MORE THAN 7,000 FROM FEDERAL MUSIC PROJECT TO JOIN IN CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Cooperating with municipal authorities, music clubs, church and civic groups, more than 7,000 instrumentalists and vocalists on the rolls of the Federal Music Project, Works Progress Administration, and thousands of children and adults trained in the Project's classes will participate at twilight tonight in Christmas carol festivals that will span the nation.

Through these festivals, Assistant Works Progress Administrator Ellen S. Woodward announced, Project musicians, most of whom are on relief, and Project pupils who come predominantly from the homes of the underprivileged will make their contribution to the holiday season. During four hours this evening, she said, there will be no moment in which voices will not be raised some place in America in the beloved and familiar old songs of the Yuletide.

Plans for utilizing the resources of the Federal Music Project in the Christmas festival were forwarded to State and Regional Directors by Dr. Nikolai Sokoloff, National Director, several weeks ago, and since that time there have been general rehearsals in preparation for the holiday programs.

In South Carolina, Oklahoma and Mississippi, the Christmas music has been organized by Project teachers on statewide bases. In Mississippi, for instance, choruses will gather at twilight in 43 counties.
to sing at the same hour. Participation in the carol festivals in certain remote rural areas will be on an unprecedented scale.

Although there have been Christmas programs during the last three weeks, the Project's observance of the holiday will culminate in the carol singing tonight. In many localities, bands, orchestras and choruses will gather at the municipal or community Christmas trees as the colored lights are turned on at dusk.

Opening with the Christmas program and community sing in the Federal Music Theatre in New York City, led by the Federal Opera Chorus, the programs will follow the sun westward. They will start on the Pacific Coast three hours after the festivals on the Atlantic Seaboard.

While the whole literature of Christmas music will be heard, seven of the familiar carols have been suggested to all Project units, and "Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards Men" will be the theme song around which the programs are built.

One of the most interesting of the Christmas observances will be given tonight in Old Albuquerque, the Mexican city adjacent to Albuquerque, N. M., where a children's version of "Los Pastores" will be heard in the light of luminaries placed on the adobe rooftops. "Los Pastores" is one of a cycle of religious plays of ancient origin and was adapted by a Project musician in collaboration with the Department of Hispanic Studies of the University of New Mexico. There will be a chorus of a hundred children and the Town Council. The Mayor Donos of the parish church and the school authorities are sponsoring the program.

There will be another presentation of "Los Pastores" in the patio of the Old Palace of the Governors, in Santa Fe, and here again
luminaries will be used for illumination. These are large brown paper sacks with about four inches of sand in the bottom, in which are placed lighted candles. The soft light has a traditional place in the Mystery plays which derive from Spain.

Project musicians will give or lead in more than a hundred Christmas programs in the New England States. The Federal Commonwealth Band will play in the Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common tonight, giving a program jointly with the Project's Madrigal Singers and American Folk-Singers. Later in the evening the Madrigal Singers will sing carols and noels in all the Boston hotels.

Elsewhere in Massachusetts the Project bands and orchestras will play for Christmas carol singing in Everett, Framingham, Quincy, Cambridge, Malden, Newton, Milton, Medford, Chelsea, Saxonville, Walston, Springfield, Holyoke, Worcester, Chicopee and Fall River.

In many rural areas of New Hampshire the classes trained by Project music teachers will be heard in Christmas programs. Last night the Federal Concert Band played for a children's party given by the Commissioner of Charities in the State Armory in Manchester, and tonight it will accompany the carol singing about the municipal Christmas tree. The WPA symphony orchestra will appear in Christmas programs at Mount St. Mary College and the Christian Science Home in Concord.

A group of 30 girls selected from the Project music classes in Portland, Me., will join school children in carol festivals tonight in Congress and Monument Squares. Project musicians in Lewiston will give a series of holiday programs in the City Hall.

The Federal Music Project in Connecticut started its Christmas
programs two weeks ago and will continue it until New Year's. In Hartford, the Federal Art Project has erected a life-size set of the Nativity scene with Shepherds and the Magi in Bushnell Park, directly in front of the Capitol building. The Federal Symphonic Band opened public Christmas activities there December 20 and will lead a carol sing in which school children will take part tonight.

The Federal Symphony Orchestra of Bridgeport will play three special Christmas programs, and the WPA band of Stamford will give five concerts at the Christmas tree on Town Hall Plaza. The WPA band in Waterbury, after a tour of schools and hospitals, will lead the Christmas Eve carol program on The Green.

The Music Project in New York City already has given more than 50 Christmas programs. Carol sings, Yuletide pageants and Chanukah festivals will be continued all next week in the Federal Music Theatre, the Project teaching centers, schools, churches, parks, museums and settlements and in all medical centers. One feature of the New York festival will be the presentation of "The Nativity," a medieval Mystery play dating from 1400.

In Newark, the entire chorus of the Federal Opera Company and the Symphonic Band will participate in the Christmas Eve community festival on the steps of City Hall. Project musicians in Atlantic City after a tour of several institutions will join in the municipal Christmas tree lighting in the public square at twilight. Elsewhere in New Jersey there will be Christmas week celebrations by Project musicians in Camden, Asbury Park, South Plainfield, New Brunswick, Teaneck, Passaic, Paterson, Hoboken and Harrison. At midnight tonight the Hudson County WPA Orchestra will be heard in a service at the Medical Center in Jersey City.
Besides these public performances all of the units will be heard in hospitals, orphanages, homes for the aged and other institutions.

In Philadelphia, the two Project bands, both dance orchestras, and the symphony and the concert orchestras will give 34 programs during the Yuletide season. The Federal Symphony Orchestra of Pittsburgh will play several Christmas programs in outlying communities and the Schuylkill County Band will be heard tonight at the annual community Christmas party sponsored by the Salvation Army. Elsewhere in Pennsylvania, the Reading Band will give six programs at the community Christmas tree in Penn Square, and other Project bands or orchestras will be heard in special programs in Lancaster, Erie, Uniontown, Carleto, Williamsport, Bloomsburg, Pottsville, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.

The WPA Concert Orchestra in Baltimore, Md., will give two Christmas programs at the Museum of Art with guest soloists singing arias from "The Messiah" and leading in carol singing by the audience. There also will be programs at the City and the U. S. Marine Hospitals and at the Bowie Normal School.

Project units in the middle-western states have scheduled more than 200 special programs for the holiday season. As in other years, the WPA Military Band was heard at the opening of the ten-day Christmas festivities on December 14 at Cincinnati, O., and will play at twilight tonight for the Mayor's Christmas committee in the annual carol sing in Fountain Square.

The Concert Orchestra in Toledo, O., led in the outdoor carol celebration on December 21 and the Federal Symphony Orchestra of Cleveland gave Christmas programs in the Courthouse and City Hall.
The Federal Symphony Orchestra and the WPA Concert Band of Grand Rapids, Mich., will be divided into several small groups which will go into every section of the city to play Christmas carols during the night. In other years these musicians made the city-wide tour at dawn on Christmas morning.

In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Project bands will lead community singing in cooperation with local singing societies and the Chambers of Commerce in Calumet, Houghton, Ironwood, Iron River and Iron Mountain.

All of the 888 persons on the Federal Music Project rolls in Illinois will participate in the Christmas Festival. Besides the programs in Chicago, Decatur, Peoria, Joliet, Rockford, Cicero, Herrin and several other cities, there will be special programs in 41 rural schools to which Project teachers have been assigned in Saline, Pulaski, Hamilton, Wayne, Jackson, Macon, Franklin and Wabash counties. Students from the Project classes also will sing at the community Christmas trees in Johnston City, Carbondale, Cambria, Fairfield and Carterville.

Choruses trained by Project teachers in Indianapolis have been singing Christmas music in hospitals and other institutions since December 7, and the Federal Concert Band has been using carols in appreciation programs with appropriate continuity in the schools. The brass ensemble from the band will perform tonight in conjunction with the carillon in the huge tower of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. An amplifier system to carry the carols throughout the downtown area. The WPA band in Evansville, Ind., the orchestra in Ft. Wayne and the Folk Music Unit in Terre Haute will give 40 Yuletide programs.

At the request of the City Council, the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra played a Christmas concert yesterday in the concourse of
St. Paul's City Hall. All day today the Twin Cities Jubilee Singers will be heard on various prominent corners in both St. Paul and Minneapolis. Project music teachers have been training their 1200 students in Christmas music for several weeks.

The ten instrumental units in Wisconsin will cooperate with community groups and municipal officials in special programs in Eau Claire, Madison, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine, Superior and Wausau. Special continuity had been prepared for music and demonstration programs in dozens of schools.

The Project's three instrumental units in St. Louis, the Little Symphony Orchestra, the Brass Sextet and the Danco Orchestra, have had a two weeks' Christmas program. Tonight the Brass Ensemble and Negro Orchestra will join the St. Louis Christmas Carols Association during a four-hour tour to every section of the city. The two Project orchestras in Kansas City, Mo., will play 20 public programs during the holiday week, and pupils in the Project's teaching centers in the Sedalia area will lead in community carol singing at the County Court House.

More than 12,000 persons enrolled in the Music Project's teaching classes in Oklahoma have been supplied with mimeographed copies of carols and Christmas hymns. The music will be taken into almost every community in the State during Christmas Eve and the week following. Groups of these students, as in the past two years, will sing not only in institutions but they will visit the homes of the ill and the shut-in, singing in the yards.

The Oklahoma Federal Symphony Orchestra gave its Christmas program on December 18 for which each subscribing patron received a gift ticket.
to bring a friend. The Symphonic Choir of Oklahoma City participated in
the program along with the Modern Dance Group, which presented a dance
drama based on the French legend, "The Juggler of Notre Dame."

As in New Mexico and Arizona, a large part of the Christmas
program in Texas is in Spanish, with the tipica orchestras of Dallas, El
Paso and San Antonio planning colorful celebrations at twilight tonight.
The Dallas Concert Orchestra will play a special program for a vested choir
of several hundred children. In Fort Worth, the Concert Orchestra will
participate tonight in the candle-lighting ceremony at the municipal
Christmas tree.

In the South, where it is customary to observe "the hanging of
the greens," "Gook King Wenceslas" will be added to the programs. Where
Negro choirs are participating, the Christmas spirituals deriving from
their race, "Go Tell it on De Mountain" and "Behold That Star," will be heard.

Eleven orchestras, six concert bands, ten dance orchestras, four
opera units and seven choral groups, set up by the Federal Music Project, will
take part in California Christmas music festivals. Hall Johnson, the well-
known Negro conductor and composer, will be a guest leader with the Bay
Region Symphony Orchestra in San Francisco, where the Project has made ar-
rangements to join with the City of San Francisco and other sponsoring
agencies in a great Christmas celebration in the Civic Auditorium.

Members of the choral units also will sing carols in the Civic
Center. In Oakland, the two Project choirs will sing carols on the steps of
the City Hall. In San Jose and Sacramento, the instrumental units will
give special holiday programs.
A special performance of Cesar Franck's "Beatitudes" and two matinee performances of "Hansel and Gretel" will be given in the Philharmonic Auditorium by the Los Angeles Project during Christmas week. Other special programs for the holidays will be given in San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Pasadena, Long Beach, Santa Ana and San Diego.