

when he left Whanganui, and I again became conductor, the Society had gone backward, and it was with difficulty that a performance of "The Messiah" was struggled through. I was at this time occupied with surveys at a distance from Whanganui, and so had again to resign the conductorship, to which Mr James Woon was temporarily appointed. One or two miscellaneous concerts were given under his direction.

Mr John Dewar, the founder of the Matarawa Musical Society, now moved into town, and was shortly afterwards elected conductor of the Whanganui Choral Society. Under his care a good band was formed, consisting of half-a-dozen violins, led by Mr Alfred Webb (an exquisite player), viola, 'cello, double-bass (Samuel and Alfred Drew, both good), cornet (Horace Baker, admirable), flute (James Woon, an excellent performer) and sundry other instruments, Miss Hook being pianiste.

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The band not being so strong, the name of the Society was changed to "The Philharmonic Society." Under Mr Dewar several masses were given, including Mozart's "Twelfth," also "The May Queen" (twice), and sundry miscellaneous concerts. Mr Dewar continued in charge till 1875, when he removed to Auckland.

The lavish expenditure of an optimistic committee now led to an investigation into the pecuniary condition of the Society, which revealed the fact that it was hopelessly insolvent. It was therefore unanimously resolved to raffle the piano, auction all the other property in one lot, and dissolve the Society. But at the same meeting those present straightway formed themselves into a new society, and dropping the "Phil," came forth as "The Harmonic Society." A company, consisting of some of the members, purchased a new piano, and lent it to the Society till its

cost was paid off. Mr Woon was instructed by the committee to bid up to twenty pounds for the Philharmonic's property. Two or three members of the Phil, who had not been present at the meeting at which it was dissolved, and who disapproved of the action taken, resolved to go one pound better. But their intention leaked out, and unlimited powers were quietly given to Mr Woon, with the result that their bid of twenty-one pounds was capped by his twenty-two, and they retired. But they were not yet without hope, for they fully expected the new society to come to strife in the election of one out of the three available conductors, Woon, Webb, and myself. In order to obviate this I proposed Woon, and Webb seconded him, and he continued till his departure for Westport in 1878. During his term of office Weber's "Mass in G" and Weber's "Mass in Eb" were given very successfully. Haydn's "Creation" followed, and was done well, Mr John Randall and Miss Kitchen being the Adam and Eve, and Mrs Pinches (Tiny Gower), Mr Frank Watson and Mr Thomas Culpan the Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael. Handel's "Acis and Galatea" was also given.

The Harmonic Society continued under the successive conductorships of Mr William Holden, Mr Allen, Mr Greenwood and Mr Holden again. During this period "The Messiah" was given thrice. At other concerts Macfarren's "May Day," Birch's "Merry Men of Sherwood Forest," and "Eveleen," "Macbeth," "Elijah," "St. Paul," Mozart's "Twelfth," "Farmer in Bb," "Sampson," "Comala," "The Ancient Mariner," "The North-east Wind," "Trial by Jury" and "Iolanthe" were given. The two latter (comic operas) were rendered in costume, and performed several times.

About 1890 several minor musical and dramatic societies had been formed, and these diverted attention and attendance from the Har-