

Wheeling Symphony Tympanist Treads Patiently:

# Tiny Female Makes a Loud, Loud Noise

It IS a Woman's World!  
Just ask any gal!

Seems that everywhere you look you'll find the feminine sex hard at work. More and more each day the little ladies are making their marks felt in places where once only men dared to tread.

Take the field of music for example. Granted women have made great contributions to music in the past, but we'd like to point out just one part of the music world where females rarely are heard.

Actually this little girl makes a big noise when she's at work. Music lovers who have attended the past few concerts of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra have been asking about her and it's time she's been introduced to local residents.

Meet the cute little tympanist, who rolls the kettledrums like they've never been rolled before — Miss Kay Handelman. She's a first year graduate student at Ohio State University and is an assistant percussion instructor there.

Tonight and tomorrow evening's concerts will be the third pair for Kay in the winter series with the Wheeling Symphony. It means taking time off from her studies and teaching sessions in Columbus, O., to come to Wheeling, but the tiny musician doesn't mind making up her classes for she appreciates the opportunity to appear before an audience.

Being a female does present some problems for the 22-year-old tympanist who is the daughter of Mrs. Virginia Handelman of Dunellen, N. J.

"When I send away for symphony auditions, I've learned to sign my name as K. Handelman," smiled the attractive musician, "for it's the only way I can at least get one foot in the door. The return mail is always addressed: Dear Mr. Handelman.

"The big surprise comes when I walk in for auditions. I'm greeted with So you're Mr. Handelman.

"I'm not the first female to enter the field of percussion. I understand there are several other women in this field around the nation, but not too many. It's a pretty hard career for a gal to enter. Conductors just don't seem to want to hire women percussionists.

"I do believe I can make a career for myself in this field. The most important thing is to be patient. Actually when I audition it's a situation of not being just as good as the next fellow, but I must be bet-

ter to get the job because I'm a female."

During her earlier years of schooling, Kay wanted to take flute lessons but her school didn't offer the flute.

"I heard they needed a

drummer so I decided to take up the drum," said Kay, "besides this got me out of history class every week for lessons. That was the seventh grade and at first I didn't like it. Later I took six months of

private lessons before college and my interest grew."

Kay received her Bachelor of Music degree from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory and is now studying for a Master of Arts in percussion. She has

and is still studying with Cloyd Duff, tympanist with the Cleveland Symphony.

Last summer found Kay in Aspen, Colo., studying with George Gaber who was responsible for introducing her to Henry Aaron, director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra. She played with the Aspen Festival Orchestra and this summer plans to get some experience with the America Wind Symphony in Pittsburgh, Pa. There's a possibility of Kay going to England with the group.

"I've enjoyed working with Henry Aaron and the Wheeling Symphony," stated Kay. "Mr. Aaron is a wonderful conductor and you feel at ease as a person working with him. He's patient and very clear and the entire group is just tops."

Kay only has one practice with the local Symphony before the concerts. Although one rehearsal makes it a little rough, Kay does her best for she feels "practice room musicians can't compare to the actual experience of playing before an audience." Kay also played in the University Concert Band but doesn't have time for it now.

Speaking of experience this smart tympanist has also played with a Dixieland band on weekends while at Ohio State. It's not the type of music she wants to play in the future, but as she stated "it's eating money while I study."

When it comes time to practice her music, Kay had this to say.

"I have a very cooperative landlord who goes along with my hours of practice. He doesn't mind the noise at all. When I'm back home in New Jersey, my neighbors are well-educated to the practice sessions. My brother is dabbling in percussion at home too."

Although Kay Handelman is often razzed about being a tympanist, she's bound and determined to make a success in her chosen field.

And you know, from all indications, I'll bet a roll on the kettledrums that she does! It IS a Woman's World... and don't let anyone tell you different!

## It's a Woman's World

Grace Joanou, Editor



KETTLEDRUMS WITH A WOMAN'S TOUCH—This attractive little lady makes a big sound during Wheeling Symphony concerts. She's Miss Kay Handelman and she's had some interesting experiences being a female in the field of percussion. Feminine tympanists are quite unusual but Kay doesn't let that stop her in making a career for herself. Tonight and tomorrow evening's concerts will close out the winter series for the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra. Henry Aaron, director, will conduct at the Virginia Theatre both evenings at 8:30. (Photo by Emblen)