

A Tribute to Dr. Joseph Maddell Clokey 1890-1960

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The musical world was saddened by the sudden passing of Joseph Clokey at the home of his son in Covina, California on September 14, 1960. At the time of his death he was Professor of Church Music at the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California, and had just completed a most successful summer session with Dr. Charles Farncombe of London, the noted conductor, as guest instructor.

He is considered not only one of Ohio's outstanding composers but of America as well. He was composer, teacher, concert organist, author and authority on church music. He has left us some 300 compositions, using a wide variety of musical forms. Perhaps he is best known for his contribution to the field of sacred music; his anthems, cantatas, solos for voice and organ have been widely used in churches throughout the nation. His choral compositions in general are considered an important addition to American music. He wrote four symphonies. His "Canterbury Symphony" had its premiere performance in Dartford, England, by the Dartford and London Choral Societies and the Dartford Symphony under the direction of his friend and admirer, Dr. Farncombe. Also to his credit are opera, large choral

works, orchestral suites, ballets, string quartets, and other instrumental ensembles, and solos for voice, piano, organ and cello.

Dr. Clokey was a graduate of Miami University and a student in composition at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music under the late Edgar Stillman Kelley. He taught for a number of years at Miami and his last ten years in Ohio were spent as Dean of the School of Fine Arts there. In addition he did some teaching at Western College for Women and at Pomona College in California. He was awarded the following honorary degrees: Doctor of Literature, Miami; Doctor of Music, Ohio Wesleyan; Doctor of Letters and Humanities, LaVerne College in California. The Ohioana Library Association gave him the distinction of "Composer of the Year" at its meeting in 1945 when selections from his "The Temple" were sung by the Capital University Chapel Choir.

His music is ageless and will continue to live in the hearts of all who perform or appreciate it. His depth of soul and deep appreciation of human values are expressed in the ethereal beauty of his more serious music and in the sweet humor of his lighter and equally lovely works.