**MUSICAL DIARY**

By HENRY SIMON

Friday, Apr. 16.—Received a little note from Grace Coolidge—just a text from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on the birthplace of man—and with it a clipping from the Journal of the Musician's Union. Local 802, listing the new members in alphabetical order. Sandwiched in between a trap drummer from Staten Island and a jazz trumpeter from Brooklyn, was the item:

Londowska, Wanda, Piano, 50 Central Park West.

Mea. Londowska is, of course, a fine pianist, but she is known chiefly as the greatest living player of the harpsichord. Local 802 does not list the harpsichord as a musical instrument.

Saturday afternoon.—Saw the most heart-warming of musicals, Oklahoma!, which the theater columns have praised no end for its music. It's the best Rodgers score I have heard, chiefly, I think, because it is the simplest and least Broadwayish. You just can't write super-smart tunes to lives like this, what a beautiful morning. Oh, what a beautiful day. They're fine, folk-like tunes Rodgers has composed, and Russell Bennett's arrangements are a great help, particularly in an odd, lugubrious number called Poor Jud's Dead. Jacob Schwartzdorff does a bouncy, quiet song in the orchestra pit, especially when things get millivm complex, as in the climax Oklahoma number.

It was good to see what a hit Agnes de Mille's ballet sequences made. There were bits of technique put off, Billy the Kid, even Toder's Pillow of Fire. Ballet devotees find some of the beauty of recognition here, most of the audience of discovery everyone the pleasure you get from something peculiarly appropriate and witty. The big ballet sequence was given the critical point in the show—the close of Act I.

ERICH LEINSDORF goes over the score of Wagner's Parsifal which he will conduct at the Metropolitan Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon. Leinsdorf has been appointed conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra to replace Arturo Tofalzini, who comes to the N. Y. Philharmonic.

The producers' faith in ballet was fully justified. It's a grand show.

Erich Leinsdorf, "I've the greatest admiration for the music and must meet him."

"Nothing simpler," said Miss MacDonald, and found them for us at Tony's.

Saturday evening.—Dinner with Wallace Brookway, the musical writer, Robert MacDonald, the New Yorker artist, and Erich Leinsdorf, who's here to conduct the Parsifal performances, his last before taking over the Cleveland Orchestra.

"Know anything about Alec Wilder?"

Long musical discussion then between the Met's principal Wagnerian conductor and one of dance-land's greatest and least appreciated men. And what it all proved is a pet theory of mine—that the dividing line between popular and high-brow music is something easier to find in terms of commerce than of art. When you get two first-raters like Leinsdorf and Wilder together, the line just evaporates into good musical sense.

Another Honor for 'The Patriots'

The third honor in a week paid to The Patriots is its nomination today by the Newspaper Guild of N. Y. as "the play of the year which best promotes the principles underlying the Four Freedoms."

Dramatizing the struggle of Thomas Jefferson to assure democratic government in America, The Patriots, currently playing at the Capital, will be given a Page One Award at the Guild's annual ball at the Hotel Astor on Friday, Apr. 30.

Madge Evans, who plays the role of Jefferson's daughter in The Patriots, will receive the award for her husband, Sitz. Sidney Kingsley, author of the play.

Last week The Patriots was named the best play of the season by the Theatre Club, Inc., and by the N. Y. Drama Critics Circle.

**HEARD AND OVERHEARD**

By JUDY DEPUE

Tribute to Stephen Vincent Benet

Friends of the late Stephen Vincent Benet, America's present-day Walt Whitman, gathered together last Saturday night at NBC to broadcast a simple memorial program, excerpts from Benet's hope-seeking poems. They were Dennis Tynzer, Maj. Raymond Massey, and Helen Hayes. The broadcast (WEAF) summed up the life and works of the 44-year-old poet.

Radio listeners will remember the poet's sorrowing tribute to his wife, the late Stephen Vincent Benet.

"Now for my country, that it may fall/All that I have, all that I am, all I'll give./It is not much, beside the gift of the heart./And yet accept it, since 'tis all I have."

More Fun Than Food

The Saturday morning jam-packed fun and food program, Fashions in Ration (WABC-CBS, 11:30) minter Billie Burke with quick portions of latest Washington OPA news, quick answers by a food authority and cut-ins by local gang company market advisors.

On Saturday's program, flustered, flustered, flustered, absent-minded Billie learned, and so did listeners, that pretzels were a good source of protein as well as vitamins.

"What do you know," exclaimed Billie Burke, "that's what eating pretzels all my life and I just thought they were well—well—just pretty." So when Billie went to lunch at the Brown Derby (in the script) she went directly to the kitchen and picked up her favorite sandwich. It was not included. Billie was agast. Emily, who is recuperating from a recent illness needed calcium but he didn't like milk. She had a helpful little trick. Emily consulted her food chart. She found that 21 oranges equal three glasses of milk on her calcium count.

"Well then," she said to the chef, "just send along 12 oranges with this lunch. Dear Beefsteak must have his calcium."