

# Paul John Weaver

*July 8, 1889 — October 14, 1946*

The musical life of the University and of the community has sustained a grievous loss in the death of Paul John Weaver. Born in 1889 at Reedsburg, Wisconsin, Professor Weaver in 1911 was graduated from the University of Wisconsin. After a brief period as director of music in Racine College, he continued his own studies in voice, piano, and organ with private teachers. Called to St. Louis in 1915, he served for four years as First Assistant Supervisor of Music in the Public Schools of that city. In 1919 he accepted the post of professor and head of the Department of Music in the University of North Carolina. Ten years later, he was called to Cornell University as Professor of Music and Chairman of the Department. While he gave his attention to, and brought his knowledge and training to bear on, various aspects of musical education in colleges and schools, his own special interest was from the first directed to choral singing and the training of choirs. He directed many choral organizations, and his extensive experience in this and other branches of music teaching was widely recognized throughout the country. Thus he became member of various advisory boards on music; he organized and was first president of the Southern Conference on Musical Education; and from 1928 on, he served as the American Chairman of the International Musical Conference.

When Professor Weaver came to Cornell University, the Department of Music was small and the regular Chair of Music in the University had been vacant for two years. His fifteen-year tenure of the departmental Chairmanship was distinguished by far-sighted and constructive ideas, most of which he lived to see carried into effect, and was a notable achievement. The enlargement of the Department by the addition of several more teachers made possible a great increase in courses for graduate and undergraduate students; and, with the establishment of a major in Music in the College of Arts and Sciences, music took its legitimate place by the side of the other Fine Arts. The gradual reorganization and enlargement of existing musical organizations and the creation of new instrumental and choral groups, a great increase in the number of subscription concerts and the institution of almost weekly free recitals, the building-up of a fine departmental library of music and especially of recordings to which the students had untrammelled access—these were some of the means by which a love and understanding of music in the student body have been aroused and fostered in recent years. This development, astonishing to those old enough to contrast it with the slight interest in music and things musical manifested two decades ago by a majority of the undergraduates, is perhaps one of the most significant contributions that Professor Weaver brought to the musical life of the community.

Nor must the enlargement of Sage Chapel, the rebuilding of its organ, and the addition of new bells to the University Chime be forgotten, since these improvements were effected largely as the result of his initiative.

Those who had the privilege of knowing him in private life will mourn the loss of a charming and kindly friend. The University and the many musical organizations throughout the country to which he gave his time and energies unstintingly will deeply regret the passing of a keen and dynamic personality, who strove consistently and with no little success to further the study and appreciation of that art to which he had devoted his life.

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