

# St. Louisans Like Pops Concert

An audience of 1,500 persons gave a most enthusiastic reception to the University of Missouri Concert Band at its Pops Concert presented in the Khorassan Room of the Hotel Chase in St. Louis March 31. The instrumental program was augmented by the Men's Glee Club.

Under the direction of Conductor Charles L. Emmons the band performed with great assurance and precision. The soloists showed professional poise and skill. The audience seemed to sense that here was a disciplined musical organization that knew what it was about and did its job with confidence and pride. Instantaneous applause, hearty and at times even on the wild side, greeted the numbers, some of them familiar but all calling for virtuosity.

That the band members and vocalists performed so well was a tribute to their endurance, for they had been on a whirlwind tour in the St. Louis area the two days before. The tour included five concerts at four schools: St. Charles, Clayton, Brentwood, and Webster Groves (two concerts). In addition, there was an evening concert-clinic at Normandy Senior High School on the 29th, and at Alton Senior High School on the 30th.

Announcer and narrator for the Pops Concert was the assistant conductor of the Band, Richard L. Hills. Conducting the Men's Glee Club was Thomas L. Mills. The concert at the Chase was sponsored by the St. Louis Chapter of the University of Missouri Alumni Association and the Carondelet Savings and Loan Association. Officials of the two associations were on stage for presentation ceremonies during an intermission in the concert. Various presentations and thanks and compliments took place at that time. Participants included: Roy L. Tarter, president, and Dwight Schubel, board member, of Carondelet; Band Conductor Emmons; C. Herbert Duncan, Normandy band director and co-ordinator of the St. Louis area tour; Mitchell Murch, president of the St. Louis Alumni Chapter; and Norman Sherman, who spear-headed the Pops Concert project. Mr. Emmons was presented a \$4,000 check by Mr. Tarter, the sum to be applied to the band and orchestra scholarship fund; a gift for the same purpose from the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association in appreciation of the tour was presented by Mr. Duncan. Messrs. Tarter, Emmons and Murch paid tribute to the promotional efforts of Mr. Sherman. In his acknowledgment, Norm introduced John Stahl, who was St. Louis alumni president when the concert idea was first proposed. At intermission and after the program quite a number of the guests bought the Band's new recording.

Mr. Tarter's firm has arranged to sponsor the Pops Concert again next year, when an entirely different system of ticket distribution will be used.

The Band's spring tour of various Missouri high schools is sponsored annually by the University Continuing Education Service; this year it was planned in cooperation with the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association.



*Brian Forney, Nancy Alvis and Martha Gordon.*