

East Montpelier's annual musical convention has become an institution, and each year attracts to this little village a large number of music lovers to attend its two-day sessions.

This year's convention opens next Thursday and closes Saturday evening. Cowen's cantata, "The rose Maiden," will be produced, with C. F. Dudley of this place conducting. The special parts will all be taken by people in the immediate vicinity, members of the East Montpelier Musical Association.

Miss H. Julia Cross of Montpelier will be the soprano soloist, Mrs. Harriet P. Willard of Burlington contralto, L. F. Griffith of Barre tenor, H. H. May of West Concord baritone. Mrs. Harriet Foster Cleaves of Montpelier will be the pianist, and assistance will also be given by the Cecilia quartet of Montpelier, composed of Mrs. W. A. Briggs, Mrs. F. I. Pitkin, Mrs. Harriet P. Willard and Mrs. F. H. Puffer.

Mr. Dudley may be counted a professional, as he has conducted all the musical convention that have been held here, even those of years ago, before the present association was formed, and has been teaching singing schools many years. In fact, there is a tradition that he taught singing before he donned his first "long pants."

Miss Cross, the soprano soloist, is teacher of vocal music at Montpelier Seminary, a granddaughter of the late G. H. Cross [owner of the Cross Bakery – ed.], and by many considered the finest singer in Vermont.

With these two exceptions none of the principals or the chorus is or has been a professional. Most of them received their musical education in the immediate vicinity, and most of them at some time or other have sung in church choirs, but this and the work in local entertainments comprise their public appearances.

It is remarkable that an aggregation of talent, trained at home, should be found within so small a compass capable of taking up some of the difficult works they have produced.

The Witter orchestra, which will aid the convention, is managed by Fred H. Whittier of Montpelier, who returned last year from two years study of the violin in Germany.

The East Montpelier Musical Association, which gives these conventions, was formed nine years ago. Previous that that time some kind of a musical entertainment had been given at the church in the village nearly every year. Nine years ago those interested in such matters formed a company and erected a hall, which is the most important building in the village.

The association was formed among people of East Montpelier and neighboring towns and since then a convention has been held each year and has produced some important musical work, always under the direction of Mr. Dudley. Special trains are run to accommodate those who attend and the hospitality of the village is strained to find quarters for them, but all interested in the affair and every house throws open its doors with a touch of New England hospitality which, if not as effusive, is as sincere as that of the South.

The convention this year opens next Thursday. There will be rehearsals at 10:30, 1:30 and 7 o'clock Thursday, and at 10 and 1:30 on Friday. Members are privileged to attend these. The artists' concert Friday afternoon is partly a dress rehearsal and partly a matinee performance.

The grand concert, the crowing feature, occurs at 8 o'clock Friday evening, and will be followed by dancing till 3 o'clock.