

# Margaret's Voice, Charm, Courage Indicate Critics Are Out of Tune

By LEWIS NORDYKE

Margaret Truman stood on the stage at her concert in Municipal Auditorium last night a brave and talented young lady. It seemed to me that she was highly pleasing to the audience, which is the big job of any singer. It seems to me that the critics over the country have been splitting notes in writing up Miss Truman's concerts simply because she is the President's daughter. They have hinted darkly their belief that she wouldn't be on the concert stage at all were it not for her family connections. After seeing and hearing her in a selection of rather difficult numbers, I have a different notion. I think she is a courageous girl. As the President's daughter she could be spending her time in a life of ease, fame and a social whirl not open to any other young lady in the land. Rather than take this comfortable pleasure route that is open to her, she is working hard and undergoing the hard business of being a target for every listener and critic.

I think that she could do better if her father weren't the President. She started her music and voice long before the Truman family ever dreamed of living in the White House. I don't believe that any young artist in this country has even been given the note and trill count that Miss Truman is getting. She would deserve high praise for facing, and standing up under this severe strain even if her voice was as cracked as mine. But she has a delightful voice, and plenty of charm and personality. Others who heard her share this feeling.

May Peterson Thompson, who won fame as an opera singer and knows well the hard road ahead of any young artist, jotted down the following on her program:

"This new young American artist will go far and delightfully so. Margaret Truman has that captivating charm which will draw audiences to her. Her pure, clear, lilting tones are a joy with a telling resonance that fascinates the listener. Her simple, unaffected manner will always be an asset of great value in an art that demands simplicity hard to attain. She will be a drawing card on the concert stage with that asset—a simply lovely manner of production. A lovely personality."

Before going on with what others said, I want to give a glimpse of Miss Truman's program. She started with the aria Non so piu cosa son from the "Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Then she sang the La Sonata by Tosti. These were sung in Italian. Next came a pair of French folk-songs, Bergete Legere and Dormez vous by Wecherlin. Her third group, also in French, was La Fauvette by Gretry. There was a flute obligato by L. M. Knowland, a very fine musician.

After the intermission, Miss Truman sang a group in English—My Mother Bids Me Bind My Hair by Haydn, The Little Shepherd Song by Watts and In a Luxembourg Garden by Manning. Next came another French number, Aria Charmant Oiseau from Le Perle du Brezil by F. David. Mr. Knowland assisted with the flute in obligato.

The last group were Peter Pan by Stickles, Nightingale of France by Schindler and the famous Cielito Lindo by Padillo. This last was sung in Spanish. For encores Miss Truman repeated the second verse of Cielito Lindo and sang Waters of

## The Program

Margaret Truman

COLORATURA SOPRANO	
Assisted at the Piano by	
MRS. CARLETON SHAW	
L. M. KNOWLAND, Flutist	
I	
Aria—Non so piu cosa son "Le Nozze di Figaro" .....	Mozart
La Sonata .....	Tosti
II	
Bergere Legre, Dormez vous	
French Folksongs .....	Wecherlin
III	
La Fauvette—"Zemite et Azor" ..	Gretry
(with Flute Obligato)	
IV	
Flute Solo—"Concertino" C. Chaminade	
Flute Solo—"Scherzino" .....	J. Andersen
J. M. Knowland	
INTERMISSION	
V	
My Mother Bids Me Bind My Hair .....	Haydn
The Little Shepherd Song	
(17th Century Song) .....	Watts
In a Luxembourg Garden .....	Manning
VI	
Aria Charmant Oiseau—"Le Perle du Brezil" .....	F. David
(with Flute Obligato)	
VII	
Peter Pan .....	Stickles
Nightingale of France .....	Schindler
Cielito Lindo .....	Padillo

Minnetonka and Italian Lullaby.

The arrangement of such a program received more criticism than Miss Truman's singing. It seems a little heavy. It allowed little chance for showmanship. Miss Truman is a bit lacking in the little dignified tricks of the stage. It seems to me that she lifts her head a little too high; this seems a bit unnatural. I wish she had blown a kiss at the audience at the end of the last encore.

Ray McDermott, a singer and a private teacher of voice, had some praise for Miss Truman but little for the program arrangement. He said the opening piece was a poor selection. "This selection," he said, "started the artist working under difficulty. The piece was not as light as is consistent for the interpretation of Mozart."

Mr. McDermott felt that Miss Truman had not warmed up very well for her second piece. He added: "By the time she got to the third group (La Fauvette), she began to warm up. She opened up with authority and began to sing. She showed evidence of having a voice warm with a sincere feeling for artistic interpretation."

Mr. McDermott considered her best performance of the evening the singing of Aria Charmant Oiseau. In the English group he considered

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## 7 ROUNDS OF APPLAUSE SHOW SINGER HOW AMARILLO FEELS

By BETTE THOMPSON

Amarillo society dressed up in its best bib and tucker last night and turned out to hear the President's daughter sing.

They loved her.

Municipal Auditorium was about two-thirds full and the audience was most responsive to the young soprano who has spent the past three days being whirled from one social engagement to another.

Perhaps the high point of the evening, from the standpoint of applause, was Miss Truman's interpretation of "Cielito Lindo." She was required to sing it again. She answered at least three curtain calls after each group of numbers, and after her final song she returned to the stage for seven rounds of applause.

Miss Truman's blonde beauty was set off by a pink faille gown embroidered with green and silver metallic leaves. The off-shoulder sleeves were made with full tufts of the faille. The torso hip-line was effected with modified tufts that fell into a full skirt softened by an overlay of net.

The enchanting, yet conservative, stage personality of the young singer was most effective. She often bowed quite low in response to the applause, but it was with complete naturalness and poise.

The orchid corsage Miss Truman wore in the reception following the concert was sent to her by May Peterson Thompson, retired opera star. When Mrs. Thompson made her operatic debut in Paris, Mary Garden, who had already established herself in opera, sent make-up and her own personal costume to the young singer, along with her best wishes.

Remembering the "boom" it gave her, Mrs. Thompson wanted to pass along her best wishes to the young Miss Truman. She called

Miss Truman's suite and inquired if she would rather have a bouquet or a corsage.

"Oh, a corsage, please," said Miss Truman, "I want to wear it."

Following the concert, several hundred patrons thronged into the Federation Clubrooms adjoining the auditorium for a reception honoring Miss Truman. Before the receiving line could be formed in the dense crowd, the guest of honor appeared; and when a lane through the rooms could be made, she stepped up on the platform near the piano and made a gracious speech.

"I wish I could come out there and shake hands with every one of you," she said. "The way the people of Amarillo have received me has been wonderful. I used to think that Missouri hospitality was tops, but now I must take my hat off to the people of Texas."

"We must leave for Oklahoma City at 6:30 in the morning, and they tell me I must not miss my sleep. If I had my way, I would make a night of it with all you fine people. But they say I must leave. You've all been wonderful."

Miss Truman greeted personally the members of Pi Beta Phi, her sorority, who were giving the reception, then was whisked away by her escorts.

The Pi Phis later served the guests from a candlelit table.

Before the concert Bill Lane, news editor for KFDA, conducted an "on the spot" broadcast, interviewing

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## Kills 2, Kidnaps

ROCKFORD, Ill., Nov. 7 (AP)—Two men were killed today struggling with a gunman who broke into a Rockford home and then kidnaped a young mother of three children, wife of one of the slain men.

Police identified the slain men as Vernon Anderson, 28 years old, of Rural Route One, Rockford, and his father-in-law, Grant Muhrlin, 52, of Detroit.

The intruder gained entrance to

the home of Anderson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson, by smashing in a rear door. Anderson and Muhrlin struggled with the gunman, losing their lives in the scuffle. The gunman then forced Anderson's wife, Kathy, 26-year-old mother of three children, into his automobile and drove away.

Mrs. Anderson tried to jump out of a window in an unsuccessful effort to escape from her abductor