Original Version of Honegger Oratorio
In Kresge Dec. 13

In the summer of 1921 "King David" was first performed at a little theater high above Lake Geneva in Switzerland, and Arthur Honegger became famous almost overnight. Conducting at the celebration was a young Swiss musician named Paul Boegli. Now 28 years later, on the invitation of Klaus Liepmann, professor of music at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Paul Boegli will conduct the Bennington College Choir and the MIT Glee Club and Symphony Orchestra in the original orchestration of "King David" on Sunday, December 13, in Kresge Auditorium, at 3 P.M.

The dramatic oratorio combines choirs, solos and orchestra with the narrative of David's rise from lonely shepherd to prophet-king. Originally composed as orchestral accompaniment for Ronsard's biblical drama, the music so far surpassed the play that Honegger wrote a second "concert version" for symphony orchestra, now widely performed. Believing the original version to be far superior for dramatic choral production, Professor Liepmann selected it for the MIT presentation.

Mixed Orchestration

"King David" combines Old Testament story with New Testament philosophy, and correspondently Honegger embraces two musical styles: the "primitive" oriental tone color and percussion and the polyphonic style of Bach. The 17-piece orchestra includes two flutes, one oboe, two clarinets, one bassoon, one French horn, two trumpets, one trombone, one double bass, celesta, harmonium, piano, and three percussion players. Choral and soloists sometimes provide commentary on the action of the narrative, as in the Greek drama.

Soloists for "King David" will be Joyce McDole, soprano, Judson Longmire, alto, and Donald Sullivan, tenor, Robert Brooks, chairman of the Pace Theatre in Cambridge, will narrate the production.

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