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The Theatre And Its People

CHARLES WHITLOCK

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By Annie Oakley

WHITLOCK RECITAL

Charles Whitlock, one of the most noted Negro bassos in the realm of bel canto, will be heard in recital Sunday evening at 6:20 p.m. in the lecture hall of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The artist, who will be accompanied by Mark Wisdom, is sponsored by Charles L. Furlong of Windsor.

Mr. Whitlock's voice has been described as rich, mellow and firmly controled, a voice of amplitude, range and quality.

The singer was born at Evansville, Ind., and began his singing career in local church choirs and at school entertainments. On being graduated from high school, Mr. Whitlock went to Chicago where he enrolled in the Y.M.C.A. College of Commerce. There he remained until he was chosen by the secretary of state of Liberia, West Africa, as his private secretary, traveling with the official throughout the United States. His employer discovered that Mr. Whitlock had singing ability as well as acting talent and encouraged him to study.

While in Detroit visiting his brother, Mr. Whitlock arranged to study with the late Mr. Fred Patton, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera Company. The singer was coached for such operatic roles as Ramphis in Verdi's "Aida," Dr. Grenville in "La Traviata" and others. Mr. Widsom and Mrs. Vanetta Doughty taught the young artist theory and harmony. In the theatre, Mr. Whitlock has portrayed such roles as the "Emperor Jones" in O'Neill's play and also played a feature part in Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral."

He has sung with the Detroit Civic Opera Company and plans to continue his studies in Europe.

His program Sunday evening will be of diversified type, including compositions of Rosa, Carissimi, Handel, Mozart, Brahms, Flegier, Paladine and Holmes. His operatic aria will be "Dormiro Sol Nel Manto Regal" from Verdi's "Don Carlos." Another group will include Forsythe's "Bell Man Song," Lehmann's "Myself When Young" and Densmore's "I Must Down to Seas Again."

Spirituals by Hall Johnson and H. T. Burleigh will conclude the recital.