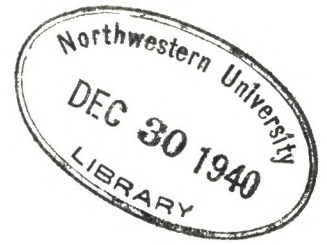


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CHRISTMAS CAROLS TO BE FEATURED BY 500 WPA MUSICAL UNITS DURING  
HOLIDAY

Ten thousand WPA musicians will bring an added measure of joy to the Christmas season in many parts of the country this year through one of the most extensive Christmas music programs ever fostered under government auspices, Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant WPA Commissioner in charge of professional and service projects, said today.

Units of the WPA Music Program, operating in 40 states, New York City, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, are all cooperating to the end of making this a musical Christmas, she explained. For weeks, orchestras, bands and choral groups composed of WPA musicians, or community groups coached by them have been rehearsing Christmas numbers almost exclusively. In the days immediately preceding Christmas they will give hundreds of performances in schools, hospitals and public institutions; at community Christmas tree celebrations and as roving carolers on Christmas Eve.

To an even greater extent than previously, Mrs. Kerr continued, this year's WPA Christmas music program will represent widespread community cooperation. With the WPA Music Program now operating under local sponsorship, as distinct from its former status as a Federally sponsored project, she said, there is greater local interest and participation in its activities. Many community sings,

pageants and other large-scale Christmas observances have been scheduled this year around the local WPA music project as a nucleus.

In Oklahoma, where 200 communities are provided with free WPA music instruction throughout the year, the "Christmas Carol Tour" has become an annual custom. From the many WPA music centers choirs and small instrumental groups wander through the towns pausing for brief serenades at the homes of the ill, the aged and poor and at public hospitals and institutions.

In Newark, New Jersey, an opera troupe composed of WPA musicians is now rehearsing the famous children's opera, "Hansel and Gretel," for presentation during the holidays. Another Christmas offering for children of especial interest is the adaptation of "Los Pastores," an ancient Spanish religious play, which is now being made ready by WPA workers in Albuquerque.

Boston Common, on Christmas Eve, will resound with the singing of old English madrigals under the leadership of WPA music project workers. At the State School for Boys, in Maine, the inmates will participate in a Christmas pageant prepared for them and rehearsed by WPA music instructors. CCC camps, Army cantonments and Naval shore stations in many parts of the country will likewise enjoy the Christmas music of WPA bands, orchestras and singers.

Mrs. Kerr added that approximately 500 individual WPA music units, numbering about 10,000 persons, would take part in Christmas celebrations this year. Included are 18 full-size symphony orchestras, 60 bands numbering from 20 to 60 members each, over 100 concert orchestras and numerous choral groups of various sizes.

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