MAY DAY PAGEANT
GIVEN BY
THE STUDENTS OF
Sweet Briar College
SWEET BRIAR, VIRGINIA

MAY 7, 1926
MAY DAY COURT

ELIZABETH ROUNTREE  The Queen of the May
DOROTHY MCKEE  The Maid of Honor
EDNA LEE  The Scepter Bearer
ANNE MAYBANK  The Garland Bearer

THE LADIES OF THE COURT
MARGARET Cramer
ALBERTA MACQUEEN
POLLY CARY DEW
RUTH ABELL
FLORENCE SHERTAU
VIRGINIA WILSON
MARGARET LOVETT
ELIZABETH MATHEW
EMILY JONES
ELIZABETH LUCK
TAVENNER HAZELWOOD
MARGARET ELLIOTT
JANIE RICE BROWN
KATHLEEN WILLIS
JEAN WILLIAMSON
CLAIRE HANSON
RUTH WEITZENKORN
MARSHA CLOSE

FLOWER GIRLS
DOROTHIA REINBURG
DOROTHY HAMILTON
MARGARET LEIGH
NANCY SHERRILL
ANNE BETH PRICE

PAGE
Kitty Peyton

HERALDS
ELIZABETH DILLARD
ROSA HEATH

2
"L' ALLEGRO"

A May Day Pageant

presented to

the Queen and Her Court

by Her Majesty's Most Loyal Subject

THE POET

PLACE—THE DELL

Written by one John Milton, Poet
Made into a Pageant by Josephine P. Simrall
Directed by Mildred Tyler Wilson
Assisted by Miss Alice Batcheller, Elizabeth Bachman, Dorothy Booth, Page Bird and Eleanor Branch.
Musicians, Mary Elizabeth Loughery, Piano; Mary Fulton, Violin.
CAST OF THE PAGEANT

The Poet .............................................. MEREDITH FERGUSON
Mirth .................................................. PAGE BIRD
Liberty, The Mountain Nymph ...................... ELIZABETH GUIGON
Melancholy ............................................. HELEN SMYSTER
Jest ...................................................... EVELYN CLAYBROOK
Jollity ................................................... SUB MILLIGAN
Quips .................................................... DAPHNIE BUNTING
Cranks ................................................... ADELA SHEPPARD (Leader)
Nods ...................................................... EVELYN BALLARD
Reeks ..................................................... ELIZABETH WOOD
Sport ..................................................... MARY LEE SHEPHERD
Laughter ............................................... ELIZABETH BRYAN
The Hunters ........................................... WINFRED WEST (Leader), MISS EUGENIA MORENUS,
Miss Harriet Rogers, GRACE SUNDERLAND, BEBE GILCHRIST,
JEANETTE BOONE, MADELINE BROWN, ELSIE MORLEY and Mr.
BLACKWELL

DAWN SPIRITS
MARIA BEMISS ........................................ SARAH MCKEE
ELIZABETH VALENTINE ............................... JANE DILLON
VIRGINIA CHAFFEE .................................. ANNE CONWAY
NERIA BROWN ........................................ CARY HARMON
MILDRED LEWIS ...................................... MARY ARMSTRONG

THE SUN
MARY COPELAND

THE SUNRISE CLOUDS

KATHERINE CLOSE ...................................... ELIZABETH PAYNE
MARTHA MAUPIN ...................................... GRACE FERGUSON
MARGARET GREEN ..................................... EVALINE EDMUNDS

THE COUNTRY PEOPLE

PLOWMAN .............................................. GRACE SOLLIFF

MILKMAIDS ............................................. MARGARET PALM

LOUISE HARNEY ...................................... SARAH EVERETT

STORY TELLER ........................................ CORYDON
EUGENIA NASH ........................................ JOCelyn WATSON

MOWER ................................................... TRYRSIS
MARY CHAPMAN ....................................... LOUISE CHAPMAN

SHEPHERD .............................................. THESTYLIS
ALICE HARROLD ...................................... MARION TABOR

PHYLLIS ............................................... PHILLIS
LUCILE STONE

THE DREAMS

EMILY HARDING (Leader) ............................ SIMS MASSEE
BETTY NEILL ......................................... ELIZABETH BACON
MARY LEE .............................................. VIRGINIA CROCKETT
MARY ANN McDIARMID ............................... MARY PERKINS
PROLOGUE

A blare of trumpets announces the arrival of the May Queen and her court. The Queen takes her seat upon a rustic throne, while the members of the court group themselves about her.

At the very end of the Queen's retinue comes the Poet. He is a slender, serious-faced youth in the Puritan garb of the reign of Charles the First. He walks slowly—apart from the others—his head bent in deep thought. While the members of the court are arranging themselves around the throne, he wanders off to a large tree growing some distance away. Leaning against it, his hands clasped behind his head, he seems lost in dreams. And slowly his dreams begin to take shape and to appear before the spectators as—

THE PAGEANT

Music:

"Finlandia,"
Sibelius.

From behind a near-by bush Melancholy, a dark and evil-looking old crone, creeps slowly toward the Poet. She is arrayed in a loose, ragged black robe, which she clutches about her with claw-like hands. Her hair falls about her scamed face in straggling locks. Her bedeful and covetous eyes are fixed upon the Poet. She sidles forward and lays her hand fawningly upon his arm. Suddenly aware of her presence he turns with a start, gazes at her for a moment angrily, and then, with a sweeping and imperious gesture, he bids her begone. She slinks away, and the Poet, with a quick change of mood, turns guilty and runs with a light step to the foot of the hill, where he stands gazing upward.

"Serenade,"
by Drije.

Then, to a burst of joyous melody, he gives an eager, summoning call. Mirth answers the summons and comes dancing down the hillside. Clad in a light and rosy garment, a scarf of delicate tints floating about her, she is the very embodiment of glad youth. A garland of flowers is woven into her loosely flowing hair. She takes the Poet's hand and they dance back together.

THE DANCE OF MIRTH FOR THE POET

Suddenly Mirth breaks away, and, running towards the woods, summons from the green shadows her attendants:

Jest is garbed as a jester in motley.
Jollity is a merry young Pierrot.
Quips wears the costume of a clown.
Cranks, a gay vagabond, is arrayed in loose rags.
Nods and Beaks are dainty Pierrettes.
Sport is a rustic.
Laughter is a fat, jovial old monk in a short, brown cassock.

They all come flocking around Mirth, who claps her hands as a signal for the dance.
"Arabesque No. 2,"
Debussy.

THE DANCE OF MIRTH'S ATTENDANTS

Note: This dance begins with the dainty steps of the ballet—Mirth, Node, Becks, Quips, Jest, and Jollity taking part. Cranks and Sport and Laughter circle about the dancers and finally break in teasingly, and the dance soon becomes a wild and breathless romp. The Poet views the scene with delight, and occasionally, with lifted hand, directs the dancers.

When the dance is ended and the dancers have dropped, exhausted, upon the greensward, there sounds, from the hilltop, a clear bugle call. Then, floating down the hillside, her arms extended in their softly flowing draperies, comes the mountain nymph, sweet Liberty. She is all in pale blue, her hair flowing, and her feet bare. Mirth runs forward to meet her and leads her to the Poet. He greets her and, snatching from the breast of his tunic a sky-blue banner, he hangs it on the tree above Liberty. Mirth and the Poet now take their places beneath the banner, and Liberty dances.

"Liebesfreud."
Kreisler

THE DANCE OF LIBERTY

After the dance Liberty takes her place between Mirth and the Poet. There follows a pause in the music. The Poet slowly draws his hands over his eyes, then stands looking intently into space, as though he were fashioning a new phase of his dream. His face is serious, his movements uncertain; then suddenly he straightens and lifts his arms in a strong, assured gesture. Immediately the clear, high note of the lark is heard (violin), the prelude to the Pageant of a Summer Day.

"Hunting Song."
Mendelssohn.

There follow the twittering of the sparrows (violins), and the cock's crow; then from afar off is heard the Hunter's horn. A moment later the red-coated huntsmen, accompanied by the eager hounds, sweep across the brow of the hill.

As the Huntsmen disappear the music suddenly changes, becoming very light and sweet, and the Dawn Spirits come over the crest of the hill. They are a group of slender maidens garbed in clinging gowns of the softest and most delicate tints, covered with long, transparent gray capes.

THE DAWN DANCE

"Morning."
Grieg.

A beautiful dance of interwoven colors, and soft, swaying motions of floating clouds.

As the dance closes a sudden blare of trumpets is heard. The Dawn Spirits stand startled for an instant, then whirl away, as though affrighted. And now from the east, shining and beautiful, the Sun appears. He is a straight, golden figure. All about him float the gorgeous Sunrise Clouds. Their robes are of reds and purples, rose and yellow, and amethyst.
DANCE OF THE SUNRISE CLOUDS

"Hungarian" around the Sun. This is a dance of riot and abandon.
Dance," Brahmns, and the Sun takes his place somewhat back of the group
formed by Mirth, Liberty, and the Poet.
Now there comes wandering down the glen a procession of the morning
laborers: A Plowman, in rustic garb; a group of Milkmaids, carry-
ing their stools and pails; a Mower, his scythe over his shoulder; Shep-
heard Ladies, with their crooks; Corydon and Thyrsis, a loving old peasant
couple; Thesylis, bearing an unbound sheaf; neat, winsome Phyllis, in
flowered kirtle.
There is much laughter and merriment. Phyllis assists Thesylis in
the binding of his sheaf. Some of the group form for a country dance;
others gather to one side about a Story-Teller and listen, open-mouthed,
to his tale. Mirth comes forward, directs the dancers to their places,
and starts the dance.

"Gathering Peascods,"
Old English Ballad

ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

Mirth meanwhile flits to the Story-Teller's group and applauds his
tale. She bends over the old couple and whispers something that brings
happy smiles to their lips. She kisses Phyllis lightly. Everywhere she
is joyously received, especially by the children, who greet her with shouts
and laughter.

"Serenade,"
Pierne

DANCE OF LIBERTY AND MIRTH

It is now growing late. The shadows are lengthening. The music
becomes slow and measured. Mirth's crew and the rusties have already
stolen away, and only the Poet, Liberty, and Mirth herself remain.
The music becomes more and more soothing. The Poet throws him-
self down upon the flowery bank. Mirth steals to the edge of the woods
and softly summons the Dreams. They float in silently, garbed in
misty gray.

"Le Cygne,"
Saint-Saëns.

DANCE OF THE DREAMS

The Dreams float away as silently as they have entered. Mirth ap-
proaches the Poet, and, taking him by the hand, calls him to awaken.
One of the Dreams reappears. She has thrown aside her gray veil and
is all in white. She holds in her hand a wand, on the end of which is a
bright, golden star. The Poet arises with arms outstretched toward the
star. It moves away and he follows it, Mirth and Liberty accompanying
him on either hand. They all disappear over the crest of the hill.

FINIS