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THE MACDOWELL COLONY AT PETERBOROUGH

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IT IS gradually dawning upon America that the name of Edward A. MacDowell is one to conjure with; that as a permanent artistic asset, his work is a priceless legacy. But are we not remiss in our response in the way of appreciation of this heritage which, all undreamed of, has come to us? This heritage our country is so in need of as one of our traditions? What can we members of the MTNA do to help foster and perpetuate this tradition?

It is entirely unnecessary to speak of MacDowell's gift to the world of his matchless music idiom. We have listened already, since we came to Milwaukee, to several of his compositions, beautifully presented by local talent. And again, to the fine interpretation of the *Eroica Sonata* by that rare artist, Rudolph Ganz. The following tribute was given to the four great sonatas of MacDowell by Lawrence Gilman:

If there is anything in the literature of the piano since the death of Beethoven which, for combined passion, dignity, breadth of style, weight of momentum, and irresistible plangency of emotion, is comparable to the four Sonatas—I do not know of it. And I write these words with a perfectly definite consciousness of all that they may be held to imply.

There is no time at my disposal today to dwell upon the great contribution MacDowell has given to the world by his creations. Perhaps no single state has done more to foster the love for his writings than Georgia, which annually devotes one week to the furtherance of such an acquaintance. This movement is five years old. Under the guidance of Miss Evelyn Jackson of Atlanta a week of daily recitals is given. Pupils of outstanding talent journey from near and far for these events, sometimes coming three hundred miles, just to play or sing one number. The week cul-

minates with a concert by professionals. It is a movement well worth emulating by every state in the Union. What can we teachers and citizens do to help foster and perpetuate this tradition?

The inception of the idea of the Colony doubtless originated in MacDowell's mind because of his having so large a place in his heart for all of the arts. He had been chosen to represent music on the Executive Board of the American Academy of Rome, and had he lived he would have journeyed there to help formulate plans for that remarkable institution. Because of its radiating interests and also because of its inspiring and varied expression of all the arts, MacDowell was inspired to covet for America, his own beloved land, a haven for creative workers in them all. Fully convinced that this could be accomplished, he began the undertaking very modestly on a farm of a hundred acres in New Hampshire, which he owned. How have its boundaries extended since the Colony was established twenty-five years ago!

When MacDowell was nearing the end of his life, he asked with wistful eyes that this work might be continued. He little realized the magnitude of the undertaking. Mrs. MacDowell promised faithfully to carry out his desire. She has traveled widely to disseminate information concerning and to support the fine project by giving lecture-recitals throughout the country, contributing all the returns for its advancement.

In the Colony are to be found studios remote from each other, scattered throughout the wooded section, where creative artists can work undisturbed. The Colony at the present time embraces some seven hundred acres and there are twenty-four studios, the first one having been contributed by Mrs. MacDowell herself. Other attractive buildings necessary for the carrying on of the plan are fully equipped. The enterprise has now reached its full development and no further expansion is contemplated or needed. All efforts are at present being directed toward enlarging the Endowment Fund. This fund carries the taxes, insurance, etc., but running expenses have to be met yearly. Interests

and investments are in the hands of business men of New York City. L negligible. New England Clubs have sand dollar mortgage.

About fifty different residents are a This year's creative workers in the n fornia, Oklahoma, Kansas, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire. And the Carolinas, Kentucky, Wisconsin, in all, which will show its national scop

There is desperate need for the cor Fund. MacDowell Chapters should California has just formed one of the have begun and should add to this pe as music teachers, can surely enlist the to give at least annual membership du a radiating influence go out from this all cooperate together, we can bring rene and peaceful ending of a life o cause. And the great gifts of Edward will thus be perpetuated, and his drea haven for the creative artist in whatev will be a lasting memorial.