

CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE



Prof. John W. Hunter
Chairman
Music Department

Allen University
Friday Evening, March 6, 1970
8:00 o'clock

The Birth of the Extravaganza

In 1952, when the choral director, John W. Hunter, was asked by the late Bishop Frank Madison Reid, to present a program of music during the Founder's Day Festivities, only the idea of solos and musical selections were in mind.

Since that program, which was successfully presented by the choir, the Music Department of Allen University, now under the chairmanship of John W. Hunter, has been given the unique responsibility of presenting the program that climaxes the week days celebrations.

The Extravaganza has been presented by members of the choir. After graduation, the members, who felt that their sincere devotion and loyalty to the choir made them recipients of a love and sharing of music that bettered their personalities, returned to either perform as soloists or viewers of yearly progress in the birth of the Extravaganza Classique.

The program consists of operatic selections, popular Broadway medleys, solos, duets, and spirituals.

Starting 1956, various segments were added as special attractions, there were: dances, modeling and famous artists in their performing areas.

The present choir members have the opportunity to display their vocal talents and a young lady and a young man are crowned: Mister and Miss Extravaganza Classique, for the school year.

This year promises to be the best presentation ever. Not only because of the Centennial Celebration but because the growth of the Extravaganza has spread wherever Allenites (former choir members) have given and returned. This is the one time that present choir members find that the old A. U. spirit is tangible for moments!!

The choral director John W. Hunter adds interesting new and exciting ideas each year. The beauty of this classique is that it is original and most unique in the Columbia area. If you have not visited Broadway, or the Metropolitan Opera House, then you should see the Extravaganza Classique. It is all on the stage here at Allen University.

Today, we salute Professor John W. Hunter, Chairman of our Music Department.