

Music and Films

The 21st Symphony Concert

A.B.C. EVENT AT JEWISH GUILD

WHAT might be termed the "Maturity Concert" (it was the 21st and last of the present series) given by the A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra at the Jewish Guild Hall on Tuesday evening, the 17th inst., witnessed as usual a full house and plenty of enthusiasm. Jerry Schulman and his men have never failed in conscientiousness and ability, but the choice of programme for this occasion might, one ventures to suggest, have been a little more "thrilling," in consonance with the numerical significance.

The Hansel and Gretel overture by Humperdinck to one who has definitely profited educationally from the series, left somewhat of a feeling of emptiness, melodic though it was and ably as it came from the instrumentalists. However, the Theme and Six Diversions by Edward German which followed, quickly restored the distinctive mood of satisfaction which always prevails at these concerts and sent us out into the lobby for a few minutes to await the Symphony No. 4 by Brahms.

Before that we were treated to an interlude by Yvon Saxby, who veritably has become as much a part of these musical feasts as Schulman himself. Saxby's pleasant task was to summarise the year's work, thank all concerned for the part they had played in making the series the unqualified success it has proved, and to lay a rich and well-deserved bouquet at the feet of Schulman in particular and his orchestra in general. To all this we agreed unreservedly.

The Brahms rounded off the evening satisfactorily. It was quite evident that the orchestra itself enjoyed playing it, and for one who has of recent days steeped himself in Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, it presented aspects of colour, atmosphere and peroration so provocative that henceforth one will divide allegiance and homage still further and likely enough bombard Schulman for more of the master.

The new series of concerts will commence on Tuesday, February 4, 1936, in the same hall at the usual time, and patrons are reminded that applications must be submitted well in advance. The popularity of these events is such that disappointment will be the lot of any who dally about writing to the Secretary, P.O. Box 4559, Johannesburg.

H. G.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE AT THE PLAZA

That delightful little lady, Miss Shirley Temple, who has entertained so many thousands of people in her previous productions, is the star of "Little Colonel," showing at the Plaza Theatre this week. In this, her latest picture, the child actress surpasses all her previous triumphs. The supporting programme at the Plaza theatre this week is a most attractive one.

A CABARET.

At the cabaret to be held at the H.O.D. Hall on Tuesday, the 31st December (organised by the Dr. Herzl Lodge, No. 1, in aid of their benevolent fund), Miss Wyliss Levet and her cabaret troupe, and Miss Lilian Barnett and partner have consented to entertain the guests.

A Secretary Required

FOR TRANSVAAL ZIONIST YOUTH EXECUTIVE

Applications are invited for the post of secretary to the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive. This is an admirable opportunity for a part-time University student. The successful applicant will be expected to commence in January.

Johannesburg Symphony Society

GREAT CONCERT AT THE WANDERERS

A YEAR of fine work in the development of musical appreciation in the city was brought to a happy climax when the Johannesburg Symphony Society gave its thirteenth concert in the Wanderers Hall on the 12th inst.

The conductor of this capable ensemble has good reason to be satisfied with his achievement; did he entertain the least doubt about that he had only to look round at the crowded hall in which there was hardly a vacant seat and certainly not one unappreciative face. Joseph Traunek is a gifted conductor, transmitting that fine artistic sense of values he abundantly possesses to the players under his baton, and in the forthcoming year one feels that he will go even further than the high mark he has already established.

The programme for the occasion took us up and down the scales of tonal and emotional sensation. To start an evening with a symphony requires careful selection, especially when Tchaikovsky and Smetana follow on the bill, but in selecting Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 10 to open the soiree Traunek chose wisely. Thus we started off on the wings that Haydn has fashioned for the realms of subtle modulations and thrilling vignettes, and hardly had we touched earth, so to speak, when we started off in the chariot of emotionalism of the Russian master with Heinz Hirschland at the reins and giving full vent to his interpretative powers. The Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto op. 23 bears so deeply the impress of the character and musical idiom of the composer, that the soloist, profound student and fine executant that he is, simply took it in both hands and presented us with the cleanest cut and most satisfying piece of interpretation imaginable. Little else could be expected of a former pupil of the great Schnabel.

The Symphonie Poem "Vltava," by Fr. Smetana, was at its conclusion recognised as a monument to the skill and rich imagination of the composer. It is not often heard, but never fails to arouse instant appreciation and delight. The performance was a tour de force for orchestra and conductor alike. Poems of this nature are only attempted by masters, their presentation demands ability and feeling. Both being present we floated down the great river symbolised so magnificently by Smetana, and finally carried away as fine a memory of a thoroughly pleasant evening as musicians in concord anywhere could provide.

ATTRACTIONS AT THE COLOSSEUM

The attraction at the Colosseum to-night and to-morrow is George Arliss in his latest production. This is entitled "The Guv'nor" and is a delightful picture, blending humour, drama and surprise. From Monday, Colosseum audiences will see Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers together again in an entirely new musical review entitled "Top Hat." They are supported by a large and talented cast and this is a picture that should delight everyone. The supporting programmes, including the playing of the Symphony Orchestra, at both shows are excellent.

"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY" AT THE METRO

For the production of this picture—"Mutiny on the Bounty"—which is the attraction at the Metro theatre this week, the original H.M.S. "Bounty" was re-created in exact detail from British Admiralty plans. Apart from being an entertaining picture, it depicts one of the most notable chapters in maritime history—the mutiny of the H.M.S. "Bounty" one hundred and fifty years ago. Heading a cast of more than fifty featured players are Charles Laughton as the Captain of the ship, Clark Gable as the leader of the mutineers and Franchot Tone.

COLOSSEUM

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TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

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"THE GUV'NOR"

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