

A NOTEWORTHY MUSICAL EVENT

Alvary in South Manchester – Some Choice Music.



Max Alvary
1856-1898

The Manchester correspondent of THE COURANT writes: "There was a notable gathering at South Manchester Thursday afternoon at a musicale given by the brothers Messrs. H. G. and Robert Cheney and their sisters, the Misses Annie and Louise Cheney. The assembly numbered over 200, and comprised people well known in musical, literary and art circles in Hartford, New York and Boston. The occasion was made of exceptional interest by the presence of Herr Max Alvary, leading tenor of the German opera company, who has during the last season become famous for his interpretations of leading characters in Wagner operas at the Metropolitan opera house in New York and who has been re-engaged for the next two seasons. He is a personal friend of this family.

Herr Alvary contributed four numbers, the first a double number consisting of German songs by Schubert and Schumann. His remaining selections were all from Wagner, "Am Stillen Herd" from the "Meistersinger," the "Farewell to Elsa" from "Lohengrin" and the love song of "Siegfried" in the "Walkure." The audience were comfortably seated in the large hall and drawing room, and the singer from his place in the music room was seen and heard to the best advantage. He responded cheerfully to the warm encores and as a finale gave the Prize song from Meistersinger. The other additional songs were "Das Blat im Buche" by Von Seldeneck and Schumann's "Wanderlied." He was accompanied gracefully by Mrs. Francis C. Bowman of New York, the musical critic of the New York Sun, an intimate friend of the Misses Cheney, who kindly volunteered her services. Following the concert an excellent collation was served.

Among those present were Herr Hermann, director of the Liederkrantz society, of New York; Mr. Stanford White, of New York; Mr. S. L. Clemens ["Mark Twain"] of Hartford and Mrs. Edna Cheney and Mr. Dewing, the artist, of Boston. The assembly also included many well known society people from Hartford. They returned on the 8 o'clock train."

Note: See also the flyer about the former Anne Cheney mansion, designed by Stanford White, with its collection of antiques and art, including paintings by Mr. Dewing. Here is a link to that flyer

<http://www.manchesterhistory.org/Flyers/AnneChenFlyer.pdf> — Susan Barlow for the Manchester Historical Society, January 2016

