person in the class who has studied the lesson, or as an opportunity to exchange platitudes or ignorances about some scriptural passage," Dr. Bullock declared.

He said, "We must reverse these trends or else entirely redesign our whole concept of the church's educational work. . . we do not wish to take away from the home one of the last stimulants and opportunities for vital home religion."

Dr. Bullock also called for the "weeding out" of non-Methodist literature. "Under the guise of tolerance and freedom too many of our churches use the products of commercial and independent publishers which channel into Methodist Sunday School concepts of God and Christianity at wide variation with the teachings of Jesus as the Methodist Church understands them, and thus corrupt the loyalty of our people by creating unfounded suspicions about their own church."

He concluded: "Let Methodists be Methodists, learning Christian doctrine and ethics, experimental religion, and Christian social action and citizenship from our own literature."



BISHOP JOHN BRANSCOMB



DR. JAMES T. CLELAND

Bishop John Branscomb, Jacksonville, Fla., and Dr. James T. Cleland, Duke University, will be the pulpit principals at Sunday services in the main auditorium of the Lake Junaluska Methodist Assembly.

Cherokee Drama Impresses New York Critic - Author As 'Realization Of Dream'

By JOHN PARRIS

CHEROKEE, Aug. 12—The man they call "Mr. Theatre" said today that "Unto These Hills," the saga-play of the Cherokee Indians, impressed him "as an ideal realization of a long-cherished dream of national American drama."

John Gassner, eminent New York critic and author of the nation's top textbooks on drama and the theatre, made this statement as he ended a tour here of America's outdoor dramas, including "The Lost Colony" at Manteo, "Horn In The West" at Boone, "Thunderland" at Asheville, and "The Common Glory" at Williamsburg, Va.

"As a visitor from New York's professional theatre," he said, "I leave the Mountaineers Theatre at Cherokee with a refreshed spirit and a sense of gratification which strengthens a lifetime's conviction that the theatre is an institution that should be cherished and promoted by the people of America, their leading citizens, and the governments of their states."

"Unto These Hills impresses me as an ideal realization of a long-cherished dream of national American drama," he said. "The play is the epic of a people. But more than that, it is a drama of human relations that admirably expresses the unity of the human race. It is an understanding and compassionate work."

"The production, imaginatively staged against a natural setting of great beauty, stimulated and stirred me immensely. Needless to say, since a unified production is the work of the director, special compliments go to Mr. Harry Davis.

"The performance," he continued, "is particularly gratifying because the actors themselves are moved by the matter of the play and are caught up by the atmosphere or spirit of the event."

"Theatre, 'Unto These Hills' proves quite conclusively, is not an esoteric experience to be sipped like absinthe in a dive, but a way of expressing a life shared and treasured by all."

Park Field Trips Set For Saturday

A Great Smoky Mountains National Park naturalist will conduct another in this summer's series of field trips from Heintooa Overlook Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. The trips last approximately one and one-half hours.

Walks are open to the public, and there is no charge. Low-heeled shoes are recommended for women, but heavy hiking equipment is unnecessary.

More Roadside Parks Available State Announces

Construction of three more roadside parks will bring the total on main-line highways to eighteen, the State Highway Public Works Commission announced today. Parks now constructed are in Brunswick, Catawba and Forsyth counties.

One of the most recently completed parks is that on US 52 of Soco Gap. The commission provides surfaced drives, parking, picnic tables, safe drinking water, toilet and covered garbage cans.

In addition to these which are usually about one-half acre in size, the state provided more than 300 picnic tables.

In making the announcement Highway Chairman A. H. Gaskins asked the cooperation of the public in keeping the picnic tables clean and the next corner. "That covered garbage cans be placed at every site make a quick job no chore."

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