Review

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Romanza and Allegretto for Violoncello and Pianoforte; or Viola and Pianoforte. By W. Wolstenholme.

[Novello and Company, Limited.]

Two little pieces very suitable for teaching purposes; the *Romanza* will prove a general favourite. The *Allegretto* suffers from a bald accompaniment to the middle section.

The composer has arranged the above pieces for the viola, for which they seem very suitable.

SONGS.

Song Dances. Vocal suite for female voices. Composed by Wilfred Bendall.

[Novello and Company, Limited.]

MR. WILFRED BENDALL'S 'Song Dances' are a very attractive series of choric measures in three vocal parts, first and second soprano and contralto, with an independent accompaniment for pianoforte solo or duet, or orchestra. So independent are the accompaniments and so complete in themselves that, played alone, they would form a number of pleasing instrumental solos or duets.

The songs are six in number, and the words of three, 'To the Nightingale,' 'The rain is falling,' and 'Song should breathe,' are by Barry Cornwall. The first of these is set in minuet rhythm, the second in waltz time, and the third in *tempo di Mazurka*, the characteristics of each dance form being pleasingly accentuated. The names of the other numbers are, 'To the Skylark,' words by James Hogg; 'Twilight,' words anonymous; and 'Dametus, his jigge in praise of his love,' by an unknown poet of an unknown period. The last-named is a 'right merrie measure,' the poet insisting that 'love lasts for aye,' and the composer vigorously supporting this amorous opinion.

Songs of China, Japan, India, Arabia, Persia, and Egypt. Words by Helen F. Schweitzer. Music by Granville Bantock. [Breitkopf and Härtel.]

SOME few years ago the attention of musicians was drawn by the late Major Day's book, 'Music in Southern India,' to Eastern scales, and subsequent investigations revealed to Western composers the possibilities of increasing the resources of their art. The subject seems to have appealed with peculiar force to Mr. Granville Bantock, and the present series of songs are a part outcome of his endeavours to combine Eastern melodic idiom with Western form and harmony. Each book, which, by the way, is got up in artistic fashion, comprises a cycle of six songs, and, as will be expected, possesses considerable distinctiveness. That this distinctiveness is always pleasing, or, indeed, acceptable, can scarcely be said; but several of the songs are very charming, a few are really beautiful, and cultured vocalists in search of music out of the beaten track may be recommended to examine these books. It should be added that the text is thoroughly Eastern in spirit, picturesquely suggestive, and emotional, and that English singers who reasonably doubt their ability to articulate their own language distinctly can take refuge in a German translation.

Beethoven's Choral Symphony. Pianoforte arrangement, with vocal parts in open score. By Berthold Tours.

[Novello and Company, Limited.]

THIS is a new issue with sundry decided improvements of a convenient arrangement which is familiar to many lovers of Beethoven. The English text, by Lady Macfarren, has been revised and partly re-written; moreover, each vocal part has now its own stave, independent of the admirably arranged pianoforte accompaniment made by the late Berthold Tours. The new edition is, therefore, not only useful for home use, but for employment in the ranks of the chorus, or for following a performance of this gigantic work. Now that the 'Choral' is no longer regarded as 'impossible,' but, on the contrary, may be said to have become popular, this issue is certainly opportune.

THE COMING SEASON.

SINCE the end of June, with some few unimportant exceptions, the voice of the 'Divine Art' has been practically silent until the commencement of the Promenade Concerts on August 25, a record of which will be found in another column. *Entrepreneurs* are now, however, bestirring themselves for the coming winter season, and the cessation of 'wars' alarms' and the return of peace certainly make the outlook brighter and more hopeful than it was at this time last year. The first prospectus to claim our attention is that of the

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

Seven Subscription Concerts are announced, with the addition of the customary Good Friday performance of 'The Messiah.' The series opens on November 8 with 'Elijah,' followed by 'Judas Maccabæus' (December 6), 'Messiah' (January 1), 'Scenes from the Song of Hiawatha' (January 24), Parker's 'Hora Novissima' and Beethoven's Choral Symphony (February 20), 'Israel in Egypt' (March 14), and the 'Hymn of Praise' and 'Walpurgis Night' (on April 25).

A concert to be looked forward to with pleasure and regret is the 'farewell' of Mr. Edward Lloyd, which will take place at the Royal Albert Hall, on December 12.

QUEEN'S HALL.

Mr. Robert Newman announces eight Symphony Concerts, on the afternoons of October 27, November 10 and 24, December 8, January 26, February 9, and March 2 and 16; some Ysaye Concerts, details of which are yet to come, in November; a St. Andrew's Day Concert on November 30; and the usual Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday Concerts. Mr. Henry J. Wood will conduct throughout. The so-called 'London Musical Festival' will take place from April 29 to May 4. The Sunday Concert Society's Sunday Afternoon Concerts will be held every Sunday afternoon at 3.30.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

The Saturday Popular Concerts re-commence on November 3 and continue weekly till December 15. The Ballad Concerts at this hall will be resumed on November 7, continuing weekly during the month. Other Afternoon Concerts are announced by Miss Clara Butt and Mr. Kennerley Rumford; Madame Marie Brema, Mr. Henry Bird, and Mr. Vert; and Recitals by Herr Reisenauer (3), Mr. Frederick Dawson, Mr. Donald Tovey (3), Herr Rosenthal, Miss Marguerite Elzy, and Madame Marchesi, with Messrs. Wolff and Schonberger.

In the evening three Richter Concerts will be given, commencing on the 22nd inst.; those of the Curtius Concert Club will be resumed on November 7. Mr. Henry Such will give an Orchestral Concert, and Herr Kupper-schmidt a Recital, while the Saturday Orchestral Concerts (now under the direction of Mr. Edward O'Brien) will re-commence on the 6th inst.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE

celebrated Saturday Concerts, as such, are now, alas! only a memory; but the veteran conductor will direct two Concerts on the 27th inst. and November 10; Mr. Newman's orchestra, under Mr. Henry J. Wood, will be responsible for Concerts on the 13th and 20th inst. and November 3; and on November 17 Dr. Richter's orchestra, under their distinguished chief, will give a Wagner Concert.

STEINWAY HALL

will, as usual, be the *locale* of Mr. Clifford Harrison's Recitals, which were to be resumed on the 29th ult., while at

ST. GEORGE'S HALL

Mr. Charles Fry's Costume Recitals, with Miss Olive Kennett and company, now in their seventh season, will be given on the Saturday afternoons in November, commencing on the 10th. Mr. Edward O'Brien will direct the music, which is a prominent feature at these performances.