

COMPOSING SINCE THE AGE OF EIGHT!

Madame Chaminade Sends Greetings To Young New Zealanders

ALL over the world there are groups of young musical enthusiasts banded together in Chaminade Clubs. Knowing the debt the musical world owes to Madame Chaminade the doyenne of French women composers, these young women have chosen this method of showing their appreciation.

Now an old lady of 78, bedridden and an invalid, Madame lives on the Riviera. The Chaminade Club in Wellington recently sent her a message to which they have had a charming reply. After assuring them of the delight their letter had given her, Madame went on to say that she had passed through a bitter winter, and that even in March in the sunny Riviera she had written her letter with difficulty. She was, however, determined not to keep them waiting for a reply to a letter which had touched her very deeply. Referring to the war, she said: "Let us hope that God will protect us in our common efforts for the right," signing herself, "Yours very sincerely and affectionately, C. Chaminade."

First Concert at 18

Radio listeners know some of her music, particularly "The Flatterer,"

Broadcasts Through The Heater Pipes

Harvard University's central heating system is being used for an intra-mural broadcasting system inaugurated in April of this year.

Financed by the "Harvard Crimson," an undergraduate daily, the new "Crimson Radio Network" will employ a transmitting technique in use in several colleges, sending programmes to dormitory rooms via the steam-pipes of Harvard's central heating system. Ultra-high frequencies will be utilized and will be audible only within a few feet of the radiators and pipes, and not outside the college buildings. This method was developed for college use at Brown University.

"Scarf Dance," "Ballet No. 1," "Autumn," "The Ballet Suite," "Callerohe," and such favourite songs as "The Silver Ring," and "Ritournelle." But it is difficult to realise that she was born at Paris on August 8, 1861, and that her first experiments in composition were made before the Franco-Prussian War. In her eighth year she played some of her sacred pieces to Georges Bizet, the composer of "Carmen," who was much impressed with her talents. She gave her



MADAME CHAMINADE
"The Greatest Living Woman
Composer"

first concert when she was eighteen, and from that time her work as a composer has gained steadily in favour, until at the present time she enjoys a reputation which has perhaps not been excelled by any other woman composer.

She toured France several times in those earlier days, and in 1892 made her debut in England, where her recitals were extremely popular. In 1908 she visited the United States and received a rapturous welcome. In Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Year (1897) she played before Her Majesty at Windsor Castle, and the Queen was so pleased that she sent the artist an autographed photograph.

Chaminade's "Inspirations"

When she was in New York in 1908 Madame Chaminade confided to a reporter something about her "inspirations" for composing, which she called her "dreams." Here are her words:

"They are dreams of the flowers and the woods; they are dreams of the spring and the summer, of the song of birds and the deep shadows of the forests. They are compositions inspired by old Slav legends, by some dramatic episode in the Nibelungen Ring, by the love song of a troubadour, by a thousand and one threads of romance which lead the imagination in the 'Country of the Might Have Been.' In some of them are embodied arcades of mimosa trees trembling in the light winds, in others glimpses of the Mediterranean, blue and mysterious, rushing into far off silvery perspectives. In one there is the song of a nightingale singing in a night heavy with perfume of many blossoms and lighted with the crescent moon, in another a Crusader is saying good-bye to his sweetheart before he goes to battle."

Madame Chaminade married M. Carbonel, a music publisher of Marseilles, who died in 1906. She retained her maiden name, however, but called herself Madame Chaminade in future instead of Mlle. Chaminade. Ambrose Thomas once said of her: "This is not a woman who composes, but a composer who is a woman."

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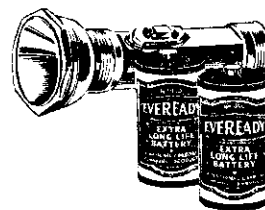
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