

(Reprinted from *The Phi Mu Alpha Annual*; Vol. XI; 1912.)

New York City, March 17, 1912.

Dear Brother Kaiser and Esteemed Historian:

Each one of us thinks in terms of his own experiences and environment, and so when you ask me to tell you what I think Sinfonia can do for the advancement of music in America, I answer you in terms of my own experiences of the past few years, touching only one point in the large circumference of activities in which Sinfonia can aid in the promotion of American musical interests.

Sinfonia should "start something" here in New York City. Sinfonia should have a chapter in this great musical centre, for without insult to the artistic activities of the village choir of Podonk, or even to the musical enlightenment of Boston and Cincinnati, New York may safely be said to be the greatest music centre of our country. It is a mere platitude to add that the greatest center of musical activity ought to focus about the greatest musical fraternity of the country.

New York has within its city confines three great universities, each fostering the fraternity system, yet *Phi Mu Alpha* is not listed among the Greek letter societies. New York City has more Schools of Music, with a larger total enrollment, than any other metropolis of the world, probably, yet all this opportunity is wasted for Sinfonia. Here are paid the highest salaries to choir singers, and here are offered better opportunities for church singing than are to be found in many States, yet Sinfonia is not yet among them. The orchestras centre here in great numbers, here is the home of opera, grand and light, operetta as well, and musical comedy; managers, music men, moneyed music enthusiasts congregate here. What a rich stretch of virgin soil for the immediate sowing of the seeds of Sinfonia standards! Sinfonia men, Sinfonia sympathies, Sinfonia ideals ought to gradually find their way into all these choirs, these schools, these orchestras, these musical organizations.

What we need here is a local chapter plus an alumni chapter; a local chapter that could take under its protecting wing the best of the large army of young musicians of talent who flock here annually from all over the land and who need the protection of a sinfonia home, the encouragement of a Sinfonia fraternity, the good fellowship and the financial aid of community living, and an alumni branch that would hold out the hand of welcome to the big band of *Phi Mu Alpha* fellows who come here from year to year from *Alpha*, from *Eta*, from *Lambda*, either to take up permanent residence or as mere birds of passage, but to whom a Sinfonia home would be a haven of refuge and a much-needed help.

Then, as these men scatter to the West, the North, the South to become the leaders of musical matters everywhere, they would carry with them the Sinfonia ideals and purpose, they would scatter them throughout the length and breadth of the land to the advancement of musical America along the lines of Sinfonia's ideals and Sinfonia's standards.

COLMAN DUDLEY FRANK, *Epsilon*, '03.