

LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI DIRECTS FANTASIA

Leopold Stokowski's method of conducting is completely original. He uses no baton, and although his beat is very exact at all times, the motion of his arms often agrees with the motion of the instrumentalists who are playing that particular section. He very definitely depends upon the music to excite him, and if any particular section of the orchestration seems unusually vibrant during the performance he will change tempo and dynamics in order to get the utmost out of the orchestral tone. In actual rehearsal he is extremely efficient and believes in working on only the sections which need work most. He rarely rehearses a composition in its entirety. After a first reading, he will plan carefully a schedule of sections which are not well executed and will concentrate on these sections until they are accomplished with an ease comparable to the simpler sections. He believes that this system gives him more flexibility in actual performance.

Known among the world's leading conductors since the day he ascended the podium of the Academy of Music to conduct the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, Stokowski is recognised among musicians as a great musician and by an international public as a powerful dramatic force.

OF HEARTS AND FLOWERS

At a military wedding, the groom, only recently back from the islands, had hardly glimpsed his bride before the ceremony. Therefore when time came for the kiss, it was a long one, lasting on and on, until a child's voice rang out in the silence of the church: "Mummy, is he spreading the pollen on her now?"



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An Irish soldier in the Middle East received a letter from his wife saying that because of the war she would have to dig all the garden herself. "Please don't dig the garden," he wrote back in reply. "That's where the guns are."

The letter was duly censored, and in a short time soldiers came and dug the garden from end to end.

The wife, worried over the incident, wrote asking what she should do. Pat's reply was short and to the point: "Put in the spuds."