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Carol Festivals to Span Nation.

Fifteen thousand musicians from its own rolls and hundreds of thousands of children and adults in the classes taught and directed by the WPA Federal Music Project teachers, orchestral, band and choral leaders, will join in songs celebrating the Christmas season this year, Administrator Harry L. Hopkins announced today. Through these programs, Mr. Hopkins added, jobless musicians largely from relief rolls expect to make a substantial contribution to the joyous season.

The carol festivals have been planned on a nation-wide scale and Recreation and Adult Education Projects and National Youth Administration leaders will cooperate, according to Dr. Nikolai Sokoloff, Director of the Federal Music Project.

During four hours on Christmas Eve there will no moment in which voices will not be raised some place in America in the familiar old carols. The chorus composed principally of children, will assemble about the brilliantly illumined municipal Christmas trees in more than fifty cities and towns.

So that this singing may be continuous the hours have been arranged to follow the clock as the festivals span the country from East to West. Allowing
for the lapse of time between the Atlantic Seaboard and the Pacific Coast, the Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois cities will pick up the programs as they are completed in New York City, Philadelphia and the Florida communities.

Several of the more familiar carols have been selected for all the participating groups with "Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men" to be a theme song. Other carols include; "Silent Night," "Come All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and "Away in a Manger."

In the South where the "hanging of the green" is observed the attendant carol will be "Good King Wenceslas." Where Negro choruses are participating, the two Christmas carols which derive directly from their race, "Go Tell It on de Mountain" and "Behold That Star," will be heard.

Besides the carol festivals on Christmas Eve there will be numerous other programs devoted to Christmas music. Bach's Christmas Oratorio and Handel's "Messiah" will be presented in several communities, and in New York the WPA musicians gave a program Friday night devoted to the lesser known Bach cantatas and groups of madrigals.

Three thousand children under the guidance of WPA music teachers will participate in celebration in the five boroughs of New York City Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Five hundred of them will gather in City Hall Park about the towering Christmas tree to hear a Yuletide greeting from Mayor F. S. LaGuardia and to sing a program of carols. At the same hour other children from the Federal Music Project centers will sing at the arch in Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, at Kings Park Mansion in Queens and in Joyce Kilmer
3 Christmas Story

Park in the Bronx. In Harlem police lines will admit several thousand persons and Bill (Bojangles) Robinson, screen and stage star, will make his debut in the white whiskers of Santa Claus.

These borough programs will be climaxed at 7 o'clock by a mammoth Christmas sing at the tree in Times Square. Mayor LaGuardia also will open this celebration and Dr. Nikolai Sokoloff, national director of the Federal Music Project and famous orchestra conductor, will direct the singing from a podium high above the heads of the crowd. Words and music of carols will be thrown on a screen on the Times Building. These uptown festivities will close with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus by 200 selected voices.

Mayor S. Davis Wilson will preside at the carol festival in the court yard of the City Hall in Philadelphia at 4:30 o'clock on Christmas Eve. More than 300 singers will be accompanied by the WPA Civic Symphony Orchestra and the WPA Concert Band. In Boston the carol singing will be at 7:45 o'clock with the WPA Symphonic Band and the WPA Commonwealth Chorus leading in the old songs from the Parkman bandstand on Boston Common. Throughout the afternoon and night selected singers will be heard in carols at various points in the City, the municipal authorities supplying the transportation.

In Chicago Bach's Christmas Oratorio will be sung tomorrow (Dec. 20) in the Great Northern Theater by the Illinois Philharmonic Choir, Walter Aschenbrenner, conductor, assisted by the WPA Illinois Symphony Orchestra. On Tuesday the same choir will be heard in a radio broadcast of Christmas songs, and the Jubilee Singers, a Negro unit, will be heard in carols on Christmas Eve.

In listing the three WPA symphony orchestras, the bands and choral groups, and the students enrolled in the Music Project classes, the state director in Florida has announced that 15,000 persons would take active part in the Christmas week observances. On a state-wide schedule from Pensacola to Key West these musicians and choristers will be heard about municipal Christmas trees in the 4 o'clock Christmas Eve celebration when the selected carols will be sung.
In New Orleans all of the white units of the Federal Music Project will be massed into a group for carol singing on the Square facing City Hall. During the week smaller carol sings, led by the WPA Vocal Unit, are to take place in schools and settlements. The Negro units will lead the carol singing at the Milne Boys' Home on December 24 when the new auditorium of the institution will be dedicated.

In Mississippi more than 12,000 children in the Federal Music classes have been rehearsing Christmas carols for more than a month. There are to be two state-wide carol festivals during the week, the first to be heard tomorrow (December 20) and the second to fit in with the national plan during the late afternoon of Christmas Eve.

The original plan calling for the major celebration on Christmas Eve had to be abandoned because of the difficulty faced in transporting children from the remoter rural areas to the various county seats. Civic groups and service clubs, boards of supervisors, aldermen and education are cooperating in the festival plans, which will center in Vicksburg, Jackson and Hattiesburg.

In cooperation with the American Legion the WPA Concert Band in Kansas City, Kansas, has been rehearsing for a Christmas concert and pageant for all the school children of the city. The program will be given in Municipal Auditorium on two evenings Christmas week with the backing of the city authorities. The Negro Band in this city will be coordinated with the national carol program on Christmas Eve.

Four cities in Texas will participate in the Music Project's plan for Christmas Eve observances. Dallas is planning an elaborate celebration
to center in the City Hall when the combined choruses from the community centers will present carols and "The Three Kings," a musical play of the Nativity. The WPA Orchestra will accompany the carolers and the cantata. In Fort Worth the Music Project will join with the Recreation Department in presenting a Christmas pageant with a chorus of 700 voices, and both the San Antonio and El Paso Projects will be heard in special programs in community centers.

In a dozen different districts of Grand Rapids, Mich., the Christmas dawn will be greeted by brass or woodwind quartets playing the old carols. The WPA band has been divided into such groups, which will be assigned to the different sections from WPA headquarters at 5 A.M. Children tripping to their Christmas trees will hear the Christmas music.

On Christmas Eve the Grand Rapids Orchestra is sponsoring, with the cooperation of local civic groups, a great community Christmas sing. Earlier in Christmas week the orchestra will be divided into small groups to make brief appearances in the lobbies of hotels and department stores.

Jackson's WPA Orchestra, with a large civic chorus, will present "The Messiah" tomorrow. (December 20). On Thursday evening it will accompany carolers assembled about the municipal Christmas tree. The WPA Orchestra in Lansing will visit hospitals after appearing in the program of carols with groups of children. Early in January it will participate in a performance of Haydn's "Creation." Community Christmas Eve singing in which WPA units will appear are also scheduled for Detroit and Iron Mountain.

Elaborate Christmas programs have been planned in the principal California cities. These are in addition to the national plan for the Christmas Eve community carol singing.
In San Francisco tomorrow night (Dec. 20) the combined WPA Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, under the direction of Giulio Silva, with the assistance of the choral unit of the Recreation Project, will perform excerpts from Bach's "Magnificat" and the Christmas Oratorio.

The Los Angeles WPA Symphony Orchestra will note the holiday season on December 23 when Conductor Modest Altschuler will direct the first California performance of Rimsky-Korsakoff's Christmas Eve Suite to include the choral finale.

The Oakland Federal Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have presented Corelli's Christmas Concerto and Humperdinck's "Green Pantomine." Other performances of these works are scheduled for Oakland and San Francisco. The San Mateo units will present selections from the "Messiah" and Bach's Christmas Oratorio. In San Jose the WPA musicians will take part in a pageant for children at the Civic Auditorium.

Elsewhere in the Pacific Coast states there will be Christmas Eve community celebrations and other Christmas programs by WPA musicians in Portland, Ore., and Seattle and Tacoma, Wash.

Christmas programs and community leadership in carol singing also will be provided by Federal Music Project units in Denver and Boulder, Colo., Phoenix, Ariz., and Salt Lake City.