

Testimonials of R. A. Ballaseyus.

PRESS NOTICES.

The Tribune, Chicago, Nov. 12, '84.

A sacred concert was given Sunday evening in St. Patrick's church under direction of Mr. Ballaseyus, organist of the church, assisted by Mrs. McGuire, soprano; Mr. J. Cordes, barytone; Mr. Josef Vilim, violinist, and a select chorus. The program comprised works of J. S. Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Mendelsohn, Raff, Wagner and Barnby . . . Mr. Ballaseyus, in his organ selections, showed himself a master of the instrument, displaying also much artistic taste in the arrangement of the entire program.

Evening Herald, Chicago, May 29, '86.

The Costa Club of this city gave a performance of Sir Michael Costa's oratorio of "Eli" last Thursday. The accompaniments to the oratorio were furnished by Mr. Ballaseyus at the piano and Miss Alice Doty at the organ and were highly satisfactory in every way.

The Indicator, Chicago, Dec. 25, '86.

The Chicago Costa Club gave Costa's "Naaman" at Central Music Hall, Tuesday evening . . . The organ and piano accompaniments were very effective. Mr. Ballaseyus presided at the organ in a masterly manner.

The Inter-Ocean, Chicago, Feb. 27, '87.

A musical soiree that was extremely enjoyable and full of interest to all who attended was given at Bauer's music-rooms on Wednesday evening by Mr. F. A. Ballaseyus and pupils, assisted by Miss Abbie Birdsall, reader. The program was thoroughly classic and contained some very fine numbers, all of which were ably interpreted. Mr. Ballaseyus is rapidly becoming known as a very capable and conscientious pianist, organist and teacher.

The Tribune, Chicago, May 6, '87.

The First Regiment Orchestra, under direction of Prof. C. M. Currier, gave a concert at Central Music Hall. Mr. Ballaseyus accompanied at the organ, doing some clever work, and adding considerably to the effect of the climaxes.

The Dakota Republican, Feb. 16, '88.

The large audience that assembled in the University Chapel last Friday evening was loud in its praise of the music rendered by the choir, as was tested by the hearty applause that evening, and by the favorable comments afterward. Prof. Ballaseyus certainly deserves great praise for the skillful manner in which he has trained these young musicians, who have evidently been making the most of their opportunities by diligent application during the past few months.

The Argus-Leader, Sioux Falls, Dak., May 4, '88.

Prof. Ballaseyus of the University of Dakota, pleased the audience with a piano solo, which further established the reputation of that gentleman as a master of the divine art. The ladies' quartette of Vermillion shows the combined result of natural talent and careful training—and is one of which the University of Dakota may well feel proud.

Plain-Talk, Vermillion, S. D., December 18, '88.

The third piano recital on Monday was a brilliant success. It far surpassed either of the others, both in the excellence of the program and the number in attendance. The opening sonata, Apassionata, was beautifully executed by the professor and was received with enthusiastic applause. The song of Penitence by Miss Ayres was a very sweet, sacred song, and was well rendered. Miss Meeker did credit to herself in the song of Mignon. In place of the Turkish march Prof. Ballesayus sang Adelaide. The announcement that he would do so called forth a most earnest demonstration from the audience, and at the conclusion the chapel was fairly shaken with applause and the professor was compelled to return and appease the tumult by a repetition of a portion of the selection.

The Sioux City Journal, May 25, '89.

The choir of the University of Dakota under direction of Prof. Ballaseyus was greeted at the First Baptist church last night by a large audience, completely filling the room. The excellence of the musical talent and training at the Vermillion University is so well-known in Sioux City that there was high anticipation of pleasure in the concert given last night, and this anticipation was not disappointed. The concluding portion of the concert was the first part of Haydn's oratorio, "The Creation." This splendid oratorio gave ample opportunity for the full display of the powers and training of the University choir, and it showed a precision of attack and a strength which were fully surprising, illustrating the grand spirit which pervades the oratorio.

The Sioux City Journal, May 26, '89.

VERMILLION, May 25—Special. The growth of music department of the University under the efficient direction of Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus has been in every way remarkable. Before his coming to its head two years ago it existed scarcely more than in name. To-day it has a large attendance, a good equipment, and a strong instructional force. A word regarding it will be of interest to the *Journal* readers: There are at present in the department eighty-one students. Prof. Ballaseyus, who has been aided by three assistants, will continue in general control of the work. We do not fail to add that the chief aim of the department has been and is to inculcate a just appreciation of the best music, and of the best music only. To this singleness of purpose with which Prof. Ballaseyus has sought to realize this aim can be attributed in great part, we believe, the success he has achieved. He has sought to elevate the musical taste, not only of his immediate students, but of the entire University and surrounding community as well, and to this end he has formed and carefully trained a chorus which has been brought at length to that degree of artistic skill which makes possible the successful production of the larger choral works. The coming year some of the noblest musical creations will be produced. That they will be produced successfully the past achievements of the chorus, together with the admitted ability of its director, are sufficient guar-

antees. Music lovers in this region are to be congratulated that they have among them such a strong and well-trained musical organization.

The Sioux City Journal, June 17, '90.

A MUSICAL EVENT.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT VERMILLION.

The production of Handel's Messiah by the University choir, under the lead of Prof. Franz A. Ballaseyus, was a grand success. The chapel was crowded to its fullest capacity by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. The chorus and soloists entered earnestly into the spirit of the oratorio, and reached the climax of inspiration in the Hallelujah Chorus. Altogether the sacred oratorio was rendered in a manner seldom heard outside the metropolitan cities. Prof. Ballaseyus deserves great praise for his efforts in elevating the standard of musical productions.

The Sioux City Journal, March 14, '90.

The well-known pianist, Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus, followed with the sonata Apassionata by Beethoven, and was heartily applauded. The professor shows himself an easy master of his favorite instrument, blending technical exactness with admirable expression and feeling.

Plain-Talk, Vermillion, S. D., Feb. 10, '91.

The University concert at the chapel last Tuesday evening was the great musical success of the season. Prof. Ballaseyus played with his characteristic taste. The crowning portion of the evening was the performance of Haydn's "Spring" from the "Seasons" by the University choir, assisted by Mr. J. W. Marshbank, of Chicago.

The Sioux City Journal, May 16, '91.

The second in the series of organ recitals by Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus, of the State University, was given at the First Methodist church last night. The audience was afforded a rare musical treat. It was appreciated, too. Prof. Ballaseyus sustained, and indeed increased, the reputation he has won in Sioux City of being an organist of the first rank. His playing last night was

characterized by its wonted strength and brilliancy. J. S. Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in C Minor" was the first number on the program. It was played with excellent effect. Beethoven's beautiful "Larghetto" from the II symphony was the second number. It was one of the very best of the evening. Among the comparatively recent compositions played was Batiste's "Offertory in A." The more classical selections were restfully relieved by Walter Spinney's "Vesper Bells" and "Harvest Home." The program was wisely arranged and throughout admirably rendered.

The Sioux City Journal, May 23, '91.

A fair audience at the First M. E. church last night heard the third of the organ recitals by Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus, of Vermillion. It was the best audience thus far of the series. The playing by Prof. Ballaseyus was up to his usual high standard. Particularly enjoyed features of the evening were the vocal selections by Miss Fanny Ayres and the piano solo by Miss Bessie Ayres, both of whom are pupils of Prof. Ballaseyus in the musical department of the State University. Miss Fanny Ayres sang with excellent effect and artistic appreciation so difficult a solo as Handel's "Rejoice Greatly," from the Messiah. She received a hearty encore, as she did also later in the evening after singing David's "Thou Charming Bird." Miss Bessie Ayres played C. M. V. Weber's "Concertstueck op. 79" with a brilliancy and soulfulness that evinced musical talent of the highest order—indeed, of that order called genius. Sioux City music lovers will not feel ungrateful to Prof. Ballaseyus if he gives them frequent opportunity to hear, besides himself, the Misses Ayres.

The Tribune, Sioux City, Nov. 6, '91.

The inauguration concert of the Garretson Conservatory of Music given in the First M. E. church last night under the direction of Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus was greeted by an audience that filled the house to its utmost capacity . . . The concert was enjoyable throughout and reflects great credit upon Prof. Ballaseyus as an organizer and trainer.

The Sioux City Journal, Feb. 21, '92.

The large attendance at the organ recitals by Prof. Ballaseyus, following the evening service at the First Congregational church, attests the appreciation of his fine rendering of classical music.

The Tribune, Sioux City, March 4, 92.

It was in every way an admirable concert that the students of the Garretson Conservatory of Music gave at the First M. E. church last evening. The program was varied and entertaining. All its numbers were from the great masters, a comment almost being superfluous in reference to a program prepared by such a staunch classicist as Prof. Ballaseyus.

... Commendatory ...

*From Prof. Chas. L. Cocke, A. M., Superintendent
of Hollins Institute.*

HOLLINS, VA., April 4, 1895.

Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus has been a teacher of music in this Institution for three successive sessions. He is a gentleman of both talent and acquirement in the theory and practice of music. His instruments are piano and organ, on each of which he performs well. He also teaches successfully voice-culture.

He taught in this school piano pupils, chorus-classes, harmony and the history of music. We found him a vigorous, earnest and successful teacher, and in many cases he produced fine results.

Mr. Ballaseyus has conducted himself with prudence in all the contacts and relations he has sustained with us.

CHAS. L. COCKE.

REFERENCES :

MR. CLARENCE EDDY, 232 Michigan Ave., Chicago.

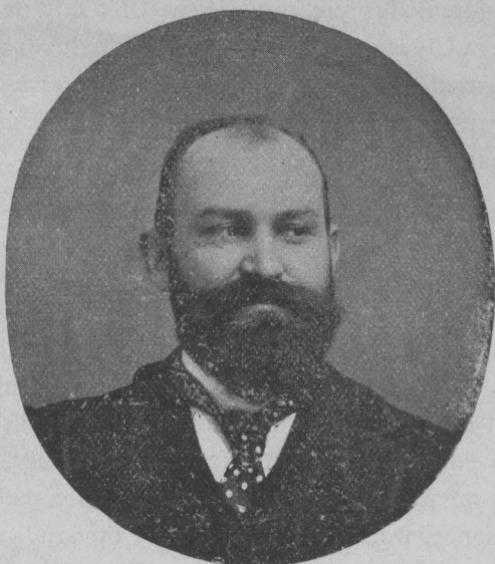
PROF. R. E. HENNINGES, Virginia College, Roanoke.

PROF. L. S. HULBURT, Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, Md.

PROF. STARR. W. CUTTING, University of Chicago.

PROF. H. KRATZ, Superintendent of City Schools, Sioux City, Iowa.

REV. MARK W. DARLING, Pastor First Congrega'l Church, Sioux City, Iowa.



MR. FRANZ A. BALLASEYUS is a native of Stettin, Prussia, in which city he received his education. Among his early teachers in music was Dr. Carl Lœwe, the famous ballad composer.

The father of Mr. Ballaseyus being a sea-captain, and indeed the most of his ancestors and relatives being sea-faring people, he, as a matter of course, took great fondness for the same vocation, and in his seventeenth year became a sailor. Later he entered the service of the German navy and was promoted lieutenant in 1877. After sailing in that capacity for a number of years, Mr. Ballaseyus, who during that time never lost his ardent love for music and never failed to practice that art whenever opportunity was offered, finally decided to devote himself entirely to music, and pursued professional studies in Hamburg during the years 1879 till '82 under Professors Cornelius Gurlitt and Carl von Holten (piano), A. Kleinpaul (theory), and G. D. W. Osterhold (organ). At the same time he studied also vocal music with Dr. Franz Kruckl, the celebrated barytone of the Hamburg Grand Opera.

In 1883 Mr. Ballaseyus came to the United States and found employment in Chicago as organist of St. Patrick's Church. Later he was appointed at the Holy Name Cathedral, as teacher at the German-American Academy, and as organist and pianist of the Costa Club and the Amphion Society of that city.

In 1887 he followed a call to the principalship of the music department at the State University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S. D., which within a year he brought up almost out of nothing to an acknowledged high standing. On November 30, 1889, the beloved and very capable president of that institution, Dr. Edward Olson, a warm friend of Mr. Ballaseyus, lost his life at the conflagration of the Tribune building in Minneapolis. This sad accident proved also detrimental for the University, as the successor in the presidency, who got into the position mainly through political influence, was never regarded by the students and faculty as the proper man for the place. With all the rest of the faculty Mr. Ballaseyus resigned his position in 1891, and shortly afterwards was appointed to the directorship of the Garretson Conservatory of Music and Art at Sioux City, Iowa, at the same time taking charge of the organ and choir in the First Congregational Church of that city. Ever since 1887 Mr. Ballaseyus had been a well-known figure in the musical life of Sioux City, and his numerous piano and organ recitals in connection with the excellent productions of choral works under his direction, have indeed done a great deal for the musical education in that part of the country. A considerable number of Mr. Ballaseyus' pupils have become excellent pianists and singers, some of them being engaged as successful teachers.

In 1892 he accepted a position as professor of the piano, theory and history of music and chorus-class in Hollins Institute, Virginia, in which old-established and well-known institution he has remained till the present time, May 1, 1895.