

# Noted New York Technician Stages Inland Choral Group

By A. S. KANY

Had you been in New York last week attending the opening performance of Molnar's "Delicate Story" you would have noticed among the credits, "Settings by Raymond Sovey." Which might mean nothing locally were it not for the fact that Mr. Sovey is responsible for the beautiful staging and lighting of the Inland Children's chorus which patrons of the Dayton Symphony orchestra will hear (and see) in the Masonic temple Wednesday night.

Several years ago, when it was first planned to stage this Christmas concert in the Masonic temple, Wallace Whittaker, general manager of the Inland, who more than any one person has been responsible for this grand work among the children of factory employes, urged Sovey to come here and arrange the staging.

To the average person that's a rather peculiar order, bringing a New York expert to Dayton just to stage a concert presentation, but Sovey came, sized up the situation, arranged the staging and lighting and audiences ever since have been nothing less than thrilled at the results.

Sovey has been technical director for a number of the more prominent New York productions, among them "Our Town," "Babes in Arms," "Oscar Wilde" and "Ladies in Retirement," in which Flora Robson appears in Cincinnati for three days beginning Christmas night. For four summers, too, Sovey staged the St. Louis municipal operas.

Sovey is back in Dayton this week attending rehearsals of the children's choral group and seeing that the staging is as near perfection as possible. Dayton Philharmonic patrons will see the results Wednesday night, while Masons and families will enjoy the same concert Thursday night.



RAYMOND SOVEY

**Raymond Sovey**  
Theatre: Designer

Raymond Sovey (1897–1966) was born in Torrington, Connecticut, and educated at Columbia. He began his theatrical career as an actor but soon switched to set designing. Sovey's career as scene, costume and lighting designer spanned more than forty years on Broadway. Gilbert and Sullivan hired him to design costumes and scenery for *The Mikado* at the Royale Theatre in 1927. Sovey's costume design for Tad Mosel's 1961 drama *All the Way Home* earned a Tony nomination. He costumed Fred Astaire in Cole Porter's *Gay Divorce* (1932) and he designed the sets for *The Petrified Forest* (1935), starring Humphrey Bogart and Leslie Howard, Rodgers and Hart's *Babes in Arms* (1937) and Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* (1938). Other career highlights include *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1941), *The Heiress* (1947), T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party* (1951), *Gigi* (1951), starring Audrey Hepburn, Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution* (1954) and *The Great Sebastians* (Tony-nominated for Best Scenic Design, 1956)

**Sources:**

[http://www.cuarts.com/about\\_arts\\_initiative/arts\\_legacy.html](http://www.cuarts.com/about_arts_initiative/arts_legacy.html)

<http://www.answers.com/topic/raymond-sovey>

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