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The Flower Pilgrims. A Cantata for Female Voices by Clifton Bingham; Alfred Redhead  
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*The Flower Pilgrims.* A Cantata for Female Voices. Written by Clifton Bingham. Composed by Alfred Redhead. [Forsyth Brothers.]

THE argument of the theme of this pretty little Cantata tells how that "on a certain day in the early year, the maidens of the district are wont to gather and march to the wooded crest of a hill in the neighbourhood. The legends of the village have it that their patron saint, whose especial care it is to keep watchful guard over the young maidens, receives the votive offerings of the flower pilgrims, and accords to them in return her protection during the ensuing year." A charming idea well expressed in smooth poetical lines by Mr. Clifton Bingham, and connected with some very tuneful music by Mr. Alfred Redhead. There are ten numbers in all, including solos and choruses, the latter written for two parts only. It is within the artistic reach of most choral societies and classes of female voices, and we have pleasure in calling attention to it.

*Bourrée for Violin Trio, with Pianoforte Accompaniment.* Composed by E. T. Sweeting.

[Manchester: Hime & Addison.]

THE form selected by the author of this little work presents so restricted a scope that it is almost impossible to avoid repeating what has been done before. Without in any way blaming the composer for following such models as those furnished by Bach, Corelli, and others, he may certainly be praised for having furnished a means whereby the many students of the violin may be able to impart a considerable amount of pleasure to their hearers and delight to themselves, which would follow a careful performance of this pleasing composition.

#### FOREIGN NOTES.

THE ceremony of unveiling the statue erected to Carl Maria von Weber at his native town of Eutin, is to take place on July 1. It will include the performance of some of the more important choral compositions of the master, and a large concourse of artists and amateurs is expected to visit the picturesque little town of Holstein on the occasion.

The prizes of the Mendelssohn Fund (Berlin), one for composition and the other for executive skill, each amounting to 1,500 marks, will be awarded on October 1 next. They may be competed for by those who have studied at any one of the State-subsidized music schools in Germany, irrespective of age, sex, religion, or nationality.

A secular Oratorio, "König Rother," a new composition by Josef Krug-Waldsee, met with a very favourable reception on its first performance last month at Würzburg. The poem is from the pen of Th. Souchay, and the work is highly commended in the local press.

A season of German opera was inaugurated on the 10th ult. at the Kroll'sche Theater of Berlin, with Flotow's "Martha." The performances have been well attended, and there is every appearance of the directors scoring a financial success. The project of establishing a second permanent opera in the German capital is gaining ground, though nothing definite has yet been decided upon.

Rubinstein's dramatic Oratorio, or "Geistliche Oper," "Paradise Lost," was performed last month by the Oratorio Society of Munich, but failed to meet with the appreciation of the audience.

A new Wagner tenor, Herr Heinrich Zeller, formerly a school teacher, made his *début* last month at the Weimar Hof-Theater in the part of *Tannhäuser*, and met with an enthusiastic reception. Both his singing and acting are said to be remarkably fine, and a brilliant future is confidently predicted for the young artist. The opera, under Richard Strauss's direction, was performed without any of the customary "cuts," a practice which is now being generally adopted at the leading German theatres.

Herr Stavenhagen, the eminent pianist, has been appointed Court pianist to the Grand Duke of Weimar.

Dr. von Hase and Town-councillor Volkman, the present proprietors of the firm of Breitkopf and Härtel,

of Leipzig, have been decorated by the King of Saxony with the Albrecht order of the first class, in recognition of their services to musical art.

A new Dictionary of Musicians has just been published at Leipzig (Carl Grüniger) under the title of "Musiker Lexikon." The author is Herr Robert Musiol, and the volume a concise and handy one.

Madame Marcella Sembrich appeared at the Kroll'sche Theatre, Berlin, last month, with enormous success, the theatre, whenever she sang, having been crowded with appreciative and enthusiastic audiences.

A series of Symphony Concerts, at popular prices, is to be given during the present summer at the Gürzenich Hall, Cologne, under the direction of Dr. Wüllner, the principal of the Conservatorium in that town.

At an interesting Concert recently given at Dresden by the talented organist of the American church in that capital, Mr. Whitney Coombs, some vocal compositions by the latter were included in the programme, which were much appreciated, and most favourably spoken of in the press.

It seems that another exceptionally gifted young Englishman, Mr. Howgrave, has won a great success at a recent Students' Concert of the Raff Conservatorium at Frankfort, with his performance of Beethoven's E flat Concerto. The Frankfort *General Anzeiger*, in noticing the Concert, refers to Mr. Howgrave's very remarkable and original talent and striking artistic individuality. The success is all the more remarkable, as Mr. Howgrave is unfortunately almost totally blind. Another English pianist, Miss Mabel Seyton, is also highly spoken of.

Grétry's now seldom-heard opera "Raoul," has just been successfully revived at the Carlsruhe Theatre.

A one-act comic opera, entitled "Le Mariage de Don Lope," the libretto by Jules Barbier, the music by Edouard de Hartog, met with a highly successful first performance at the Royal Theatre in the Hague last month. The work, which is described as a most charming production, was first brought out some years since at the Théâtre Lyrique of Paris.

A new operetta, "Guerra in tempo di pace," by the Maestro Urgi, has just been successfully brought out at the Principe di Napoli Theatre of Catania.

A musical society has been formed at Paris under the style of "Grandes auditions musicales de France," which will inaugurate its performances on the 3rd inst. with Berlioz's "Beatrice et Benedict," a work which has never been produced in the French capital before.

A successful first performance took place last month at the Bouffes Parisiens, Paris, of a comic opera, entitled "Les trois Souhaits," the libretto and music by M. Georges Villain.

"Le sette parole di Gesu Christo" is the title of a new sacred work by the Maestro Emilio Cianchi, which has just been performed at the Cavalieri Church of Florence, where it produced a most favourable impression.

Under the title of "Charles Gounod, sa vie, et ses œuvres," an interesting life of the composer of "Faust" has just been published in Paris (L. Souvairte), from the pen of M. Louis Pagnerre.

M. Benjamin Godard's opera "Dante" was produced for the first time, on the 13th ult., at the Paris Opéra Comique, where it had been mounted with much care. The *première* had been looked forward to for months past, but the result was little more than a *succès d'estime*.

A new Symphony by a young Norwegian composer, Othon Sinding, was produced last month by the Philharmonic Society of Christiania. It is said to be a remarkable work and full of promise. The composer was a pupil at the Leipzig Conservatorium.

We read with pleasure of the success which has attended the series of Organ Recitals recently given in several Italian towns, notably at Genoa, by the excellent Organist, M. Alexandre Guilment, of Paris, who is well-known also in this country. M. Guilment, we regret to add, has just lost his father, M. P. Guilment, himself a highly efficient organist, whose death was announced in Paris last month.

Hubert Léonard, the eminent violinist, formerly a professor at the Brussels Conservatoire, and, since 1867, a resident in the French capital, died there on the 6th ult.