

FORD EXPOSITION BUILDING • PRESS DEPARTMENT
A CENTURY OF PROGRESS • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9-10-34

14B7

Chicago turned out en masse last night to bid farewell to Victor Kolar and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, which played the last of 160 concerts in Ford Symphony Gardens.

By six o'clock, the 2000 seats of the Ford Auditorium, fronting the lake to the east of the Ford Exposition Building, were filled for the eight o'clock concert. Hundreds packed the sides of the auditorium, standing, hundreds more stood in close-packed ranks behind, and hundreds more packed balconies of surrounding buildings.

As Victor Kolar ascended the rostrum for the first selection, the audience stood for five minutes of preliminary applause, voicing tribute for a series of symphony concerts which has been the most intensive in history, including the playing of 160 concerts and 1,450 separate compositions in the space of 12 weeks into which were crammed more than 300 hours of World's Fair music.

At intermission, Rufus C. Dawes, speaking for A Century of Progress, and Fred Black, Manager of the Ford Exposition, extended official thanks for the achievement of the orchestra in entertaining more than one million visitors. "It is my proud duty", President Dawes said, "to thank Mr. Victor Kolar, the splendid artists of this superb orchestra, and above all, Henry Ford, for the dignity they have added to the 1934 A Century of Progress Exposition." At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Dawes presented Mr. Kolar with a tooled leather portfolio, containing a petition signed by 5000 names, which asked that the symphony season in Ford Gardens be extended. An official Ford Exposition medal was presented to each member of the orchestra by Mr. Black, acting for the Ford Motor Company.

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In introduction, Rufus C. Lawes, speaking for A Century of Progress, and Fred Black, Manager of the Ford Exposition, extended official thanks for the achievement of the orchestra in entertaining more than one million visitors.

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Victor Kolar and Detroit Symphony - Add 1

Telegrams were read from all over the country, many from radio listeners who found that the only way to express their appreciation of the music which has come to them through frequent broadcasts of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Among the telegrams received were ones from Paul Whiteman, Rudy Vallee, Fred Waring, the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, and most of the outstanding music critics of the country.

At the conclusion of the concert, applause which brought Victor Kolar back to the stage again and again, lasted twenty minutes. As the final encore, the orchestra played "Auld Lang Syne".

Wasting no time to get away for short vacations before the winter season begins in Detroit, most of the orchestra members had left Chicago by midnight for vacation destinations. Victor Kolar left for a two week's fishing trip in northern Michigan, after having conducted more concerts in less time than any other conductor in history.

The place of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will be filled today by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, which arrived at eleven o'clock this morning at the Northwestern Station. The choir, which consists of 260 mixed voices and is nationally known because of its frequent radio broadcasts, will sing in Ford Gardens all this week through Sunday night, presenting afternoon concerts every day at 2:30 and evening performances at 8:30.

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The place of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will be filled today by the Morton Taboracle Choir, which arrived at eleven o'clock this morning at the Northwestern Station. The choir, which consists of 280 mixed voices and is nationally known because of its frequent radio broadcasts, will sing in Ford Gardens all this week through Sunday night, presenting afternoon concerts every day at 2:30 and evening performances at 8:30.