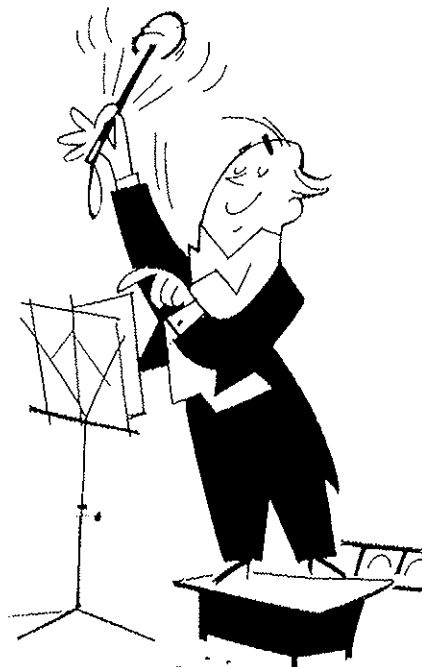


*Frederick Fennell Also Known For
His Writings and Recordings*

Cleveland Drummer Became A Conductor



by MRS. TRENT SMITH

IF JUNIOR received a new set of drums for his birthday and that beat—beat—beat—of the tom tom is getting you down, . . . take pause! Maybe, instead of shouting for silence you had best plug your ears against the percussions and cross your fingers. Your boy might turn out as illustriously as Ohio's Frederick Fennell!

Mr. Fennell, who has gained international reputation in symphonic circles, had his first conscious musical experience at the age of six when he served as drummer boy in his family's life and drum corps. Ohio can be proud of the fact that Frederick is a native son, born in Cleveland on July 2, 1914. From early boy-

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hood all indications pointed to an important musical career. In high school he was an active band member and he spent his summers at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. Here, in his teens, he began a study of conducting with Vladimir Bakaleinikoff. Later, as a scholarship student at the Eastman School of Music he organized the first symphonic band there.

From that time on, Ohio's Mr. Fennell has been the recipient of honors that have mounted steadily in size and scope. He was awarded the International Fellowship in Conducting by the Institute of International Education which afforded him a year of study at the famous Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, in 1938. He was also a private pupil and studied conducting with Serge Koussevitzky at the Berkshire

Music Center. He was awarded the 1948 Citation by the National Association for American Conductors and Composers.

Numerous Broadcasts

He joined the Eastman Conducting Faculty in 1939 and became conductor of its Little Symphony. Ohioans have since had a splendid opportunity to appreciate his prowess for he has given numerous broadcasts over both NBC and CBS networks.

Due to his popularity as a guest conductor, Dr. Fennell is a well traveled man. He has appeared with the New York Federal Symphony, the Philadelphia Little Symphony, the National Music Camp, and the First Contemporary American Music Festival at the University of Washington in Seattle. Similar engagements have taken him to the Berkshire Music Center in Massachusetts as assistant to Koussevitzky and to Houston, Texas as guest conductor of that city's Symphony, as well as its Summertime Light Opera Company. He has guest-conducted the Boston "Pops", the Carnegie "Pops" and the Silver Anniversary Yaddo Music Festival at Saratoga Springs. In 1959 he returned to Ohio as guest conductor of the All-State Orchestra at its 10th Anniversary Concert held in Columbus by the Ohio Music Education Association. Oklahoma City University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Music Degree in May 1957.

At the Eastman School he founded the Eastman Wind Ensemble in 1952 and with it, as well as with his Eastman Rochester Pops Orchestra he branched out to further renown through a recording program for Mercury Records. Four albums released to date are AMERICAN CONCERT BAND MASTERPIECES (MG

40015), MARCHES (MG40007); LA FIESTA MEXICANA (MG40011); and BRITISH BAND CLASSICS (MG40015). Many of Mr. Fennell's recordings are marvelously jolly and feature brisk, spirit-soaring martial music. There are lots of J. P. Sousa marches as well as lively numbers that boast such titles as "Pieces of Eight", "Glory of the Gridiron", "Holy Joe", "Soapsuds Row", "The Colonel's Daughter", "General Doolley" and "Hens and Chickens." Of particular interest to Ohioans are two recordings, "THE SPIRIT OF '76", and "RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES." These were made as a pair in May, 1956, to preserve high lights of Army field music. Ohio figures prominently in the making.

Prolific Author

As a prolific author of musical literature Frederick Fennell also merits attention. He is Contributing Editor to *Band Guide*, Editorial Advisor to *The Instrumentalist*, and contributor of magazine articles to numerous trade journals. His outstanding work is his book entitled *Time and The Winds*, published in 1953 by G. Leblanc Co.

Dr. Fennell, who makes his home in Rochester with his wife (nee Dorothy Codner) and 13-year-old daughter Cathy, is a man whose face reflects joie de vivre, warm sincerity and an undercurrent of electric excitement. His dark intense eyes snap and sparkle. There is a Pixie quality to his generous smile. His hair is close cropped and dark. A certain Peter Pan quality of expression gives one the feeling that, despite honors accrued and fame achieved, there still remains in him the blithe spirit of the little boy who beat a merry rat-a-tat-too on his drums in Cleveland forty years ago.