

Inland Singers Appear With Philharmonic

By Merab Eberle

The Dayton Philharmonic orchestra directed by Paul Katz and the Inland Children's chorus trained for performance by Richard Westbrook gave their annual Christmas concert, Wednesday evening, in the Masonic temple auditorium which was filled to capacity.

Once again the occasion was an order of spectacle what with Christmas trees pointed to swift light by hundreds of blue lamps and blue-gowned girls and boys in black Eton suits marching to music while they took their places on a high and silver-gray tier. Beneath them and well to the fore the members of the Philharmonic

were seated upon a blue platform and made something of a picture themselves in black of garments and whiteness of scores and the gleaming of light upon the brasses.

An Echo Song

The children sang with orchestral accompaniment; they sang excerpts from "Haensel and Gretel" and Christmas carols. They sang a cappella selections in which they were directed by Mr. Westbrook. They gave Gibson's "Song of the Drum" while the latter conducted, and they gave Di Lasso's "Echo Song" which they love to do and which the audience liked to hear.

And at last the children singers sang "Silent Night" and the lights which had been bright upon their faces and garments became silver, as silver as the Christmas trees which flanked each side of the tiered platform and the young carolers took on an ethereal aspect.

The program which the Inland Singers sang was much the same as that they have presented in former years, and the costumes they wore were made after the same fashion, and the stage setting with its silver trees and blue lights was not different. And this was as it should be, for Dayton has grown to love the whole of this Christmas ensemble and did not want it changed; least of all this season when the whirlwind of world war is sweeping away much of what humans hold dear and beloved.

The orchestra did superbly. Under Mr. Katz's direction it presented "The Star-Spangled Banner" while the audience sang, feeling about a bit miserably for words and wishing that it collectively had memorized them and making vows that it would shortly. The orchestra presented Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony," Johann Strauss's "Emperor Waltzes" and "The Russian Easter" by Rimsky-Korsakoff. The latter is a glorious composition in which earth and heaven rejoice in the Resurrection triumph. The Dayton orchestra handled it splendidly, made it a rejoicing work which seemed to bind the Easter and Christmas seasons into one.

Handwritten text on the scrapbook page with the clipping: "Everyone especially liked The Echo Song"