

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

PRESENTS

The Combined University Choral Organizations
The Glee Clubs of Alexander Hamilton and
John Marshall Junior High Schools
The University Symphony Orchestra

IN

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

A MUSICAL LEGEND IN FOUR PARTS

BY

GABRIEL PIERNE



DIRECTION

CHARLES WILSON LAWRENCE

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDES DIRECTED BY GEORGE C. KIRCHNER

MEANY HALL

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 8:15 P. M.
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2:30 P. M.
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 8:15 P. M.

SOLOISTS

Alain Jean Gray
Allys Dorothy Searles
A Mother Mary Kuist
The Narrator John Pressley
An Old Sailor Paul Benson
The Voice From On High Robert Wilson



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Miss Ethel Henson, Supervisor of Music, Seattle Public Schools
Mrs. Miriam Terry Groth, Director of the University Women's
Ensemble
Mrs. Lois Scott, Director of Music, Alexander Hamilton Junior High
School
Jack Schaeffer, Director of Music, John Marshall Junior High School
George C. Kirchner, Conductor of the University Symphony Orchestra
Betty Osborn, Sallie Moore, Lyle McMullen, Accompanists

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

A musical legend by Gabriel Pierne, adapted from the poem by Marcel Schwob. English translation by Henry Grafton Chapman. Period, 1212.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

"About that time, many children, without leader and without guidance, did fly in a religious ecstasy from our towns and from our cities, making for the lands beyond the seas. And to those who asked of them whither they were bound, they did make answer: 'To Jerusalem, in search of the Holy Land.' . . . They carried staves and satchels, and crosses were embroidered on their garments. . . . and many of them came from beyond Cologne. They travelled to Genoa and did embark upon seven great vessels to cross the sea. And a storm arose and two vessels perished in the waters. . . . And to those who asked of such of the children as were saved, the reason of their journey, these replied: 'We do not know.'"—*Chronicles of Albert de Stade.*

PART ONE. THE FORTHSETTING

A public square in a Flemish town in 1212. Night.

A short orchestral introduction is followed by a call to the children from afar: "Wake! Wake! Awake! Set forth for Jerusalem, where Jesus waits." The chorus sings "What is this marvel that is brooding o'er the nations? Is a miracle impending?" The call is repeated, and the Narrator relates that the children "leave their parents' homes, escape from the arms of their mothers."

Allys, a girl, and Alain, a blind boy, hear the call and gather the other children to depart for Jerusalem. A melody, beautiful in its simplicity, beginning with the words "There in those fair gardens we'll pluck sweet flow'rs," is sung by Allys and Alain, and later by the entire chorus of children. The fathers and mothers attempt to dissuade the children from their venture, but without success. The section ends with the supplication, "O Lord, protect these innocents."

PART TWO. THE HIGHWAY

A highroad between a broad meadow bright with flowers and a strip of woods. A warm morning in spring.

This entire part is sung by Allys, Alain and the children, who have left their homes and are joyously proceeding on their way to the sea and to the Holy Land. A rather lengthy prelude is given to the orchestra, and then appears an unaffected melody, sung by the children, that is prominent throughout the movement: "Children three were we, who were going on our way. And, as we went, lo! we met with our blessed Lord, Jesus Christ."

(TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN PARTS TWO AND THREE)

PART THREE. THE SEA

Shore of the Mediterranean near Genoa, in the gulf of Lyons.

The Narrator announces, in a syncopated, flowing melody, that the children have at last reached "the sea, the mighty ocean, whose soft folds of blue are edged above with white, as were't a heavenly garment." The children are enraptured by the sight, for "Jerusalem lieth there at the end of this lovely sea."

A chorus of sailors welcomes the children aboard the ships provided by the town of Genoa. An old sailor tells the story of the star that watched over Jesus at His birth. The children think all the stars have been drowned as they see them reflected in the water; but says the Narrator, "The stars have never perished, but with Jesus they live above." The syncopated theme returns as the sailors sing "The evening falls o'er the sea." Allys, Alain and the children join the men's chorus, and the section ends peacefully as the ships embark.

PART FOUR. THE SAVIOUR IN THE STORM

A storm arises and is vividly depicted by the orchestra, Narrator and sailors. The ships sink as the children and sailors cry "O Lord God, save us now, protect us now."

Alain, who has been blind on this earth, is the first to see the glory of the Lord; thus he who has had to be led can now lead the others to Jesus. The Voice from on high calls: "Suffer little children to come unto me." A seraphic chorus is heard, then all voices join in the finale, "All your sorrows on earth be turned to joy in Heaven, joy everlasting."