

2-11-1936


UA37/23 WHAS Broadcast No. 21

WHAS

Western Kentucky University

Earl Moore

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Recommended Citation

WHAS; Western Kentucky University; and Moore, Earl, "UA37/23 WHAS Broadcast No. 21" (1936). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 4234.

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WHAS Broadcast No. 21

February 11, 1936

4:00-4:30 p. m.

From Studio in Bowling Green

Strings and Voices "College Heights."

Moore Western Kentucky State Teachers College. We greet you all both great and small with the words of our college motto- - -

Voices Life More Life.

Vibraphone Chords.

Moore Although our program to-day consists of several parts, of widely different kinds, the principal performer in all of them will be the distinguished pianist, composer, and teacher, long associated with the Department of Music of Western Teachers College, Prof. Franz J. Strahm. He is personally known to thousands of music lovers; for the benefit of those who do not know him, may I repeat the name, Strahm, spelled S-t-r-a-h-m.

Prof. Strahm first plays Chopin's "Polonaise," Op. 26, No. 1.

Strahm "Polonaise."

Moore Continuing with Chopin, Prof. Strahm is next heard in the "Etude in A Flat," Op. 25.

Strahm "Etude in A Flat."

Moore The college newspaper of Western Teachers College is the College Heights Herald, published fortnightly. The faculty sponsor is Miss Frances Richards, of the Department of English. The editor-in-chief is Mr. Paul Huddleston, of Smiths Grove, Kentucky, a senior in the College. Prof. Strahm has kindly consented to allow the

editor to interview him to-day. You now hear Mr. Huddleston interviewing Professor Strahm.

Huddleston You are a native of Germany, are you not, Prof. Strahm?

Strahm That is right. I was born and reared in Germany.

Huddleston At what age did you come to the United States?

Strahm Twenty-four.

Huddleston Have you visited Germany recently?

Strahm Yes, in 1932 and again last summer.

Huddleston I suppose you heard a great deal about the Hitler regime during your last visit.

Strahm No, I heard very little discussion of it, because the people are not allowed to talk about politics in the cafes or beer gardens or any such places.

Huddleston What impression of prosperity in Germany did you obtain?

Strahm Conditions appeared to me to be very much improved since my visit in 1932. Let me give you two illustrations. In 1932 when I traveled by railroad from Bremen to Freiburg, there was so much room on the train that I had a whole coach to myself. Last summer I was unable to obtain a sleeper, and every seat in the train was taken. It was the same way everywhere I traveled on my excursions. When I am in Freiburg I live about a mile from the business district and frequently walk that distance. In 1932 I could not walk a block without being accosted by beggars. In 1935 I didn't see a single beggar there.

Huddleston Did you see any instances of the Nazi treatment of the Jews?

Strahm Yes. One of my old schoolmates is a Jew. He has a dry goods store in Freiburg. One day last summer I stood in front of his store, shook hands with him, and stood talking with him for a while. The next day the police came to ask what connection I had with that Jew. My friend told me that he would like to get to America or to Palestine, but he could not sell his store, for he would not be allowed to take the money out of the country.

Huddleston Your primary interest is in music. Would you say that Germany is making progress musically?

Strahm Yes. I heard some very fine concerts and operas on this visit. One thing especially impressed me in Munich. That is the interest of the people in community singing. In a great beer garden resembling our stadium in appearance I saw twenty thousand people assembled and joining in the singing. It was especially inspiring to see the part taken by thousands of school children.

Huddleston Did you go into Austria and visit the music festival at Salzburg?

Strahm Yes, I did, and heard there some of the concerts which were broadcast in America on Sunday mornings.

Huddleston We heard a symphony orchestra concert broadcast with Toscanini of the New York Philharmonic conducting. Did you hear that one?

Strahm Yes, I was there, and Toscanini conducted the entire performance without using any score.

Huddleston Thank you, Professor Strahm, I must not take more of your time now.

Moore

The next portion of the program is devoted to an interesting and all-too-little known phase of music. We offer by way of illustration two negro melodies from the collection for the piano by the late distinguished negro musician Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, who was born in London in 1875, spent his life in England, and died there in 1912.

The musical genius of the African negro has never received the recognition it deserves. Negro music is in its essence spontaneous. But it is dignified. The negro brought his native musical endowment with him from Africa to America and developed the American negro spirituals. The chief difference between African music and the music of Europe and America is that the former is based mainly on rhythm, the latter mainly on melody and harmony.

We shall present one specimen of African Negro music and one American. From Southeast Africa we choose "Maribye Ma Nonha Ngopfu," which may be translated "The Stones Are Very Hard." This probably should be taken figuratively to mean "Life is difficult," though it may refer to an actual stony path trodden by the singer. Mrs. June Purdom, of Princeton, Kentucky, will sing the original melody in the original language.

Purdom

"The Stones Are Very Hard."

Moore

Now Professor Strahm will play Coleridge-Taylor's amplification and interpretation of this theme.

Strahm

"The Stones Are Very Hard."

Moore

We have had a specimen of African music. We turn now to the American negro spirituals, which embody the

African rhythmic quality, but display a higher melodic and harmonic development. We have chosen "Oh, He Raise a Poor Lazarus." Mrs. Purdom and Dr. D. West Richards will song the original melody.

Purdom and Richards "Oh, He Raise a Poor Lazarus."

Moore Now Professor Strahm will play Coleridge-Taylor's piano version.

Strahm "Oh, He Raise a Poor Lazarus."

Moore Turning now from Negro music again to the works of the great European composers, Professor Strahm, in response to a special request, will play Mendelssohn's "Rondo Capriccioso," Op. 14.

Strahm "Rondo Capriccioso."

Moore You are listening to the program of Western Kentucky State Teachers College, in Bowling Green. You have heard Prof. Franz J. Strahm, pianist, assisted by Dr. D. West Richards and Mrs. June Purdom, and interviewed by Mr. Paul Huddleston, editor of the College Heights Herald.

To those who know him no program of Professor Strahm would seem quite complete without one of his own compositions, the official march of the College, known as the "Normal March." At the conclusion of this announcement this march will be heard.

We invite you to be with us again next Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock, Central Standard Time, for violin, xylophone, vibraphone, and chimes music, together with a brief address by Dr. M. C. Ford. Earl Moore speaking. We wish you Life More Life.

Strahm "Kentucky State Normal March."