

FINAL CONCERT

May Charms Audience With Varied Program

Reviewed by
NAOMI GETTY

The North Platte Civic Music Association presented Charles May, tenor, in the final concert of the 1962-1963 season Thursday night at Adams Junior High School Auditorium. The young tenor charmed his audience with a program whose selections ranged from classical Italian opera to Broadway musicals.

The program opened with the recitative "Comfort Ye My People" and air "Every Valley Shall Be Exalted," from Handel's "Messiah." May gave a powerful delivery of the recitative and a triumphant reading of the difficult air. The second aria, from another Handel oratorio, was in marked contrast: somber coloring and stark emotion set off "Total Eclipse" from "Samson."

The second group consisted of three selections from 17th-century Italian opera: "The Invocation of Orpheus," "Quickly, Quickly I Shall Fall in Love," and "I Shall No Longer Follow." All sparkled with charm and grace.

Highlights

High point in the third group occurred with "Woman So Changeable" from Verdi's opera "Rigoletto." The audience responded heartily to the vigor and dash of May's rendition of this popular aria.

The singer captured the warmth of German romanticism in four songs by Johannes Brahms. Outstanding were the tender "Serenade" and the melancholy "Bohemian Gypsy Song."

Mr. May's final group was chosen from Broadway musical comedies. The audience especially enjoyed "The Governor's Song" from "Candide." Although this musical was not a success, the merit of Leonard Bernstein's score will insure the survival of individual numbers such as the "Overture" and "The Governor's Song." Other numbers in this group were "Blue Eyes," "They Call the Wind 'Maria,'" and "You Can't Take It With You."

The encore, "For You Alone," May dedicated to his North Platte audience.

1,000 Members

Since Mr. May substituted at very short notice for another soloist, Richard Cassily, no printed programs of his concert were available. Yet their absence proved to be a good thing, for May's own spoken introductions and "program notes" of his songs delighted the audience and strengthened the bond between it and the young performer.

North Platte Civic Music Association President Joe Dye announced that close to one thousand memberships had been sold for the 1963-1964 concert season.