

The subscribers were:

Buchanan, James
Brien, Edward H.
Bachman, Christian
Bachman, John (Junr.)
Bear, John
Cheves, Langdon
Champneys, Benjamin
Clark, Edward
Carpenter, Abraham
Carpenter, Isaac B.
Evans, Evan R.
Evans, James
Evans, Robert
Franklin, Walter
Getz, John
Hager, Christopher
Humes, Samuel (Junr.)
Hopkins, Washington
Jenkins, William
Jacobs, Cyrus S.
Kauffman, Andrew B.
Lane, John N.

Lightner, Nathaniel
Muhlenberg, Frederick A.
Mayer, George Louis
Moore, Daniel
McKelly, Mathew
Montgomery, John R.
Mayer, John B.
Maxwell, Hugh
Norris, William
Ogilby, Joseph
Parke, Samuel
Reigart, Emanuel C.
Ross, Patton
Rogers, Molton C.
Rogers, Henry
Rodman, Gilbert (Junr.)
Reynolds, John
Reigart, Wager P.
Reigart, John
Slaymaker, Jasper
Steinman, John F.
Sample, Nathaniel W.

Thompson, Alexander

The Handelian Society of Lancaster

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 7th, 1823, contained an announcement that the Handelian Society of Lancaster would present to its friends and the public an oratorio, or concert, of sacred music, vocal and instrumental, in Saint James's Protestant Episcopal church, on Tuesday evening, March 11th, under the direction of Mr. Samuel Dyer, teacher of music, assisted by several gentlemen, amateurs from Lititz, who had kindly consented to render their services on this occasion.

Those desiring to attend the oratorio, and who felt inclined to patronize this first public effort of the society to promote improvement in the rendering of church music, were informed that subscription papers were left for signature at the Misses Jordans' circulating library; at the offices of Mr. Hugh Maxwell, Mrs. Mary Dickson, Mr. John Reynolds; and with the members of the society, who would also furnish pamphlets containing the words of the several pieces.

On the evening indicated, the following program was to be rendered, according to an advertisement in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 7th, 1823:

Organ,

Mr. G. Beckel

PART 1ST.

Chorus — "Praise the Lord",
 Anthem — Psalm 150,
 Quartette — Morning Hymn,
 Air, Mr. Dyer — The Polar Star,
 Hymn for Thanksgiving,
 Vesper Hymn,
 Duetto — "Who's This That on the Tempest Rides?"
 Chorus — Loretto,
 The Dying Christian,

Haydn
 Meineke
 Mozart
 O. Shaw
 Dr. Stevenson
 Russian Air
 O. Shaw
 Whitaker
 Harwood

PART 2ND.

Litany,
 Trio and Chorus — Miriam's Song,
 Air, Mr. Dyer — "O had I Jubal's Lyre",
 Chorus — The Marv'lous Works,
 Trio and Chorus — The Voice of Peace,
 Solo and Chorus — Strike the Cymbal,

J. H. Swindell
 Avison
 Handel
 Haydn
 Mazzinghi
 Pucitta

This concert, given in Saint James's church, was received with such general approbation that it was decided to repeat it in Trinity Lutheran church on Tuesday evening, April 8th. During this second concert, a collection was taken; and, after the expenses were deducted, the proceeds, in two equal shares, were appropriated to the use of the "Female Society for the Promotion of Industry," and to the "Female Benevolent Society."

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, April 11th, 1823, in an editorial, referred to the oratorio as follows:

"A numerous and highly respectable audience assembled on Tuesday evening last, to hear a second performance of the oratorio, in the German Lutheran church (in this city) under the direction of Mr. Dyer, professor of vocal music; and we are happy in stating that our own impressions of the excellence of the performance, and the judicious selection of the several pieces executed, are corroborated by the united opinion of all those we have conversed with, who were present on this interesting occasion.

"We feel disposed to express our sentiments of the entire exhibition as being alike creditable to the conductor and the Handelian Society, who composed the choir. The singing of the ladies generally, but particularly in the quartetto, 'Happy the Land', and the duetto, 'O Lovely Peace', by two of them, was peculiarly grateful and pleasing, and commanded the utmost silence, and a marked attention, throughout the assembly.

"Mr. Dyer's reputation as a teacher and accomplished singer, is well known in nearly all the principal cities of the Union, and

we are pleased that this gentleman has been induced to visit our city and to afford us an opportunity of witnessing the performance of a concert of sacred music, under his direction. Improvement in the execution of this part of public worship is much needed with us, and we hope the late exhibitions may contribute to effect this desirable object.

“We must not omit, in this hasty notice, the merits of the gentlemen who presided in the instrumental department, as well as that of the organist, to whom we are also indebted for much of the sublime effect produced by this oratorio, the first which has been brought forward in this place.”

Mr. Samuel Dyer, who conducted the two performances, came to Lancaster from Baltimore. He stayed here for a brief time. In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 28th, 1823, was an advertisement in which Mr. Dyer announced to the citizens of Lancaster that he had commenced a course of lessons in vocal sacred music to be held on Monday evening of each week, for one quarter, in the school room attached to Saint James’s Protestant Episcopal church. The tuition for the course of lessons was two dollars. Prospective scholars were referred to Rev. Dr. C. L. F. Endress, Rev. William Augustus Muhlenberg and Rev. John Elliott, who would be glad to furnish information.

In calling the attention of the public to the distinguished talents of this musician, the Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 28th, 1823, stated, in an editorial, as follows:

“Apart from the relish we possess for vocal melody, and which would at any time cause us to deal favorably with an instructor, we are more immediately called upon to do so in this instance in consequence of having witnessed the performances of Mr. Dyer. It is not saying too much to designate him as singularly meritorious in a profession which requires, more than any other, a delicacy of ear and judiciousness of taste. We are sure that his peculiar talent and fidelity to his engagements will produce full satisfaction in those who may place themselves under his instruction.

“All those who deem it a duty to repair on the Sabbath to the house of worship, must be sensible of the powerful effect which sacred music produces upon the devotional feelings, even if they do not deem it *essential*, it is modulating the mind to that true spirit of reverential fervor which should distinguish the exercises of devotion. Every one must, at some period of life, have been shocked at the discordant notes which, although intended as praise to the Most High, have had no other effect than to disturb the temper or shake the risible nerves of an audience; and we are satisfied that there is no one more competent than Mr. Dyer to render

Psalmody what it should always be an harmonious offering to the Deity, calculated to tranquilize the passions and inspire the veneration of man."

It seems that after Mr. Dyer's departure from Lancaster, the Handelian Society disbanded, as subsequent issues of local papers contain no references to this worth-while organization.

Lancaster In 1766

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Hon. Charles I. Landis, President Judge of the Second Judicial District of Pennsylvania, owns a rare treasure in the form of an original copy of "The Charter, Laws, Catalogue of Books, List of Philosophical Instruments, etc., of the Juliana Library Company in Lancaster," printed in 1766, by D. Hall and W. Sellers, Philadelphia.

On page 10 of this unique publication is an interesting description of Lancaster borough as it was in 1766. It is as follows:

"The culture of hemp and hops seems to be much attended to by the farmers of this county, who annually send large quantities of both these articles to the metropolis [Philadelphia]. The number of wagons continually employed in carrying the produce of this place to market, is incredible. The inhabitants are chiefly Germans, to whose economy, unwearied labor and industry the county is principally indebted for the wealth and reputation it so deservedly possesses.

"The county town (which in the year 1742 was incorporated into a borough, with a power of holding fairs and markets, etc.), contains at least six hundred houses, many of which are extremely neat, and make a good appearance, being built of brick and cut stone. It contains, at a moderate medium of five to a family, about three thousand souls. The lowness and unevenness of its situation are amply compensated by its convenience for trade.

"Amongst the public buildings there are seven places of worship. Of these, the new German Lutheran church is justly esteemed one of the most elegant and finished pieces of architecture in the province. There are three regular fire companies established here which have two good fire engines, etc., and meet once a month to examine into the state of the houses, and to devise methods for the more effectual preservation of them from the dreadful accidents of fire.

"The town has for many years supported a good grammar school, which is now likely to be reduced for want of proper en-