

Brass Band Broadcast

By THE BANDMASTER

“HARMONY Heaven” Sounds like a pretty nice place to be, harmony being the strength and support of all institutions, more especially this of ours! Typing the phrase, “harmony heaven” into Google, I found that it was also used as the title of a 1930 British film about a girl helping a composer become famous, but the “harmony heaven” in this column precedes that film by 36 years. The alliteration, however, as well as its message is a very good one, and I am surprised that it hasn’t been used more frequently.

At any rate, before continuing I would like to gratefully acknowledge the information provided me by two individuals which makes this installment of “Brass Band Broadcast” possible. In that regard, I am indebted to Mr. **Andrew Glover**, an outstanding composer and arranger of band music and currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the C. L. Barnhouse Company of Oskaloosa, Iowa as well as Bro. **Bill Krueger**, the librarian of the Grand Lodge of Iowa. Both of these gentlemen were very helpful in providing much of the information for the preparation of this column. In addition, some very useful biographical information was obtained from the C. L. Barnhouse Company website, a handout from the Iowa Bandmasters Clinic (May, 2013), the Wilcox Digital Archives Library of William Penn University, as well as the latest issue of Circus Fanfare published by Windjammers Unlimited of Independence, Ohio and which Mr. Glover was kind enough to send me.

This column, like some of the preceding ones, focuses on a Masonic composer whose work is part of the Aleppo Brass Band’s concert repertoire and who had significant impact on American music and band music in particular. The individual to whom I refer is Bro. **Charles Lloyd Barnhouse** (1865-1929), who was not only a virtuoso cornetist and wrote some 150 musical compositions, but also founded a very successful music publishing company, which is still in existence today, some 131 years after being established. Not only does the C. L. Barnhouse Company continue to publish new music today, but stands virtually alone in maintaining a “never out of print” policy by providing archival copies of even its oldest publications, including those composed by Bro. Barnhouse himself.

Until the writing of this column, I was unaware of the number of musical compositions that Bro. Barnhouse actually wrote, although many years ago (as a teenager) I was introduced to one of his finest marches, “The Messenger,” through playing it frequently in concerts with the Fitchburg Military Band. “The Messenger,” which Barnhouse composed in 1894 was dedicated to his Knights of Pythias Iowa Brigade Band of Oskaloosa and is an outstanding piece of music which the Aleppo Brass Band plans to introduce at the upcoming Band Concert portion of the June Ceremonial.

The march begins with a strong blend of minor chords supporting the melody in the very beginning, gradually giving way to brighter major chords in the next section and finally brightening further into a lighter trio, or contrasting movement. Even so, this match did not receive the title of “Harmony Heaven,” that being reserved for another composition released in 1921, “The Messenger,” is truly a masterpiece of harmony and demonstrates that marches are not limited to being loud compilations of clangorous chords, but can be beautifully melodic as well. Such is truly the case with C. L. Barnhouse’s “The Messenger.”

His “Harmony Heaven” March was played by an ensemble of Windjammers Unlimited at Barnhouse’s gravesite in Oskaloosa’s Forrest Cemetery on July 4, 2011 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvTpfXNdaOA>). This march was named for Bro. Barnhouse’s Music Conservatory in Oskaloosa and a number of C. L. Barnhouse book collections of marches, including those by Barnhouse’s close friend and brother, Noble **Karl L. King**, bear the logo of a music lyre with the words “harmony heaven” on the cover.

Charles Lloyd Barnhouse was born in Grafton, West Virginia in 1865, was one of four children born to George and Harriet Barnhouse and was very much a self-educated man, teaching himself the cornet and eventually becoming a virtuoso on that instrument. He also learned a trade as a machinist, a skill that would later prove invaluable as he eventually not only founded his music publishing company, but also engraved his own zinc printing plates with tools that he made himself.

After playing with the Grafton Cornet Band, the W. W. Cole Circus Band of St. Louis, and show bands including Arthur Love’s Musical Comedy Company, he eventually moved to Mt. Pleasant Iowa in 1888, later settling in Oskaloosa where he became the direc-



Arthur Love’s Musical Comedy Band (1883). Bro. Barnhouse is in the back row,second from the left. (from Windjammers Unlimited, Circus Fanfare: Vol 47:1. January/February.2017).

tor of the Knights of Pythias Band in 1892. His publishing company expanded from that point on and began publishing not only his own compositions, but those of other band music composers as well, including **Fred Jewell, Russell Alexander, George D. Barnard** and **W. H. Kiefer**, and **Clay Smith**.

According to Bro. William R. (Bill) Krueger, Assistant Librarian and Curator of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, Bro. Charles Lloyd Barnhouse was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 2, 1900 in Oskaloosa’s Tri-Luminar Lodge #18. Just as the working tools of speculative Masonry are used to smooth and transform the rough ashlar to perfect ones in our everyday lives, not surprisingly some of Bro. Barnhouse’s many musical compositions for military bands, orchestras and instrumental soloists, reflect his patriotism as well as his devotion to the Craft. His “The Battle of Shiloh” March (1886) was his company’s first publication: <http://www.hebu-music.com/de/verlag>. “Tri-Luminar” March and Two-Step (1902) was dedicated to the lodge he loved

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