

PROF. BIXEL VISITED HOUSE WHERE HAENDAL WAS BORN

IT IS NOW OWNED BY PERSONS
WHO DO NOT APPRECIATE
ITS VALUE.

Sketch of Haendal's Life—Mrs. Needles
of Kansas City to Sing Soprano
in "Messiah" June 7th.

The following is a very brief biography of Haendal, the composer of the "Messiah," as Prof. Bixel has gathered freely from his music library. George Frederick Haendal was born at Halle, Saxony, Germany, February 23, 1685. Halle at the time of the composer's birth contained 20,000 people, at present about 125,000, but the house where Haendal was born is still standing, and when I was abroad I got the privilege of going through the house after pleading for some time with the people who live there now.

The house of course is in an obscure part of the town and the people living in it did not realize in the least the historical value of the place for travelers, and especially for musicians.

Haendal, like many another composer, revealed his musical promise at an early age, only to encounter parental opposition. His father intended him to be a lawyer; but nature had her way, and in spite of domestic antagonism, triumphed. The duke of Saxe-Weissenfels recognized his ability and overcame the father's determination. After the death of his father, in 1697, Haendal went to Hamburg, and for a time played in the orchestra of the German opera. It was during his residence in this city that he wrote his first opera, "Almira," (1705).

In the following year he went to Italy, where he remained several months under the patronage of the grand duke of Florence. During the next two years he visited Venice, Rome and Naples, and wrote several operas and minor oratorios. In 1709 he returned to Germany, and the Elector of Hanover, subsequently George I of England, offered him the position of Cappellmeister, which he accepted upon the condition that he might visit England, having received many invitations from that country.

The next year he arrived in London and brought out his opera "Rinaldo," which proved a great success. It might be added that although Haendal composed more than forty operas none of them are given in their com-

pleteness, but the principal airs are sung and played everywhere. - The famous Largo in "G" is from his opera "Xerxes."

At the end of six months he was obliged to return to his position in Hanover; but his English success made him impatient of the dullness of the court. In 1712 he was again in London, little dreaming that his Elector would soon follow him as king. Incensed at him for leaving Hanover, the king at first refused to receive him; but some music which Haendel composed for an aquatic fete in his honor brought about the royal reconciliation.

Haendel wrote more than a dozen oratorios; more than one half of them are still given. He died April 14, 1759, and the last few days of his life he was heard to express the wish that he might breathe his last on Good Friday, in hopes of meeting his good God, his sweet Lord and Savior, on the day of his resurrection. The wish was granted him; for it was on Good Friday that he passed away, leaving behind him a name and fame that will be cherished as long as music retains its power over the human heart.

Story of the "Messiah."

The "Messiah," which will be given June 7th, by a big chorus and fine soloists in the first Baptist church, is his most popular oratorio, and it might incidentally be remarked that it is the most popular of all oratorios.

Arrangements have been made to get Mrs. Elva Crosby Needles of Kansas City to take the soprano solos. Mrs. Needles is one of the best of Kansas City's singers, having sung the "Messiah" several times this spring.

Miss Frances Allen of the college will sing the contralto parts, Chas. Bachman the tenor, and R. Lee Osburn the bass.

Miss Lucy K. Forbes will play the pipe organ, Miss Nelle Harris the piano, Miss Mary Davis, Miss Mabel Stannard and Robert Nash the violin, and Mr. G. W. Saunders the clarinet.

Prof. J. W. Bixel will direct. An admission fee of 50 cents will be charged.

An outline story of the "Messiah" will be given in the Campus next week.
