

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

See also the December 1937 article on Sovey for more on his work with the Chorus, his biography, and a profile of his method of designing performances.