

Signor Bettini, both of whom were thoroughly successful, the lady being encored in "Non più mesta." Mr. Cusins conducted with his accustomed care.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

THAT no Institution is more thoroughly deserving of the support of the Government than the Royal Academy of Music was proved beyond doubt by the excellent Concert of the pupils, which took place at the Hanover Square Rooms, on Saturday morning, the 24th ult. In every respect this was one of the most interesting performances lately given by the Academy, for not only were the executants of the highest promise, but several of the compositions by the students were more than ordinarily attractive. The first movement of Mr. Wingham's Symphony in D minor is well written, and instrumented with much skill. There is method in the treatment of the themes, which amply proved that a good system of training had been brought to bear upon his natural talents. The Quartet, "Wake, dearest love," by Mr. Richards (student), is effective, and was well sung by Miss Goode, Miss Greenaway, Mr. Shakespeare, and Mr. Parry. Miss Lanham's singing of Beethoven's "Know'st thou the Land," was marked by intelligence, and a real musical feeling which cannot fail to ensure her a bright future. The first and last movements of Bach's Concerto in C minor, for two pianofortes, followed, (in which Miss Field and Miss Salmon played with much precision and steadiness) and then Miss Marion Severn, who is gradually making a name out of the Academy, gave an effective rendering of "Ah! quel giorno." The execution of the first movement of Dussek's Pianoforte Concerto in B flat, by Miss Waite, was remarkable, considering the age of the performer—apparently not more than thirteen. No more genuine and deserved success was created during the whole morning; for apart from the neat manner in which the passages were played, there was a real style in her performance, and a clear conception of the meaning of the composer, quite refreshing to those who believe that artists should be trained to rely upon themselves, and not to aim at becoming cold copies of their masters. After Vaccaj's Recitative and Air, "Ah! se tu dormi," well sung by Miss R. Jewell, a Motett by Mr. Alwyn (student), was given, which, although unequal, contained some of the best "young" writing we have heard for some time, especially in the chorus, in eight parts, "Hosanna in the highest." Mr. Shakespeare, in the first movement of his Pianoforte Concerto in C, fully sustained the high reputation he has acquired in the Institution, both as a composer and an executant; Miss Ferrari displayed an excellent voice and most refined style in "Bel Raggio"; and in the unaccompanied part-song "Scattered flowers," by Shepherd (student), there was much to commend. Another excellent performance was the first movement from Schumann's Pianoforte Concerto in A minor, by Miss Linda Scates, which created a marked effect, and was most deservedly applauded. Miss Christian's singing in Macfarren's "Christmas Cantata," was scarcely like that of a student. So much artistic feeling and truth of expression, allied to an excellent and sympathetic voice, seemed to take the audience by surprise; and at the end of the composition, she was recalled, amidst enthusiastic applause. Cipriani Potter's two "Pezzi di Bravura," were excellently played on the pianoforte, by Miss Vokins; and after Spohr's Trio, "Night's ling'ring shades," well given by Miss Ferrari, Miss R. Jewell, and Miss Severn, another composition by a student (Mr. Brion), "Praise the Lord," proved unmistakably that a talent is fast rising in the Institution which must soon assert itself. Between the parts, Mr. Bernard, one of the Directors of the Academy, spoke a few words in its praise; and then the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Gladstone, the names of the recipients being announced by the Principal, Professor Sterndale Bennett, to whose unwearied exertions the excellent position of the Institution is mainly owing. The prizes were awarded as undermentioned:

Silver Medals.—Misses Severn and Scates, and Mr. Alwyn.

Bronze Medals.—Misses Lanham, Waite, and Field; Messrs. Richards and Wingham.

Books.—Misses Christian, Sophy Ferrari, Jessie Ferrari, Newman, Pocklington, Salmon, Mary Taylor, and Vokins, Messrs. Parry, Shepherd, Cook, and Beardwell.

Letters of recommendation to those who already have received silver medals.—Miss Rebecca Jewell, and Messrs. Shakespeare and Kemp.

The Concert was most ably conducted by Mr. W. G. Cusins.

A CONCERT, given by M. Jacques Blumenthal, on behalf of the Royal Society of Musicians, has proved so successful, that a cheque has been forwarded to the treasurer of the Institution for £250, in addition to which M. Blumenthal has become an annual subscriber of £5 to the Society. Such a disinterested act of kindness adds one more to the many evidences on record how deeply sympathetic and widely spread is the brotherhood of art.

AFTER some discussion, the Government grant of £500 to the Royal Academy of Music (which had been withheld for a twelvemonth), passed the House of Commons on Thursday, the 22nd ult.

THE arrangements for the forthcoming Musical Festivals are now completed. At Norwich the novelties will be a selection from a sacred work, by H. H. Pierson, called *Hezekiah*, and a sacred Cantata, *A Song of Praise*, by H. Hill. One of the most interesting features in the programme of the morning performances will be Spohr's *Fall of Babylon*, an Oratorio so rarely heard as to be almost new to many of the present generation. Rossini's *Messe Solennelle* and Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum* will also be included in the evening performances; and on the last day, as usual, Handel's *Messiah* will be given. The principal works at the evening concerts will be Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, and Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. The vocalists engaged are Madlle. Tietjens, Madlle. Ilma de Murska, Madame Talbot Cherer, Madame Patey, Madame Trebelli Bettini, Signori Bettini and Foli, Messrs. Vernon Rigby, W. H. Cummings and Santley. Conductor, Mr. Benedict. Mr. Sullivan's new work, *The Prodigal Son*, will be anxiously expected by all interested in that young composer's career, and will, indeed, be the only novelty at the Worcester Festival. *Elijah*, a selection from *Judas Maccabæus*, Rossini's *Messe Solennelle*, Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, and the *Messiah*, will be the other works at the morning performances; and the evening concerts, in the College Hall, will include Barnett's Cantata, *The Ancient Mariner*. Mendelssohn's *Walburgis Night*, and several operatic selections. The principal vocalists will be Madlle. Tietjens, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Madame Trebelli-Bettini, Madame Patey, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Bettini, Mr. Vernon Rigby, Mr. Santley and Mr. Lewis Thomas; organist, Mr. Townshend Smith; pianist, Dr. Wesley, and conductor, Mr. Done. At Norwich, the Festival commences on the 30th inst., and at Worcester, on the 7th September.

OUR prediction respecting the amalgamation of the two Italian Opera houses has already been verified; for, although the present season has come to an end without any serious dissensions being made public, it is confidently asserted that a formidable opposition, including nearly all the principal vocalists, and most, we believe, of the members of the band of the Royal Italian Opera, will be started next year. Whatever may be the fate of this enterprise, the experience of a single season has fully proved that a monopoly such as we have been subjected to must be highly detrimental both to art and artists.

MISS AGNES ZIMMERMANN gave a morning Concert at the Hanover Square Rooms, on the 26th June, when a very excellent selection of chamber music was