

The Dayton Westminster Choral Association
CALLAHAN BANK BUILDING
DAYTON, OHIO

Excurio del m
Chor de Westminster

Important



Llius Millet,
Alt de San Pere,
Barcelona, Spain.

The Dayton Westminster Choral Association

INCORPORATED

Dayton, Ohio

TOURING
EUROPE
AND
AMERICA
1929



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My dear Mr. Millet:-

The Dayton Westminster Choir, composed of sixty men and women are sailing on the "Leviathan" March 20th to make an extensive tour of Europe as a gesture of friendliness and goodwill, and in the sincere hope of bringing about a closer relationship and better understanding between the choral bodies of the two Continents and a more frequent exchange of musical activities.

This movement has been encouraged and endorsed by important men and women whose names appear as sponsors upon our International Committee.

The choir will make its debut in Europe at Albert Hall, April 7th, making, thereafter a very brief tour of England and going immediately to the Continent visiting Paris, Berlin, Vienna and a great many more of the important cities of the Continent.

I am asking your interest and good offices in our behalf.

Yours very sincerely,

William H. Talbot

KHT/k



THE DAYTON WESTMINSTER CHOIR

DAYTON'S GREAT CHOIR

THE Dayton Westminster Choir holds a unique place in the musical world of America. It has created a new standard for choral singing and has won the unanimous praise of critics and the leading musical directors of the nation.



The Choir has been praised for its beauty of tone and intonation, precise diction, enunciation, clear organ-like tones, unanimity of attack, and the unsolved mystery of attaining a very accurate pitch without any evidence of a pitch being given by the conductor or any member of the Choir.

JOHN F. WILLIAMSON

Choir Founded in 1920

The Dayton Westminster Choir was founded in 1920 by John Finley Williamson, who has been director since its organization. It was the logical outgrowth of a system of choral directing and teaching built up by Dr. Williamson, designed to achieve first, worship, and second by highest artistry.

The Choir's first public engagement in 1921, was a success from an artistic and technical standpoint. New laurels were won on each appearance and the choir's fame grew apace each year. Extended tours in 1926, 1927 and 1928 included many cities and the press critics everywhere, were more than liberal with their praises which but reflected the spontaneous acclaim given by the audiences.

John Finley Williamson

To understand the inspiring achievement attained by the Choir one must know something of the man who conceived the idea and



MRS. H. E. TALBOTT

whose genius is carrying it on. Dr. Williamson—the son of a minister—grew up in the shadow of the church. He is slight of build, ruddy of complexion, vivacious and business-like and has a decidedly pleasing and well modulated voice. He affects no mannerisms or eccentricities.

A student of David Bispham, Herbert Witherspoon, Herbert Wilbur Green, and others. From these he culled the best offered by each which he bound together into a method of voice teaching which is purely his own. His American studies and research work were augmented by a season in Europe, specializing in choral methods and church music. He has accomplished in a few short years what was formerly thought of as a life-time endeavor.

Mrs. Harry Elstner Talbott

Mrs. H. E. Talbott, President of the Dayton Westminster Choral Association, has individually sponsored the activities of this nationally known singing body.

Sensing the value of such an organization in stimulating worshipful music in churches generally, Mrs. Talbott has given freely of her time and resources in the promotion of this work and the European tour of the Choir during 1929 which includes plans for concerts to be given in England, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and other countries.

This tour is being undertaken that the people of Europe may know what progress America is making in this line of achievement and to create a better understanding between the choral bodies of the Old and New Worlds.

IN just a few short years the Dayton Westminster Choir has reached a distinguished position among America's choral organizations. Singing in the principal cities of America, this company of sixty men and women has achieved national fame and recognition. Its distinction is three-fold in its well-nigh perfect ensemble, the sheer beauty of its harmonic effects and its unusual spiritual character and purpose. The achievement of this aggregation of singers is the fulfillment of a well-defined vision and ideal in the mind of its director and founder, John Finley Williamson.

Highest Praise by Musical Directors and the Press

"This choir shows fine musicianship and work of understanding character second to none heard in this country."—*Walter Damrosch.*

"The very best choral music I heard in America was in Dayton, Ohio—the home of the famous Westminster Choir."—*Percy A. Scholes—In London Broadcast.*

"The deep sincerity and earnest efforts to meet all requirements necessary to give a noble work the deserved interpretation—an outstanding accomplishment—I found in the Dayton Westminster Choir."—*Hugh Anschuetz—director St. Louis Liederkranz Club.*

"The Choir is only the outward and visible sign of an inner and still largely unknown attempt to raise the standards of church music throughout the whole country."—*Paul Hutchinson, Christian Century.*

"If there were twenty such organizations led with the same purpose and thorough honesty in this country, I would feel perfectly safe as to the future of art in the United States."—*Ernest Bloch.*

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