

“The President's Message”

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March 1, 1902

Dear Brother Sinfonians: Gladly I avail myself of this opportunity of sending you, through the medium of our annual publication, my sincerest love and fraternal greetings.

It is now nearly four years since the evening when fourteen of us met in room 108, New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, to consider the social life of the young men students of that institution, and perchance to devise ways and means by which it might be improved. The story of how a club was formed and in process of time developed into a national fraternity has often been told, and is familiar to us all, but the boys who met on that eventful evening little dreamed how far-reaching would be the effect of their decision.

As will be seen by referring to the list of members, there are now nearly two hundred Sinfonians scattered throughout the land, - brothers bound together by the bonds of brotherly love, stronger than bands of steel, ever keeping in mind, I trust, the aim and purpose of their fraternity as expressed in our constitution: "The Sinfonia stands for the development of the best and truest fraternal spirit; the mutual welfare and brotherhood of musical students; the advancement of music in America; and a loyalty to the alma mater." Let all Sinfonians commit these beautiful words to memory. Yea, more, let us write them on the tablet of our hearts that they may bear fruit in our lives.

I beg you not to let your interest in your fraternity or alma mater lag or grow cold; subscribe each year to our Year Book, so that you may be able to locate all brother-Sinfonians, and avail yourself of every opportunity to fraternize with each other. Let our friendship be marked by kind words, kind deeds, and lasting cooperation in our common work; and, remembering that our inspiration is from on High, from the God of all creatures, we should ever be constant in our humble attitude to this great source. Let our sincerity be manifest to all. Hypocrisy should be unknown to us, and a solicitude for our fellows should dominate our every word and action. Then our nobility will shine forth in our characters, and our motto shall ever be, "Nothing mean or unmanly is of a Sinfonian."

We confidently expect that before our next annual Convention convenes several new chapters will have been formed in some of the largest musical institutions in our land, a number of which are at the present time knocking at our doors. The scope of our mission is national, and before many years have passed the Sinfonia Fraternity will be known and its influence felt from ocean to ocean and from lake to gulf. Onward is our watchword; the future is our field; and as we march toward the West, the new ground we gain must be held by fidelity and vigilance.

Finally, brothers, remember that "Harmony is ever to be the noble aim of our beloved society - harmony not only in music, but in the life within the fraternity, and in the broader and fuller life beyond its portals: it is the harmony whose music is felt in the hearty handclasp, heard in the cheerful greeting, seen in living notes in the generous act."

So let us strive to promote the mutual welfare of all, and throughout our whole life prove that a brother-Sinfonian is a friend indeed.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
Ossian E. Mills