Review

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AN interesting and novel musical representation is to be given in Manchester this month. A Russian National Opera Company, with a band and chorus of 120 performers, under the direction of Herr Wilhelm Spaczek, will perform, in their native speech, Glinka's Opera "Life for the Czar." The result of the performance will be watched with considerable curiosity.

THE Free Scholarships in the Music School under Miss Macirone, in Baker Street, have been awarded by Mr. Walter Macfarren as follows:—The Senior School Scholarship to Charlotte Mark; the Junior School Scholarship to Ethel Shepard; the Exten Scholarship, to pupils of the Music School only, to Clara Haines; and the prize for excellence in harmony to Eleanor Lassell.

AN Organ Recital by Mr. Thomas Pettit, Organist of St. Peter's Church, Cranley Gardens, South Kensington, was given on Monday, May 28, at Messrs. Henry Jones and Son's Organ Factory, Fulham Road, to test the capacities of an instrument just constructed by the above firm, under the personal supervision of Mr. Pettit, for the Parish Church, Stour, Staffordshire.

MISS WAKEFIELD is about to contribute to *Murray's Magazine* a series of popular articles upon "The Foundation Stones of English Music," the first of which appears in the number for the present month. Miss Wakefield is specially anxious to advocate the more frequent performance of works by old English composers, whose achievements are far too seldom recognised at the present day.

MR. EDWARD A. COOMBS, Organist and Musical Director of Beckenham Congregational Church, gave a Recital on the fine organ at the People's Palace on Saturday, the 16th ult., when he rendered an attractive programme to a very large and appreciative audience. The Recital commenced with the Dead March in "Saul" in memory of the late Emperor of Germany.

A MOST successful Organ Recital was given by Mr. W. G. Wood at St. Michael's, Bowes Park, N., on Monday evening, the 11th ult. The programme included Mr. Wood's Introduction and Allegro in D, Mendelssohn's Organ Sonata in B flat (No. 4), and Beren's Fantasia in C minor. During the evening a selection of choral music was rendered in an efficient manner by the choir of St. Michael's.

IT has been suggested that as the pianoforte makers are an important body in London, it would be advisable to form a Section or Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce, to look after, in particular, the interests of the pianoforte trade, should a sufficient number of firms join the Chamber to warrant its formation.

A BAZAAR took place on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th ult. in Holloway Hall, in aid of a fund for the establishment of a Musical Institute in connection with the Finsbury Park Musical Society. There was a good attendance, and the entertainments were very well executed and amusing. About £500 were realised.

A COMPETITION of tenor vocalists for the Joseph Maas prize was held at the Royal Academy of Music on Thursday, the 22nd ult., when it was awarded to Mr. Maldwyn Humphreys. The adjudicators were Dr. A. C. Mackenzie, Mr. Charles Lyall, and Mr. W. A. Barrett.

A CONTRACT between Mr. Barton McGuckin and Mr. Carl Rosa has been made whereby Mr. McGuckin rejoins the Carl Rosa Opera Company in August next for the new season 1888-9. He will appear, it is said, in the English version of Halévy's opera "La Juive."

THE "Royal Albert Hall Choral Society" will, by command of Her Majesty, be known in future under the style and title of "The Royal Choral Society."

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to select for the honour of knighthood Mr. Charles Hallé and Dr. John Stainer—honours well deserved and reflecting distinction on the whole profession.

ON Tuesday, the 5th ult., at St. Nicholas, Cole Abbey, an Organ Recital was given by Mr. Edward Harvey, Organist of Holy Trinity, Lee. Mr. John Garratt was the vocalist.

REVIEWS.

The Fairies' Isle. A Cantata for female voices. Words by Edward Oxenford. Composed by Battison Haynes. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

WE have frequently drawn attention to the conspicuous merits of Mr. Haynes's compositions, chiefly for the organ, and must now compliment him highly upon his contribution to a class of music in greatly increasing demand. Mr. Oxenford's libretto is simplicity itself. The peasant maidens of Sicily make an annual pilgrimage to a rocky island supposed to be the home of the sea fairies, in order to propitiate these beings on behalf of their fisher relatives and friends. Each maiden brings away a shell, which is supposed to act as a charm against all disasters during the coming year. The music, in ten numbers, is laid out for three solo voices and three-part chorus. In general it is graceful and refined in character, and though the voice parts are by no means difficult the composer has taken care to distribute the interest between each part, and the flowing and independent pianoforte accompaniment greatly enhances the effect. Measures in triplets predominate, and there is a pleasant suggestion of the sea in almost every number. "The Fairies' Isle" is certain to please the young vocalists for whom it is intended.

There is a Shadow. Ballad composed expressly for Madame Christine Nilsson, by M. W. Balfe. [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

THIS delightful and expressive ballad was sung by the gifted *prima donna* on the occasion of her farewell to the public in the Royal Albert Hall last month, an event which forms the subject of a special notice in another column. The air is sweet, flowing, and natural, and like most of Balfe's songs is exactly fitted for effective singing. The accompaniment is most artistic and helpful, and the song will delight not only the admirers of Balfe's music, but also will give much pleasure to the lovers of melody from whatever source it may emanate.

Musical Pictures, an opening to the Study of Harmony. By Isabella C. Fletcher. [William Reeves.]

THESE musical pictures place in a very attractive form some of the truths required to be known by students of harmony. They will be valuable to those who desire to know those truths for the purpose of better understanding the powers of music. Serious students will have to approach the matter more seriously. Still the little pamphlet is pleasantly written and may be read with profit by all interested in musical composition.

Joyful Songs for Sunday School and Home. [Sunday School Union.]

THE collection called the "Voice of Praise," from which the present little book is compiled, has already been made the subject of favourable comment in these columns. It is therefore only necessary to call attention to its existence, and to say that it contains two hundred melodies, soprano and alto parts only, with all the words, published for twopence in paper covers.

FOREIGN NOTES.

THE mortal remains of Ludwig van Beethoven were removed from the suburban churchyard of Währingen to what it is to be hoped will prove their final resting-place, at the Central Cemetery of Vienna, on the 22nd ult. They were laid next to Schubert's, and close by the empty grave of Mozart. There was an immense concourse of spectators in addition to those officially engaged in the ceremonies—musical societies from various parts of Austria and Germany, representatives of the town of Bonn, the composer's birth-place, and others—the hearse being, moreover, followed by over two hundred carriages. Dr. Angerer, the popular Assistant-Bishop of Vienna, supported by a large number of priests, performed the Funeral Service, after which Herr Lewinsky, one of the leading actors of the Burg Theater, delivered a brief but impressive oration. The musical performances forming part of the proceedings had been entirely selected from the works of the great master whose memory they were intended to honour. There was afterwards a gathering of the professors of the Conservatoire under conditions curiously associated with the memory of Beethoven. By the will of a great professor of counterpoint, a sum of money