

Original Organ Novelty on Marr & Colton Concert Instrument

Reprint from the American Organist
By Geo. A. Bouchard, Organist

VARIOUS organists use various methods to entertain their public. I find that my audience enjoys best the story form of entertainment. It is astonishing the amount of good music they will absorb if presented in a novel manner. The beauties of art need but to be understood to be enjoyed. The story should be told in a simple, direct manner, consistent, picturesque, imaginative, and done artistically.

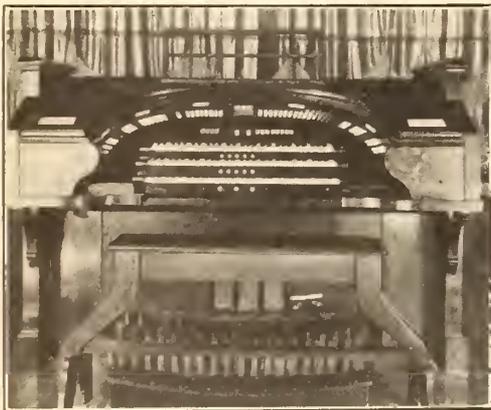
My own story, "The Indians of Niagara," is built along these lines and has proved immensely popular. I had my audience listening in rapt attention to Cadman's "Land of the Sky Blue Water" and "Moon Drops Low," when otherwise they would have walked away. It is sufficiently flexible to include any other material needed; at least it furnishes suggestions, ideas.

The plot for my "Dances of America" has historical interest and is absolutely American, as most of my novelties are. We simply reach down into the treasure house of our folk-songs, those of the past and those in the making.

As to slides, I've found that for the theater audience the most effective way to get the meaning of the music across is to flash the story on slides, illustrated or not, as required. (Consult the Standard Slide Co.)

Another subject of mine is entitled "A Romance of Niagara Falls." The story deals with local characters. Little Buddy is being rocked in the cradle while his colored nurse from Suspension Bridge (local) sings the charming lullaby, "Mighty Lak' a Rose." The verse is played, with the words on slides.

Later we see him going to school and I played "School Days." A few years later he has a sweetheart and I play "The Sweetest Story Ever Told." Just when everything is going fine, war is declared; Buddy must go. The Reveille is sounded. They arrive in France, "Over There"; a Battle rages, Battle Music; Buddy loses his pal, "Pal o' Mine"; he returns home victorious, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"; he is met at Falls



Organ console of the three manual Marr and Colton organ, Strand theatre, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Street Station (local) and serenaded by the Shredded Wheat Band (local); they march down Falls Street, Sousa's "Stars and Stripes," to Prospect Point, here he takes a look at beautiful Niagara (roar on Tympani); returning he is escorted through town to the tune of the Eagle Fife and Drum Corps (local); they pass the wonderful Strand

Theatre; just then the Niagara Trust Company's clock chimes the hour (chimes); Buddy soon arrives at his Sweetheart's home, her name is Margie (popular song); one year later—"Rock-a-Bye Baby." This novelty act took the house by storm.

"The Dances of America" proved to be entertaining, historically instructive, and of absorbing interest, though in a light vein. We deal with American dances exclusively. One of the earliest is "Turkey in the Straw"; in due time came the Cake Walk; then the One Step; then the Fox Trot. We digress to show the influence of Hawaiian music on the American dance. The sliding effect on the Ukuleles was promptly appropriated by the ever awake Americans, tacked on to the Fox Trot, when behold, Jazz was born! This sliding effect is illustrated in a popular melody called "Southern Moonlight." The similarity between this number and Hawaiian is striking. The old-fashioned waltz is played; then the slow waltz now in vogue; the Hawaiian effect is added to the slow waltz. This novelty closed with that big dance success, "Dancing Fool," with illustrated slides, with the words on them, closing full organ. (Good for ten bows!)

To do this particular line an organist should possess originality and constructive ability or he is out of luck. One is expected to think up a new one every week. There's the rub.

"The Indians of Niagara"

la. (Announcement Slide) George Albert Bouchard presents an original novelty—

lb. THE INDIANS OF NIAGARA.

2. No part of North America is richer in Indian tradition than Niagara. The artist expresses this idea in the beautiful interior decorations of the Strand—

3. The organist will express, quite appropriately, the same idea in tonal colors.

4. Victor Herbert catches the true Indian Spirit in a beautiful melody called—

5. "INDIAN SUMMER."

[The music itself now appears as the organist plays it.]

6. The Brave was fond of playing a kind of flute, especially when serenading the bronzed maiden of his choice.
[From title page of Cadman's Indian Tribal Melodies.]

7. Oh yes, for this important event he took off the war paint. [A humorous bit.]

8. An original trial melody, beautifully harmonized by Charles Wakefield Cadman, is—

9. "From the Land of Sky-Blue Water."
[Words and music on slides unfold as organist plays.]

10. Of dramatic intensity is the tragic "The Moon Drops Low." [Words and music on slides.]

11. But that was many years ago.

The scene now changes. Tuscaroras and Senecas, Heap big Injun, Squaw and Pappoose, are celebrating a big festival with a corn-roast, embellished with Fire Water (probably the moonshine variety)—

12. They are having a "War Dance"—

13. After which they hold council, invoke the Great Spirit, don the War-Pum-Belt and smoke the Pipe of Peace (nowadays piece of pipe).

14. Did you ever hear a real live Injun (Chief do the Trombone Laugh? Well let

Romeo Sitting Bill Green do it. [Romeo steps out on the stage in full regalia and brings down the house.]

15. Indians nowadays, their civilization having become absorbed into that of the whites, wear store clothes, take our names, and not infrequently take our White Squaws with them.

"William Tell"

1. (Announcement Slide) Overture to William Tell
Rossini's Masterpiece
Descriptive reading by
Mr. Bouchard—
[Picture of Rossini.]

2. Scene One: "The Dawn." [Sunrise scene.]

3. How calm and peaceful the early morn.
[Landscape.]

4. All is well with the world, a shepherd guards his flock. [Sheep.]

5. From afar is heard the sound of thunder. [Dark Landscape.]

6. Again is the scene calm.

7. A bird trills his love song. [Bird.]

8. 'Tis the quiet before a storm—

9. A sudden rushing of wind and rumbling of thunder disturbs the quiet. [Dark Landscape.]



An example of a well designed grand staircase

10. To calm his fears the shepherd blows his pipe. [Picture of flute.]

11. Dark threatening clouds swiftly gather.
[Dark landscape.]

12. In wild fury the storm breaks. [Storm.]

13. A raging torrent lashes the earth.
[Rain.]

14. The shepherd hastens to a safe retreat.
[Shepherd's cave.]

15. The sheep are huddled together in terror. [Sheep.]

16. The storm has spent its force. [Dark landscape.]

17. It is now subsiding. [Lighter landscape.]

1. Cautiously the shepherd ventures forth.
[Shepherd.]

19. Again the pipe is heard. [Flute.]

20. Fainter and fainter becomes the thunder till finally it is lost in the distance.
[Landscape.]

21. Again all is quiet. Joyously the shepherd blows the pipe. [Sheep.]

22. He now plays a tender melody.

23. He is joined by a companion.

24. Together they unite in cheerful melody.

25. The first shepherd again plays.

26. The second shepherd plays.

27. The charming duet continues merrily.

28. Their hearts o'erflow with joyous melody.

29. The ever-glorious Finale brings our story to a brilliant close.