1939

The Carillon A Symbol of Music

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Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol19/iss2/7

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The Carillon
A Symbol of Music

Carilloneur Jeanne Schumacher throws light on campus musical opportunities

Have your four years with Iowa State been the profitable years you expected? At sometime in one or maybe four years you will wonder just this. And perhaps you will feel that it has been all you could ask for or perhaps you will regret (just a little) the hours wasted.

The word, avocation, means as you will recall from your high school Latin, "without a vocation." Though it sounds a bit odd, in a modified sense it can become valuable. Perhaps you’ve had secret aspirations to dabble in some art of your own, but conditions seemed such that you could earn three meals a day more easily by doing something more practical. Your first desire need not be lost in a memory—it can be your avocation.

Music as an avocation is by no means buried at Iowa State. That educational institution may be thoroughly scientific, but there are music opportunities in it that may prove quite relaxing after the familiar "chem lab."

Your participation or even just interest in music can’t come to you automatically. As in everything—effort has to be exerted to realize what opportunities there are and how they may be used.

Perhaps it is the element of individuality and uniqueness that turns an interest to the carillon, that familiar instrument up in the campanile tower. A determination may quickly result in lessons and consequently at your very fingertips the control of those magic bells. That thrill can come to anyone, providing he knows something of music. But one can listen to music and obtain the same satisfaction.

Classical music is never neglected by Iowa State, but some students shun the many opportunities to enjoy it. The too common thought that you have to “learn to like” classical selections is only a state of mind. If you listen to a symphony concert with a receptive attitude, you are going to get more out of your college education than you bargained for. Spend a few hours in the Carnegie Music Room in Memorial Union, and you’ll be surprised at the relaxation and fun you’ll get out of it. And you’ll soon be talking music intelligently with the best of the music lovers. Many of the visiting musicians on our campus visit the music room. Members of the St. Louis Symphony spent much of their time in that room following their concert last year.

If in high school you played a trumpet, a violin or a clarinet, there is no reason to let it lie in its case when you come to college. No matter how incompetent you feel in music, try out for the musical organizations on the campus. The orchestra or the band will welcome your efforts. In chorus or in glee club there is a place if you’ll try for it. Thrills are waiting for you if you participate in the concerts of these organizations.

Members of chorus and the glee clubs sing for their own enjoyment and for others, too. Accompanied by the orchestra they perform at Christmas time in a presentation of the inspiring “Messiah.” Last Spring they thrilled the “Stars Over Veishea” audience with a performance in Fred Waring style.

Iowa State musicians travel through the state during vacations, presenting concerts in various towns. Our musical organizations have made names for themselves through these concerts and numerous broadcasts presented over WOI.

More tangible goals for music lovers at Iowa State are the two honorary musical groups, Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha, for women and men, respectively. They are active in sponsoring and encouraging the participation of every student in some musical group or production.

The Star Concert Series is not to be forgotten since it brings to Iowa State such musical celebrities as Lawrence Tibbett, Lily Pons, Marian Anderson, Rose Bampton, Rudolph Ganz, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Don Cossacks and others equally famous. Novices who reluctantly spent a few hours listening to these artists were surprised that an interest in music could be aroused so easily.

A course in music appreciation offered at Iowa State is invaluable in the musical knowledge it brings to the so-called “layman” of music. Students taking the course just for an extra credit found themselves listening intently for the oboe solo in the visiting symphony and enjoying it.

The opportunities in music on the campus are always waiting to be explored by the students. Music can never stop growing and to grow with it at Iowa State is an enjoyable, worthwhile way in which to occupy your extra hours.