

THRONG WELCOMES CIVIC ORCHESTRA AT PASADENA

BY ISABEL MORSE JONES

Proudly Pasadena surged into the new Civic Auditorium last night for the second celebration of the week's festivities in dedication of the last and most important building of the Civic Center. The Pasadena Civic Orchestra was making musical history, playing its first concert in the luxurious, large auditorium of 3000 seats, and all of them filled.

Conductor Reginald Bland, who has toiled to perfect a splendid community orchestra, through years of struggle, beamed on his eighty-five players with satisfaction and they smiled happily back at him. This evening's program was an achievement, a battle won and a touchstone for future growth.

Mr. Frank H. Sellers, chairman of the orchestra board, H. Dalzell Wilson and other public-spirited men and women who support and manage this flourishing musical organization in giving opportunity for young musicians and free concerts for the citizens, were welcoming all comers in the spacious, carpeted foyers up and downstairs.

Prof. Einstein and other dignified scientists from the California Institute of Technology were present to rejoice with the musicians and enjoy the fine program with their neighbors.

Included in the orchestra personnel, which ranges in age from 12 to 72, are members of this famous school's faculty. Others are bankers. Others are school children. All are drawn together in a common pursuit of happiness in making music.

The program had been carefully prepared by Mr. Bland with a

knowledge of his players' abilities, the requirements of the composers and no concessions to easy popularity.

The concert began with the Schubert Unfinished Symphony. It is an old stand-by with amateur orchestras and has been played again and again by the Pasadena group. Nevertheless it was a surprise to hear it so played by a nonprofessional orchestra and watch the subtle gradations of tone rise and fall under the effective persuasion of Mr. Bland's baton. There was restrained power in the lovely phrases and an understanding reverence for the composer that made the listeners forget the new surroundings and lose themselves in the music.

Well chosen smaller numbers followed. There was the dainty "Moment Musical," also by Schubert, an American tribute; "To a Wild Rose," by MacDowell, and two jolly folk tunes by Grainger to add a bright touch. The strings wavered in pitch a little but the same careful rehearsing and attention to the important details of tone quality and uniformly good phrasing were apparent in all the numbers.

Miss Mildred Marsh, a pianist of wide note who has resided in Pasadena for many years, played the Liszt E flat Concerto with the orchestra maintaining a steady accompaniment and providing excellent support to the brilliant showpiece. The Civic Auditorium had had its strictest acoustical test and won approval on every side. Music sounds well there and Pasadena is heartily and a little enviously to be congratulated on its beauty and its comfort.