

The Thrane Concert Company appeared in 1896 with Irma Thrane, pianist, Ella Thrane, soprano, Robert Thrane, Cellist, Lucille Thrane, violinist. After intensive study abroad, the members of this musical Eau Claire family were welcomed home with congratulations and good wishes for their continued success.

The same year the internationally known artists Ysaye, violinist, Girardy, Cellist and Lachume, pianist appeared in concert. These artists were under the management of Victor Thrane, the oldest brother in the Thrane family mentioned above.

Myrta French Complimentary Benefit. Assisted by artists from Minneapolis.

"Pirates of Penzance". With Myrta French, Mrs. Fred Paige Tibbitts, Ivar Anderson, Jesse Warner. (1899).

We heard the operas La Bohème, Il Pagliacci, Cavalleria Rusticana, Faust, and the "Bohemian Girl" sung by Italian opera troupes, and such operettas as The Beggar Student, Mikado, Rose-Marie and The Chocolate Soldier came to the Grand in its heyday before it became a movie theater.

1900s

In June 1900 "Martha" was given under the musical direction of William E. Steinberg, stage direction, T.J. Johnson. ^{the latter} He was a contemporary of Eau Claire's prima donna, Myrta French who frequently vacationed in her home city. It was she who selected the following talent and they gave a praiseworthy performance. Myrta French, Mrs. Fred Paige Tibbitts, Ivar Anderson T.J. Johnson, Eugene Kelly, Will Harrigan, Lyman Cathcart, Vera Meader, Dora Hanck, Pearl Vallier, Roy Fowler, Roy Baston, Ch. Kildahl.

"The Prodigal Son" an oratorio by Henry B. Vincent was given under the direction of George A. Burt. (See program on page..)

Symphony Orchestra Concert. W.E. Steinberg, conductor. (See programs given by this group on page ...)

Myrta French Kursteiner in concert assisted by Sigurd Rishovd, violinist E.H. Miles and Mrs. Sigurd Rishovd, accompanists. This was in 1916 and marked the last appearance of this singer in Eau Claire.

From 1911 to 1917 consecutively the Philharmonic Society gave an annual May Festival. This Society is described on page...

A song recital was given by Mary Lucia Fish after her return from study abroad. She was accompanied by E.H. Miles.

Some other outstanding events I recall include the famous Kneisel String Quartette, a concert by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra with Johanna Gadski as soloist, Maud Powell the violinist and, in a lighter vein, Sousa's famous band and an unforgettable evening with Harry Lauder, the world-known Scottish comedian.

*Johnny Sars
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