

NORDICA PLEASED HUNDREDS

The Great Singer Entertained Many.
What People Think of Nordica May
Be Gathered from the Enthusiastic
Reception Accorded Her.

"Nordica is a great singer; and above all she has the rare talent of interpreting the highest class music, so that it is pleasing to everybody," was the verdict passed on the great concert last Monday evening by a business man. In reply to the question, "What Distinguishes Nordica in a Strictly Musical Way?" Prof. Bixel replied, "Nordica is distinguished for one thing by her extraordinary volume; also in the fact that her low and high notes are equally clear—the certainty of her tones—the fact that there is no break."

These two opinions may be taken to represent the estimation of Nordica's popularity to a Kansas audience, from the standpoint of all classes. Without question Madame Nordica's concert was the greatest attraction in a musical line ever brought to Ottawa, and it pleased every one of the 1,200 Kansas people who made up the audience. This is speaking in musical terms. Financially the affair was an unqualified success. The receipts \$1,660 approximately attest to this fact. Practically all who attended paid one dollar and fifty cents. Of this sum \$1,200 goes to Nordica's manager and the remaining \$400 is profit accruing to the oratorio society.

Madame Nordica's company arrived in Ottawa on Saturday, Jan. 16, from Ft. Smith, Arkansas, in a private car. With Madame were, Miss Emma

Showers, pianist; Frederick Hastings, baritone; André Benoist, accompanist who with Madame Nordica herself constituted the musical part of the company. The prima donna is also accompanied by her sister, Mrs. G. W. Walker, W. F. Chauncey, her personal representative and R. E. Johnston, who manages the company. Mr. Chauncey, Mrs. Walker, a force of four domestics, among them a negro chef of reputation, and Madame herself occupy the private car continually. The rest put up at hotels.

When Madame Nordica came to Ottawa she made herself at home. A great part of Saturday morning and Sunday she spent in sleeping. Saturday afternoon she visited several downtown stores, making generous purchases. During her two days' stay in Ottawa, she refused to be interviewed by the reporters of the local newspapers. Her personal representative, Mr. Chauncey attended to this matter.

All day Monday in anticipation of the concert people came in on every train. Emporia, Baldwin and Lawrence sent altogether about 200 students. From Chanute, Iola and Wells ville there came quite a large delegation a number of former Ottawans were here from Kansas City.

Hours before the Rohrbaugh opened Monday night, all available seats in the house were sold. Quite a number paid for standing room.

At 8:30 the curtain went up and Miss Showers appeared. She was followed shortly after Madame Nordica, who was led by Monseignor Benoist.

Their appearance brought a storm of applause which lasted several seconds. Madame was dressed in an exquisite silk gown, which was ornamented profusely with diamonds. A tiara, set with rare gems was worn.

From her first song, in French to the last one in German, Madame Nordica held her audience as no other popular entertainer has done in Ottawa. It mattered not that she sang in German, French and Italian, though comparatively few people were able to understand. The wonderful expression and interpretation which she put into every note, without the least sign of exertion made every song appreciable. Madame Nordica has a reputation which is enviable, and does not need to pander to a popular audience with encores, but it is a fact that she willingly responded to encores for about two-thirds of the numbers she sang. She was on the program for fourteen songs.

Every popular singer who appears

at the Ottawa Chautauqua every year is asked to sing some of the old-time melodies. Madame Nordica was requested to sing "Suwanee River," and her interpretation of this brought her rounds of applause. A request to sing, "The Last Rose of Summer" would have been granted but Madame Nordica was disappointed to find at the last minute that she did not have the music.

Many companies which have a star as an attraction are made up for the most part of men and women of inferior abilities. This, decidedly, is not true of Nordica's company. Mr. Frederick Hastings is a baritone singer of unusual ability. Miss Emma Showers young and beautiful, won a place with her audience from the first. Her teaching is pronounced to be above the average. Mr. Andre Benoist, the accompanist of both Madame Nordica and Mr. Hastings, received much praise for his able work.

The following is the program as published:

Part. 1

1. Polonaise in A flat..... Chopin
Miss Showers.
2. Aria "Dieh Theure Halle" from
"Tannhauser" Wagner
3. Prologue from "Pagliacci"
..... Leoncavallo
Mr. Hastings.
4. English Songs
 - (a) "Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal,
Quilter; (b) Serenade, R. Strauss;
 - (c) "Angels Ever Bright and Fair,"
Handel; (d) "The Years at the
Spring," Mrs. Beach.
 Mme. Nordica.

PART II.

1. Rhapsodie Hongroise,..... Liszt
Miss Showers.
2. French and Italian Songs
 - (a- "Vielle Chanson", Bizet; (b)
"Nell", Faure; (c) "Mia Picirelli"
Gomes; (d) "Mattinati" Leoncavallo
 Mme Nordica.
3. (a) Requim, Arthur Fcote; (b
"Songs of the Sword" from "Tof
ana", Glough Leighton.
Mr. Hastings.
4. German Songs
 - (b) "Monat Mai", Hammond; (b)
"Ich Liebe Dich", Grieg; (c) "Wald-
esprcah," Schumann.
 Mme. Nordica.

A fine Steinway piano was shipped from Kansas City, especially for Nordica.

Following the concert, receptions were held for out-of-town guests at the Conservatory of Music rooms, 330 Main street, and at the Elks club

rooms. These were especially convenient for the guests who returned to Emporia and other western towns on the 12:15 train and for passengers to Southern Kansas towns, who returned at 2:50 Tuesday morning.

In speaking of the business end of the affair, great credit is given Prof. Bixel and Miss Ethlyn Harrison, who conceived the idea of bringing Nordica to Ottawa. Their push and energy enlisted the aid of the twenty-five Ottawa men who guaranteed the attraction financially; by this means the quick sale of 400 tickets was made possible in a short time after the contract was signed. The enterprise was a fine attestation to the desire of Ottawa audiences for good music; it was also an advertisement for Ottawa and Ottawa University. Madame Nordica and her company left Ottawa early Tuesday morning for Lincoln, Neb.