

PHILANDER CHASE.

Words by the Rev. George Franklin Smythe, D.D. Tune:—"The Pope."
Boldly. Arranged by Alfred Kingsley Taylor, '06.

TENORS. *f*

1. The first of Ken-yon's good - ly race, good - ly race, Was that great man, Phi-lan-der
 2. He dug up stones, he chopp'd down trees, chopp'd down trees, He sail'd a - cross the storm-y
 3. The king, the queen, the lords, the earls, lords, the earls, They gave their crowns, they gave their
 4. He built the col - lege, built the dam, built the dam, He milk'd the cow, he smok'd the
 5. And thus he work'd with all his might, all his might, For Ken - yon Col - lege day and

BASSES.

He climb'd the hill and said a
 Chase, Phi - lan - der Chase; He climb'd the hill and said a
 seas, the storm - y seas, And begg'd at a er, no - ble's
 pearls, they gave their pearls, Un - til Phi - lan - der had e -
 ham, he smok'd the ham; He taught the clas - es, rang the
 night, day.... and night, and when you heart still keeps a
 He climb'd the hill and said a

by FRANK T. LENDRIM

pray - er,..... And found - ed Ken - yon Col - lege there; He climb'd the
 door,..... And al - so that of Han - nah Moore; And begg'd at
 nough,..... And hur - ried home - ward with the stuff; Un - til Phi -
 bell,..... And spank'd the naught - y Fresh - men well; He taught the
 place..... Of love for old Phi - lan - der Chase; And Ken - yon's

He climb'd the hill and said a
 hill and said a pray'r,..... And found-ed Ken - yon Col - lege there.
 ev - ery no - ble's door,..... And al - so that of Han - nah Moore.
 lan - der had e - nough,..... And hur - ried home - ward with the stuff.
 class - es, rang the bell,..... And spank'd the naughty Fresh - men well.
 heart still keeps a place..... Of love for old Phi - lan - der Chase.
 He climb'd the hill and said a

SINGING CAN BE SO GREAT

IN WRITING an article on singing as it exists today at Kenyon, one is tempted to say to his reader, "To hear and see one of the groups in concert, could tell a far better story than any article." Many alumni have heard choral groups from Kenyon and have shared the pride and enthusiasm which such a concert engenders. As so many areas of Kenyon life, the choral program has developed rapidly in recent years. Singing as it exists today, while perhaps different from that which many alumni remember, nevertheless, still has the aim of enriching and making a memorable contribution to the student's undergraduate life.

To the average student entering Kenyon, singing perhaps represents the juvenile days of secondary school where it may not have been the *thing* to do. Or perhaps, to some college freshmen singing may have meant the weekly grind of rehearsing in a church choir and "at Kenyon, so I hear, nobody has to go to church." To others, singing memories may even go back to boy soprano days and to the embarrassing moments when vocal manhood set in and somehow with it, the loss of any desire to continue with this newly acquired and oftentimes uncontrollable singing voice. Finally, to some, singing has always been *the thing* to do. This type of student approaches singing at Kenyon with thoughts as "I might as well continue, that is if the guys who sing here aren't all finks!"

Thus during orientation week, when the reputations of most campus organizations are made or broken, membership in a singing group comes under the cautious eye of many a freshman.

Once on the campus, previous musical considerations may be temporarily bypassed or forgotten by freshmen who hear it is fun to sing. Oftentimes students express an interest, if for no other reason than the fact that "the fellow who sat next to me in Peirce Hall said I should sing. But gosh! I can't read music . . . I've never sung before." Let no one forget the ever-recurrent thought, consciously or subconsciously expressed, "How many girls will I meet through singing?" And I am always grateful when I hear such statements as "I heard and met some boys from Kenyon last year when

they were on tour and decided then that I wanted to sing when I came here."

Occasionally singing ability manifests itself through such queries as "I see the Choir sang some Monteverdi last year," or "What was the Brahms work the Singers sang two years ago?"

These and other reasons somehow supply the impetus which gets or pushes many a Kenyon freshman into the somewhat terrifying initial move which puts him into contact with the director of the musical group. And let no one deny that to many a student, particularly to one who has never sung before, it is a terrifying moment to approach the faculty director and to say to him, "What do I have to do to be in the Chapel Choir or the Kenyon Singers?" Perhaps equally terrifying to the student is the usual response of the director, "I want to hear you sing."

Once our prospective singer "makes it"—that is somehow survives singing alone, letting others hear what is buried deep down in those vocal cords—and assuming what is heard is moderately pleasing to the listener, he begins his singing days at Kenyon. And, as has been the case with the majority of those selected for membership, once a student is "in," he usually finds the whole experience so satisfying he elects membership not only for the school year but for all of his Kenyon experience. For example, 21 of the 25 singing seniors last year had sung for their entire four years.

Of course, it must be admitted that the rushing and recruiting campaign put on by officers and members of both the Choir and the Singers during the opening days of school is fairly strong, to say the least. (Members of the choir had a party for all freshmen the first Sunday afternoon of the fall term. Results were highly favorable, so much so that one freshman, mightily impressed with the high degree of sociability in evidence, wondered if the choir had such a





custom every Sunday afternoon during the school year!) While it is certainly not true that "any freshman caught singing in an unguarded moment during orientation week is whisked off to Lendrim," the upperclass students do sell their musical program with fervor, and well they should.

The two principal campus musical groups are the Kenyon Singers and the Chapel Choir. Neither is new, and there are alumni who have belonged at one time to one or to both organizations. The Singers, Kenyon's so-called glee club, primarily perform secular music, and wear the familiar (and now somewhat fading) blue blazers. The Chapel Choir, singing exclusively sacred music, wear purple robes. (What is sometimes worn underneath those 70 purple robes is highly unpredictable!)

Because the number of concerts and accompanying rehearsals for each group have increased in recent years, students are no longer permitted to be in both groups. This decision was made with some reluctance since certainly any student should be allowed admission to both groups if he so desires. However, it was felt that a student could not do justice to both organizations. Thus, the Singers and the Chapel Choir each have their own separate membership and officers, sing their own music, but in no sense compete with each other.

Each group spends about one and a quarter hours in rehearsal each week. In addition, both the Choir and the Singers have regular weekly sectional rehearsals accounting for another hour or so of the student's time. Of course, before any concert or trip extra rehearsals are scheduled.

Interestingly, in the last few years about the same number students have shown interest in membership in the Sing-

ers as well as the Choir. And let no one think in spite of all the good times that it does not take work and dedication to belong to either organization. Each group meets throughout the entire school year, and oftentimes there may be a rehearsal or even a concert which interferes or interrupts a student's schedule.

Members of the Chapel Choir, in particular, deserve special mention for its response to the frequent "dark" Sunday mornings which Kenyon peculiarly seems to have. As alumni may remember only too well, thoughts of rousing oneself out of bed, let alone of stumbling forth to the Chapel to sing, can be the furthestmost thought from any student's mind. And yet, through some small or large miracle, usually in the form of a sympathetic roommate or an unfriendly alarm clock, the choir members do stumble forth on a Sunday morning and are able to sing remarkably well during the Chapel service.

What is in the present choral program at Kenyon which interests and motivates so many students? Is it the music sung, the comradeship, the great and good fun — particularly on trips — or the opportunity to meet girls? Probably the answer is to be found in all or in a combination of these. The fact that so many students belong to the Singers or Chapel Choir, about 125 students or roughly some 20 per cent of the student body, shows that the program has vitality and meaning. In addition, the attrition rate of students leaving either group, once they are "in," is gratifyingly low. Equally pleasing is the increasing number of students who somehow "escaped" musical detection in the freshman year, and now wish to join in their sophomore, junior, and even senior years.

SINGING CAN BE SO GREAT

It is probably true that for the last few years the membership in both the Choir, this year with 70 members, and the Kenyon Singers, with 55, is at an all-time high. A rather interesting paradox here is that while these groups, as well as the College have grown, there has been a decline in the type of informal singing which many alumni remember. This was characterized by regular singing of the student body in Peirce Hall and the regularity of fraternity singing down Middle Path. Unfortunately, both traditions are rather rare now. While many present-day alumni are sometimes disappointed, distressed, and even outraged that the songs which were sung in their student days may not be sung by today's students, let alone known by them, they may rest assured that even though some songs might be different and the occasions upon which those songs are sung is different, the same enjoyment and pleasurable singing memories are still being provided the present-day students.

Paralleling the increase in membership of both the Choir and the Singers has been a rise in the number of concerts each group sings, both on-campus and off. This year, in addition to participation in the annual Advent and Lenten concerts, both the Choir and the Singers have sung with four women's choirs who have spent a weekend on campus. Two of these schools, Lake Erie and Western colleges, are familiar names to Kenyon alumni. The other two names are relative newcomers to the list, namely Stephens (Missouri), and Notre Dame (Cleveland).

The typical plan for such gala weekends has the girls arriving in the early part of Saturday afternoon. Joint rehearsals are scheduled with both the Choir and the Singers for the remainder of the afternoon. Following dinner, a concert is held with the men (Kenyon Singers) and women each singing separately as well as together. On Sunday morning the visiting choir sings with the Chapel Choir at the regular Chapel service. On two occasions this year a mixer fol-

lowed the Saturday evening concert with members of the Choir and Singers raising the necessary funds.

However, it is in the area of off-campus concerts where there has been the greatest increase in the last few years. Highlighting these off-campus concerts are the spring tours each group makes in alternate years. The first such tour was made by the Singers in 1964, with that group making its second tour, in 1966. The Chapel Choir made its first tour in 1965, and by the time this article is read the second tour, hopefully, will be a fond memory.

The Choir's tour this year is a typical one with the students, the entire Choir membership of 70, traveling some 2000 miles in two charter buses and presenting 14 concerts in 10 days. Principal cities visited this year were Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. The 10 days came during the first part of spring vacation, and following the last concert, the students wearily but happily headed homeward.

Undoubtedly, any student's most vivid memories of his Kenyon musical days are to be found in the funny, exciting, and sometimes frightening things that happen on these tours: the good singing (hopefully all of the time); the meeting of friends, alumni, and not incidentally families — on last year's Singers' tour, about 25 students had parents hear them in concert; the race to see whether clean shirts will hold out (but best no mention about similar conditions regarding underwear and socks); the unending bridge games on the bus, interrupted perhaps by an occasional glance at a textbook; the opportunity to visit for the first or umpteenth time interesting geographical regions in this country; the chance to



show Kenyon at its best, and lastly, the not soon-to-be-forgotten friendships made within the group and with it the opportunity to meet new friends when staying with different hosts every evening while "on the road."

While touring is always pleasant, the demands of such a schedule, musical as well as social, are vigorous. The ability to be able to give one, sometimes two, full concerts in one day asks a lot of each participant. (Some of the Singers still talk of their tour in 1964 when four concerts somehow were scheduled in one day, and all of them successful.) Each student returns from a tour with the wish and almost determined vow to do it again, and statements such as "Why do we have to wait so long to do another one?" are common.

Three years ago at the retirement of the Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, a 1923 Kenyon graduate, the College sent a singing delegation to the convention assembled in St. Louis to pay tribute to one of its most distinguished alumni. A small group was chosen for that occasion, and because their experiences together proved so enjoyable, the students decided to stay together. Thus was born the Chasers. Named for Philander Chase, the group has become one of the most popular of the singing organizations at Kenyon and because of the size, 10 members, the Chasers are easier to transport than either the Choir or the Singers. The group, selected from members of the Chapel Choir, has as its trademark red vests and a varied repertoire. Like the Singers and the Choir, the Chasers have made numerous off-campus trips. Alumni in Cleveland, Pittsburgh,

Toledo, Boston, and New York heard them last year. This year they sang in many of these cities again and added Chicago to their list as well as being featured on the tour program of the Choir.

Perhaps the most exciting thing to happen to the Chasers or for that matter any Kenyon singing group in recent times, has been their selection to sing at Expo 67 in Montreal on June 7. On that day they will give two 30 minute programs, the first at 10:30 a.m. and the second at 5:30 p.m. Thus for the first time in recent memory, perhaps ever, a singing group from Kenyon will travel outside the confines of this country. Any alumni who will be at the Expo on June 7 should plan to hear the Chasers. Bandshell B will be the location.

Finding additional rehearsal time for this group, over and above their Choir duties, has been a problem which has sometimes been met with late evening or afternoon rehearsals. However, this year the group meets three times a week for 45 minutes during the noon hour. Those members who have classes both before and after the regular lunch hour eat, or try to eat, during rehearsals. A simple box lunch is provided for those who need it by Saga Food Service. (Ever try to sing and learn music while chewing on a ham sandwich?) If any of the Chasers have a harried look this year, it is perhaps because their formerly peaceful noon hour has been turned into yet another busy rehearsal.

While this article has concentrated on the Singers, Choir, and the Chasers, there are numerous other examples of mushrooming choral activities on the campus. During the last school year the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, organized largely by students with faculty assistance, had a smashingly successful first season with a highly praised production of *Patience*. This same production was seen by numerous alumni later in the year when performances were repeated at Commencement. This year *The Mikado* was given in an equally successful production. The future of the group looks secure. Still another choral group, modeled in size after the Chasers, came into existence last year. This group, equally full of enthusiasm and verve and called the Kokosingers, is entirely student led with most of the members coming from the ranks of either the Singers or Choir.

Indeed with the prospect of a co-ordinate women's college, one can see further possibilities for even more choral groups at Kenyon, and the singing future does appear to be bright. Thus as reflected in the pictures accompanying this article, as well as in these few words, there is wide participation and enthusiasm in singing on the Hill. In the words of one recent graduate, "I never knew singing could be so great."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR — Frank T. Lendrim, associate professor of music at Kenyon since 1961, has also served as director of College choirs. He received Mus. B. and Ed. Mus. B. degrees from Oberlin and master's and doctor's degrees from the University of Michigan, where he was a teaching fellow in the school of music. Following graduation from Oberlin, he taught music in the public schools of Sayville, N.Y., and Orange-Maplewood, N.J. At the same time, Mr. Lendrim was organist-choirmaster of churches in both states. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists and Music Educators National Conference.