

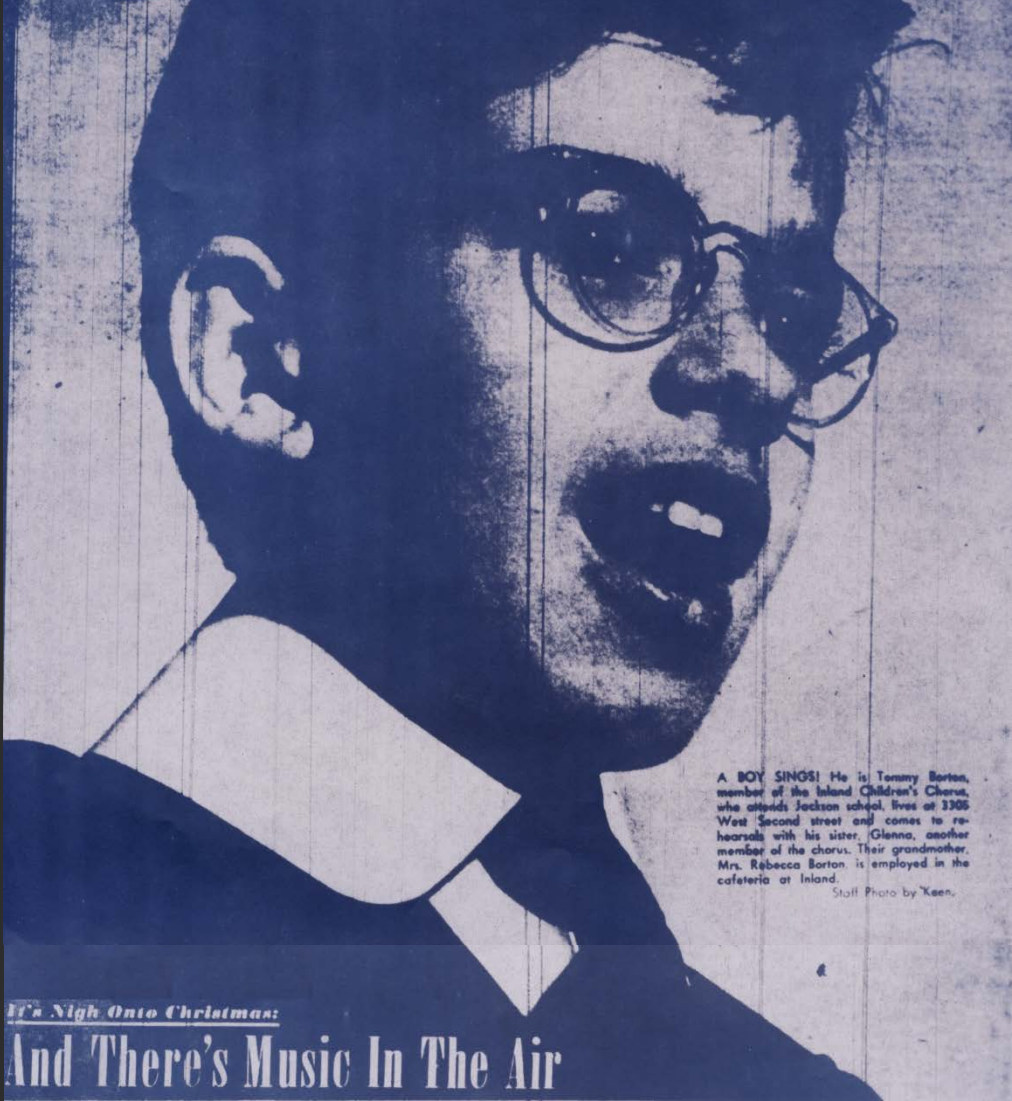


**A BOY SINGS!** He is Tommy Borton, member of the Inland Children's Chorus, who attends Jackson school, lives at 3305 West Second street and comes to rehearsals with his sister, Glenna, another member of the chorus. Their grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca Borton, is employed in the cafeteria at Inland.  
Staff Photo by Keen.

*Night Onto Christmas:*  
**And There's Music In The Air**

Scrapbook clipping from the cover of "Spotlight" section of the *Dayton Sunday Journal Herald* on December 10, 1944. Composite of full cover and the two page spread on pages 8-9 follow.

Courtesy of Shirley Whiting



**A BOY SINGS!** He is Tommy Barton, member of the Inland Children's Chorus, who attends Jackson school, lives at 3305 West Second street and comes to rehearsals with his sister, Glenn, another member of the chorus. Their grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca Barton is employed in the cafeteria at Inland.  
Staff Photo by Keen.

**It's Nigh Onto Christmas:**

# And There's Music In The Air

By MERAB EBERLE

A small circle in the middle of space and a number of rays in the sun will step in the eye of a professional in their place on a television platform. Silver spots—there will know a flowering in blue lights and the city's school by the Inland Children's chorus and the Inland chorus of boys will be under way.

Performances will be staged this season in the form of those during to see the Inland spectacular dance, the first next Saturday evening and the 8 Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12, at Memorial Hall. The girls say when they are these songs heard to in of department, costume in taste and singing rich of activities and in small form, "I'm singing the Inland." What they sing is that with this a performance does not resemble an amateur show here or there here. Now there is good reason should look so well for a master hand in scene has an ordered.

Inland Manufacturing Division of General Motors alone, which sponsors the show, brings here each Raymond Sorey of New York City who builds up

glamorous set-ups for New York productions.

Now without the singing children Mr. Sorey stands

(See pictures on pages 8 and 9.)

is waiting. Here is where Richard Westbrock, Inland specialist and chairman of the show, has a day to be established by Ed. Wallace S. Westbrock, who acted that Mr. Sorey took over the task of the show, a show made up of children of Inland and boys.

One hundred and ninety children are helped annually by Westbrock to concert performances. They will do the song as expected for the Christmas appearance with the Inland Philharmonic orchestra.

Mr. Westbrock is one of the Inland children of the show, a regular school singer and actor of acting and then Inland with regular act. Saturday for example rehearsal. Some of the children are in the chorus because their parents want them to profit culturally, others because they need to sing and would not give up a rehearsal for a party topped with ice cream and cake.

The director needs to be something of a disciplinarian and is something of a disciplinarian. When he is

present the children keep excellent order. Should he depart for a moment there is restless stirring which amounts to pandemonium.

And how does he exact obedience? His methods are not drastic but they are unusual. Each subject is made to sing out 100 times each self-consciously as "I must be better behaved," "I am going to sit still," "I intend to keep from whispering."

Should the required exercise not be handed in by the subject at the next rehearsal, the punishment is imposed. By the time that it reaches the point of 500 the child is handed under the same of increasing penalty and some parental pressure, music forth with completed task and perfect behavior.

The chorus broadcasts each Christmas Eve either in person or in transcription. Last Christmas Eve a former member of the chorus serving in the armed forces of this country heard his own voice being broadcast in transcription from Dayton as he listened to a radio program in Brazil.

Yes, some of the boys who sang with the chorus back in 1936 are now serving their country. Some of the girls who were little maids then are wives and mothers and are asking Westbrock to hold places open in the chorus for their children.

Composite microfilm prints of the cover of "Spotlight" section of the *Dayton Sunday Journal Herald* on December 10, 1944. Transcribed text of the article above and inside pages 8-9 follow.

Courtesy of Mary (Westbrock) Lubinski

Dayton Sunday Journal Herald  
Sunday Dec 10, 1944  
Spotlight cover and p. 8 & 9

It's Nigh Onto Christmas: AND THERE'S MUSIC IN THE AIR  
by Melba Eberle

Fifty small girls in long powder blue gowns and a like number of boys in Eton suits will step in the rhythms of a processional to their places on a silver-grey tiered platform. Silver spruce trees will know a sudden flowering in blue lights and the city's annual concert by the Inland Children's Chorus and the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra will be under way.

Two performances will be staged this season to take care of those desiring to see this almost spectacular performance; the first next Saturday evening and the second, Sunday afternoon, December 17, in Memorial Hall.

People say when they see these singers trained to precision of deportment, costumed in taste and singing with much of sweetness and no small fervor, "It doesn't seem like Dayton!" What they mean is that with this staging the performance does not resemble an amateur performance here or elsewhere. Now there is good reason that it should look so well, for a master hand in scenic effects has so ordered.

The Inland Manufacturing division of General Motors Corporation which sponsors the chorus, brings here each season Raymond Sovey of New York City who builds up glamorous settings for New York productions.

Now without the singing children, Mr. Sovey couldn't do anything. Here is where Richard Westbrook, Dayton organist and choirmaster, comes in. Nine years ago he was approached by Col. Wallace A. Whittaker who asked that Westbrook take over the task of organizing a chorus made up of children of Inland Employees.

One hundred and ninety children are trained annually by Westbrook for concert performance. Those who do the best work are selected for the Christmas appearance with the Dayton Philharmonic orchestra.

Mr. Westbrook directs the different sections of the choir-soprano, second soprano, and alto -separately and then brings them together each Saturday for ensemble rehearsal. Some of the children are in the chorus because their parents want them to profit culturally; others because they love to sing and wouldn't give up a rehearsal for a party topped with ice cream and cake.

The director needs to be something of a disciplinarian and is something of a disciplinarian. When he is present, the children keep expectant order. Should he depart for a moment there is restless stirring which mounts to pandemonium.

And how does he exact obedience? His methods are not drastic, but they are onerous. Each culprit is made to write out 100 times such self-counseling as "I must be better behaved" ... "I am going to sit still" ... "I intend to keep from whispering."

Should the required exercise not be handed in by the next rehearsal, the punishment is doubled. By the time that it reaches the point of 400 the child, humbled under the sense of increasing penalty and some parental pressure, comes forth with completed task and bettered behavior.

The chorus broadcasts each Christmas Eve, either in person or in transcription. Last Christmas Eve a former member of the chorus, serving in the armed forces of this country, heard his own voice being broadcast in transcription from Dayton as he listened to a radio program in Brazil.

Yes, some of the boys who sang with the chorus back in 1936 are now serving their country. Some of the girls who were little maidens then are wives and mothers and are asking Westbrook to hold places open in the chorus for their children.

Transcribed from Dayton Journal Herald microfilm located at the Dayton Metro Library on E. Third St.  
Transcribed by Mary Lou Lubinski (nee Westbrook)

# All Is Calm? ... As Inland Children's Chorus Rehearses



**EUGENE BRAUNSCHWEIGER**, struggling with the bow collar he wears as a member of the chorus, is the son of Carl Braunschweiger, engineer in Inland's food control department. He is an eighth grade pupil at Cleveland school.



**SOPRANOS IN REHEARSAL.** Left to right, Beverly Baker, whose aunt works at Inland; Margaret Cox; Billy Westbrock, nephew of Richard Westbrock; Danny Hagen, nephew of Leo Hahnepacher, Inland employee, and Jerry Winking, whose father, John Winking is in the Engineering Laboratory at Inland.



**BILL McCORD** shows his mother and sister, Mrs. Corrie McCord and Ellen Ann McCord an airplane model he has just completed. Bill, 12, is in the eighth grade at Washington school. His mother is an employe in Inland's payroll department. His sister is not yet chorus age. The McCords live at 21 Westview avenue.



**A BOY AND A GIRL,** Marlene Delsuth and Jerry Balchard. Jerry is the son of Maezie Balchard, director of music at the University of Dayton. His sisters, Evelyn and Maurine, who are members of the Inland Children's chorus.



**MARILYN ENGEL** carries her share of the song books following a chorus rehearsal. Marilyn's brother, Richard, and a sister, Barbara, are also in the chorus. Their mother, Nellie Engel is employed at Inland.



**SIX TUNNY** children line up for rehearsal. Left to right, are Gerald, Carol Ann and Kathleen of 1239 Hayes street and Norma, Tom and Jim, of 1209 Old Orchard avenue. Their fathers are brothers: Bill a former Inland employe, and James, in Inland's budget section.



**RICHARD WESTBROCK**, director, imparts special instructions to three youngsters, left to right, John Miller of 901 avenue who has been in the chorus for four and one-half years, Payllie DeHeger of R. R. 10; Bill Clingman, 718 Valley street; Shirley Aufderhole, 208 Fountain avenue; Richard Engel, 27 West Kansas drive.



**ROBERT ECKLEY** illustrates how a member of the chorus must do "time" if he has violated one of the rules of chorus rehearsal conduct. He lives at 1221 Seigler street and is 11 years old.



**PAULA SHAY** and her sister, Theresa Shay, at far right, are members of the chorus. They are photographed here with their parents Mr. and Mrs. John Shay of 42 Pioneer street. The photographs on view are studies of the girls' brothers who are in the armed forces.



**ELDEN WALTERS**, 21 Upper avenue, when not rehearsing at attending school, helps his father, former employe at Inland at a filling station.

Two-page photo spread continued from cover page in the "Spotlight" section of the *Dayton Sunday Journal Herald* on December 10, 1944. See the original photographs with reporter notes used in this article on the "photos" page. — Size as shown above (unfolded): 16 x23"