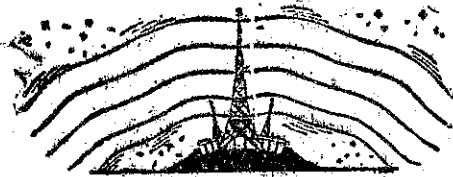


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Dunedin Flocks To Hear Mary Pratt

Singer to Continue Her Studies in Europe

DURING the past few years Dunedin has produced many singers who have risen to remarkably high positions in their art in the Dominion, but there can be no doubt that, among the galaxy of vocal talent with which the city is blessed, the star of the greatest magnitude at the present moment is Miss Mary Pratt, whose glorious contralto voice, artistic maturity, and singularly appealing personality, have placed her in the foremost rank of her class. It was then no matter for astonishment that the Town Hall was filled to capacity on Wednesday evening last, when one of the most enjoyable concerts in the history of the city was given for the purpose of providing funds so that Miss Pratt might be enabled to continue her studies in the wider field of art provided by England and the Continent, the birthplaces and polishing grounds of so many of the world's greatest musicians and artists, writes the musical critic of the "Otago Daily Times."

That Miss Pratt is fully qualified to join the ranks of those with international aspirations is beyond argument, for competent critics who have been privileged to hear world-renowned singers have spoken in the most eulogistic terms of her vocal and artistic qualifications, and there is every probability that, as the result of the broadening of her artistic outlook and experience which will be made possible by her mingling with the haut monde of music, Miss Pratt will ultimately achieve to the highest pinnacle of her artistic profession.

The concert, which was organised by Mr. Ernest Drake, to whom must be given a very great deal of credit for the education of Miss Pratt to her present high state of artistic scholarship, was one which embodied the best of the musical and elocutionary talent which this city can offer, the result being that the huge audience showed no inclination to become restive even when the hour became late, for the entertainment occupied close on three hours. Miss Pratt, who received an enthusiastic welcome on her first appearance on the platform, once again enthralled her hearers with the purity of her lovely voice and the great depth of her artistic expression, and was required to answer repeated demands for encores. Her opening number was Saint-Saens's "Softly Awakes My Heart," which she sang with appealing artistry, her recall numbers being "Harbour Night Song," which was given with charming artistry, and "Barney O'Hea," a lilting and humorous little Irish ballad, which was sung with ineffable grace. Later in the evening Miss Pratt sang Beethoven's "Praise of God," and Handel's "How Changed the Vision," with great depth of artistic feeling, and in response to insistent demands for encores, sang "Doon the Burn," and "The Bonnie Briar Bush," with effortless grace and felicity.