

Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

BRILLIANT SUCCESS OF FIRST CONCERT.

TEL AVIV.

The inaugural concert of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra took place in Tel Aviv on Saturday evening, 26th December in the presence of a brilliant gathering, which included Sir Arthur Wauchope, Dr. Weizmann, leading members of the Jewish Agency Executive, leaders of the Military and Air forces, and prominent members of the Jewish community. The hall was packed with an audience of some 2,500 people.

The concert was a brilliant triumph alike for the orchestra and for the untiring efforts of Bronislaw Huberman.

Toscanini, who conducted, and Huberman received a tremendous ovation from the audience. The programme included the famous third "Leonora" Overture by Beethoven and items by Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schubert. The next evening a repeat concert was held under the auspices of the Histadrut. Again the hall was crowded to the doors, and Huberman and

Toscanini received another great ovation.

Plans are in preparation for a considerable time ahead, and some of the greatest artists of the day are to appear as soloists in future programmes.

Toscanini's Impressions.

Toscanini, in a statement to the press, declared that he was deeply moved and impressed by the Jewish upbuilding of Palestine and by the spirit prevailing in the Jewish colonies.

In a statement to the J.T.A., Mr. Huberman asked to convey his hearty thanks to the world press for its support of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

Signor Toscanini, Mr. Huberman further declared, was most satisfied about the Orchestra's achievements. If such a city as Tel Aviv, he went on, could show 7,000 subscribers for tickets, it meant that New York would have proportionately subscribed 420,000 tickets, which proved the deep interest Palestine took in the Orchestra.

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(CASTLE DIVISION).

The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr,
Mr. Morris Alexander, M.P.
AND
Councillor A. Bloomberg, M.P.C.

WILL ADDRESS A

Public Meeting

IN THE

BANQUETING HALL,
Darling Street, Cape Town,

THURSDAY, 14th JAN., 1937.

Chair to be taken at 8.15 p.m.

Inserted by James T. Thompson.
136, Adderley Street, Cape Town.

A LETTER FROM ERETZ ISRAEL.

(Continued from Previous Page).

with such warmth that tears came into his eyes. At his first rehearsal that evening, to which he invited thousands of Jewish workmen for whom the prices of the concerts are prohibitive, there were thousands more outside the hall. No doubt the crowds surrounding the halls on the night of the actual performance will be greater still.

ARCHITECTURAL ART.

A movement has gained ground in recent months, particularly among recently arrived architects from Europe, to take measures to put a stop to the chaotic architectural development of Palestine. Such a step is indeed long overdue, for whatever else of beauty and imaginative power the Jews have exhibited in Palestine, they have on the whole failed in the sphere of architecture.

In this branch of applied art, as in all achievements involved in the graded construction of the country, the existing examples, in the final analysis, are but the first groping essays that should accordingly be judged with indulgence. That groping, however, has been too lengthy a process. Although there

are already magnificent examples of architectural art scattered all over the country, the general standard is low, exhibiting poor taste, troubled perceptions, a propensity for separation and disorder, an eager self-assertiveness to the injury of the environment, and a blind and exaggerated loyalty to the architectural ideas of the country of the builder's origin. The average Jewish quarter presents a hotch-potch of all styles, of all peoples, gathered from all ages and from all parts of the world. Nor is the fault lack of an original "style." On the contrary, there is too much "making" of a Hebrew style. But, in effect, it is not a national style that these adherents are creating, but a conscious and superficial stylisation. If these enthusiasts could only be persuaded to leave the creation of the new national style to the mercies of the land and climate and natural growth!

Fortunately, however, there are redeeming features; influential architects and artists and a section of the public have set their faces against the architectural anarchy, and the informal discussions that have been initiated among them and among some of the newcomers promise to have a salutary effect.

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