

Elementary Choir zestful

By IFAN PAYNE
Music Critic

Manhattan choirs have been having a successful time of it of late.

The Manhattan Middle School eighth grade choir made a strong showing at the Middle School-Junior High School Choral Festival in Salina last week and the KSU Concert Choir placed second in the international division of the Cork International Choral and Folk Dance Festival this past weekend.

Meanwhile back at home we have been having our own show in town with the performance by the USD 383 Elementary Choir before a large audience in the Manhattan Middle School auditorium on Monday evening.

The quality and zest of the performances by these young singers is by now well known to those who have followed the fortunes of this choir over the past few years.

There were few surprises during the concert, but there was a welcome development.

Mrs. Zeibert led the choir in a pair of happy songs, Mrs. Kahler demonstrably willed the youngsters into producing dynamic variation in their singing and Mrs. Reed put some zip and bite into the final num-

bers.

The development that presaged well for the future of the choir was the continued encouragement of contributions from the instrumentalists amongst the singers.

If memory serves me right, kazoos and xylophones have been used before, but not in such numbers, I think. Best of all was the introduction of a pair of young fluteplayers during the performance of Bon Besig's *Flying Free*.

Michelle Cooney and Nancy Monical were the flutists and they both played sweetly and tunefully, adding a great deal to the enjoyment of the performance under the direction of Miss Scherling.

The more that these activities are encouraged and supported and the more that our children see that it is no big deal to play musical instruments for pleasure, but rather that it is a normal and accepted part of our community, the richer will be their lives and our enjoyment.

As it is, choral singing in Manhattan is clearly riding the crest of a wave at the moment and maybe, as the Elementary Choir concert suggested, there is an opportunity for instrumentalists to ride that wave also for a while.

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