

Move to Americanize Nation's Orchestras; Chance for Students

BY W. L. HUBBARD.

Plans for the Americanization of the symphony and opera orchestras of the United States were made public yesterday through an announcement issued by the Civic Music Association of Chicago. The association has joined hands with the Orchestral association and arranged for the training of students by Frederick Stock and Eric Delamarter through the organizing of what is to be known as the Civic Music Student orchestra.

Any student, male or female, who plays an orchestral instrument may apply to Herbert E. Hyde, superintendent of the Civic Music association, at 637 Fine Arts building, and will there file application for membership, and later will be examined by Mr. Stock or Mr. Delamarter as to capability. Those accepted will be formed into an orchestral body which it is expected will at first number about fifty but later will be enlarged to a hundred as members are found.

Rehearsals will be held regularly four times a week, each member being bound by contract for thirty or forty weeks. An honorarium of 50 cents for each rehearsal and probably \$1 for each concert will be given each player to help defray the cost of his or her private tuition. There will be no dues for registration, cost of music, or expenses of any kind, the Orchestral association supplying its library and the directors giving their services.

The object is to furnish to ambitious, capable students opportunity to gain needed practical experience in the higher class of orchestral playing—an opportunity which has thus far been unavailable anywhere in the United States.

Players thus equipped will be able to accept position in the symphony and opera orchestras of the country and compete with foreign musicians who have had practical experience abroad and therefore constitute the majority in the orchestral bodies of the United States to the exclusion of our own players.

Rehearsals, it is expected, will commence early next month and by spring it is hoped that concerts can be given. These will be offered in the civic centers, in the public parks, in schools, in towns and villages near Chicago, and wherever music of better grade is needed and is not at disposal. There is to be no competition with existent organizations, but a civic supplying of good music to the people, and at the same time an educating of players needed for the maintaining of the important orchestras of the country.