

Abstract

Brass Chamber Music in Lyceum and Chautauqua

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This dissertation presents detailed histories of sixty-one ensembles that performed music for brass trio, brass quartet, brass quintet, and brass sextet for lyceum and chautauqua audiences from 1877 to 1939. Brass chamber ensembles, especially brass quartets, were popular in lyceum and chautauqua concerts and were heard by millions of Americans from coast to coast. The author discovered many other American brass chamber ensembles that were active during the same period and also a significant repertoire of music for small brass ensembles published in America from 1875 through the 1920s. This First American Chamber Brass School is discussed in one of five overviews that present new views of the principal eras in brass chamber music history.

The author discusses: relevant terms, including ‘chamber music’, ‘brass chamber music’, ‘lyceum’, ‘chautauqua’, and ‘talent’; certain obscure brass instruments; brass chamber ensemble instrumentation; brass chamber music scholarship; and the nature of life and work for the musicians that toured in lyceum and chautauqua.

The author also discusses the sources of his discoveries and the principal resources for his research, including the Library of Congress’ *American Memory* Web

site, “Traveling Culture: Circuit Chautauqua in the Twentieth Century;” the Redpath Chautauqua Collection at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa; the Chatfield Brass Band Music Lending Library in Chatfield, Minnesota; the National Music Museum in Vermillion, South Dakota; the State Historical Society of Iowa; the Floyd County Museum and Archives in Charles City, Iowa; the Chautauqua Institution Archives in Chautauqua, New York; the Archives of Carl Fischer, LLC and the Edna White Collection at Sibley Music Library, Eastman School of Music, in Rochester, New York; the Library of Congress Music Division in Washington, DC; and the Music Department of the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* in Paris.

This study of brass chamber music in lyceum and chautauqua—a significant aspect of pre-1940 American brass chamber music—fills a lacuna in brass history and reveals much about American music and culture between the Civil War and World War II.