

Musical Activities 1940s

1946-47



As usual, the high musical standard of the school has been maintained throughout this year. We have already begun to expect a good performance by the Girls' Choir and they never fail us. The choir conducted by Miss. Carter played an important part at Speech Day and in the Carol service at Christmas. The Boys' Choir only seems to appear, nowadays, on Speech Day, but to all it makes a very welcome appearance. The Orchestra has now become firmly settled in our midst and is rapidly growing into an important feature of Speech Day and School and Staff plays. Among the new societies launched this year was "The Gramophone Society". Only one recital has been given but that was enjoyed by a very varied selection of people from both Upper and Lower schools. The Music Competition, which was judged by Mr. B. W. Appleby of Doncaster, brought a great many surprises, but even the members of Holgate, Price and Guest enjoyed the afternoon just as much as Talbot, who were winners of the day. Hardy, D., is congratulated by all for his grand achievements during this year. Miss. Carter and he played pianoforte duets on Speech Day; this was a welcome innovation which we hope will continue. We are all pleased to see Miss. Carter back at her post after illness. At the same time our thanks go to Mr. Davis who took her place with choirs and orchestra. During this year we had the second visit of Mr. Grayson. With a very small orchestra, he explained the types of instrument used in an orchestra. They concluded the afternoon with a few well-selected pieces to illustrate Mr. Grayson's talk.

Marion Roberts. L6S, Price.

1947-48



This year has been characterized by general expansion and improvement in all musical activities, and thanks to the work of Miss Carter and Mr. Davis much progress has been made. The appearance of the Four-Part Choir on Speech Day and in the Carol Service held at Christmas, deserves special mention. Although still in its infancy it was commended, and it is fully expected that in subsequent performances it will live up to the reputation it has already gained. On Speech Day we also heard the Boys' and Girls' Choirs. They gave fine performances, as we have come to expect from them. The Girls' Choir has since been dissolved but most of the members have joined the Four-Part Choir. Although we are sorry to lose this institution, the Four-Part Choir appears a worthy successor. Several recitals have been held by the Gramophone Society and the increasing numbers of people who attended them pays silent tribute to their well-deserved popularity. Great things are hoped for next year. The Music Competition, which was adjudicated by Dr. Newell, H.M.I., was closely contested as usual, the final order being Price, Guest, Holgate and Talbot. Dr. Newell commented upon the very high standard attained in all classes, and gave much encouragement to individual performers. The Orchestra has made great progress, and, besides their appearance on Speech Day, they gave a performance at a Modern School at Batley.

Askew, J.R. L6S.

1948-49



This year is a landmark in the musical history of the School. For the first time, a concert has been given to the public. The Music Competition has been reorganised and the winners of the various classes together with others who deserved a hearing were the soloists. These people, together with the members of the choirs and the orchestra gained points for their Houses. The Concert was a great success, and it is hoped that in future years it will become as much a part of School life as Sports Day, Speech Day and the School Play. It was particularly pleasing to see how much the audience appreciated the orchestra's performance. More enthusiasm is being shown in the orchestra which accounts for the progress that has been made. We now have violin classes and cello classes taken by Mr. Renhard and Miss Eden respectively. These classes are proving a great help to the orchestra. Next year it is hoped to start classes in clarinet playing. At a presentation dinner given to Mr. Wilson, the retiring clerk to the Governors, the orchestra was honoured by being asked to provide musical entertainment during the evening. It is interesting to compare the performance on Speech Day last

year with those of four or five years ago and to see the improvement made by the orchestra. I think we can safely say that the Four Part Choir has lived up to its reputation gained shortly after its formation. Since October 1947 the number of members has increased from thirty to sixty-five and its repertoire now includes works by Bach and Handel. An even higher standard could be achieved and more pleasure derived from practices were it not for a few slackers! Eight members of the Four Part Choir were chosen to give a performance of a group of "more unusual" carols at the Carol Service. The Boys' Choir has been "in the picture" much more this year, giving performances at Speech Day, the Carol Service and the Concert mentioned above. We all appreciate their efforts very much indeed. During the year we have had two visits from Mr. Mason and the West Riding Orchestra. Their first concert was given to the Junior School and the second to the Senior School. At both concerts the orchestra played a number of pieces well chosen to illustrate Mr. Mason's talks. Sincere thanks must be expressed to Miss Carter and Mr. Davis for their untiring work in connection with all our musical activities.

Joyce Dixon, L6A (Talbot).