

Jewish Music Society.

The Editor,
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,—During the last few weeks I have spoken to a number of people about the project of a Jewish Music Society, which has been simmering in my mind for some years, and I have been pleasantly surprised at the interest shown by persons with greatly varying musical knowledge and taste.

The question as to whether there is such an entity as "Jewish Music" need not occupy us long. Apart from several fields where definition is not quite clear, there are the following fields where it is quite clear, or at any rate as clear as is ever necessary to define "national" in anything so international as music:—

1. The ancient music of the Temple and its descendants.
2. The cantillation of the Bible.
3. Jewish liturgy.
4. Jewish folk-song.
5. The Jewish operas of the late 19th century.
6. Present-day developments.
 - (a) The folk-music of Eretz Israel.
 - (b) The compositions of modern composers.

This should suffice for the present.

It seems to me that the only way to satisfy this interest is by bringing into being a society specially devoted to it. The developing of a sub-group within any existing society must mean a crippling limitation of membership.

I am therefore writing to ask through your columns if all those who are in any way interested in such a project, would communicate with me.

Without counting my chickens too enthusiastically before they are hatched, I must add that there need be no doubt about such a society waning for dearth of nutriment. Last year there was established in Eretz Israel a World Centre for Jewish Music, which publishes a periodical "Musica Hebraica." By affiliating to it the proposed society would be able to intensify its interest as much as it desired.

The Society would endeavour to arrange for the presentation of musical works (instrumental and vocal); for short talks on musical subjects (as far as possible, illustrated); for the maintenance of a library of books, scores, and gramophone records.

I propose, in any event, to convene a meeting of those interested in the latter part of May, and hope to have the further hospitality of your columns when I do so. Meanwhile it would be very helpful to know who are interested and to have their comments.—Yours, etc.,

H. W. ALTSCHUL.

Lawrence Road,
Athlone.

BARMITZVAH.

BLOCH.—Goodman, youngest son of Mrs. M. Bloch and the late Mr. A. H. Bloch, of Worcester, will read a Portion of the Law at the Worcester Synagogue on Saturday, 6th May. Reception: Saturday evening at 8 p.m. at the Worcester Zionist Hall. Relatives and friends cordially invited.

ISAAC OCHBERG EDUCATION FUND.

The late Mr. Isaac Ochberg bequeathed a capital sum for the Isaac Ochberg Education Fund, the income therefrom to be used for the assistance of Jewish students resident in Cape Town or its suburbs who pursue a course of higher Education.

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