

B. S. Thesis

A Conservatory of Music
for a Large City.

H. F. Kuehne.

The idea for this thesis was suggested to the author while reading an account of the movement begun for the establishment of a National Department of Fine Arts at Washington. This movement was initiated by a committee appointed by the Fine Arts Federation, the Society of Beaux Arts, and the American Institute of Architects, and has for its purpose the creation of a system of national schools of fine arts in the various large cities of the United States, with a national Athenaeum at Washington. It was a part of the plan to create a national conservatory of music at Washington with branch conservatories in the other cities. A national orchestra was also proposed.

It was the author's first intention

to take the national conservatory for the subject of a thesis, but as the time allotted for the completion of a thesis was not sufficient to permit a full treatment of this comprehensive project, the author has to abandon this idea, and the design of one of the secondary conservatories substituted.

This thesis, therefore, presents the design of a conservatory of music which might be erected in some such city as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia or Boston. The author's conception of the problem under these conditions was one of large and monumental character. As a part of a national system it should possess requisite dignity, scale, and artistic significance, as should all national undertakings.

Technically the problem resolves itself into one of equal importance in regards

planning and elevation. In the planning it becomes necessary to associate several important or predominating features in a well balanced composition. In exterior appearance it becomes necessary to create a monumental effect, aesthetic prominence, and characteristic expression of its purpose.

In a conservatory of this importance a large concert hall or theatre is a necessary and dominant feature. This should serve for the presentation to the public of musical performances of every sort. There should likewise be smaller halls for recitals by pupils and rehearsals with public or private. These would serve for performances of smaller import. Associated with these there should be a library of dignified size for the keeping of musical literature, scores, and other

classical literature. There are the four largest elements entering into the plan. There should be beside these an administration department, a large reception hall of some distinction for important social functions connected with the institution, and a supply department, where all materials needed in the work of the school may be obtained. As an extra element of interest and embellishment there should be an exhibit room or small museum for sculptures and musical instruments, arranged in historic classification. Connected with these and forming the working elements of the school there should be the various studios for instrumental and vocal instruction.

Aside from these characteristic requirements there should be monumental circulation between the public portions of

The plan, beginning with a large vestibule.

The various requirements summarized in itinerris form are as follows:—

1. A large Concert Hall with stage.
2. Two smaller Recital Halls with organs.
3. A Library with alcoves, equally accessible from all parts of the building.
4. Reception Rooms.
5. Small museum or Exhibition Room.
6. Supply Department.
7. Administrative Department.
8. Six or more Lecture Rooms for classes.
9. Studios for the accommodation of 4000 students.
10. Organ Rooms for the practice and instruction on the organ.
11. Tuning Rooms, for the renovation and tuning of instruments.
12. Recreational Rooms, for students and instructors.

- 13. Offices for instructors.
- 14. Gymnasium for male and female students.
- 15. Store rooms, toilets, etc.
- 16. Joints quarters.
- 17. Stairs, elevators, etc.

The building should be two stories in height with an ample basement story. The first or main story should contain the various halls, library, Administration Reception and Supply Rooms, and the studios for instruments and voice. The second story should contain the organ rooms, offices and galleries of the Halls, etc. The basement should contain the tuning rooms, store rooms, Gymnasium etc.

An important practical consideration to be regarded, in the isolation of the studios as far as possible to prevent a mutual disturbance. This may be done by

placing the studios on the periphery of the building with double walls on the interior and deadend walls between adjoining studios. A further point that might be considered is the division of the vocal from the instrumental studios. They may be arranged on respective sides of the building. These considerations have been kept in view in the present design.

The setting of the building should be prominent and spacious. It should be surrounded by wide avenues and further by a park or square. An effective approach affording an impressive view of the building is desirable.

It is hoped that the design herewith submitted may fulfil the above requirements, logically and aesthetically.

The drawings presented are:-

An elevation of the main facade at the scale of one eighth inch to the foot.

a Plan of the main floor at the
scale of $\frac{3}{64}$ inch to the foot.

a Longitudinal section at the
scale of $\frac{3}{32}$ inch to the foot.