

There's Another Kind of Music

One of the more puzzling phenomena of the age as far as the older generation is concerned, is the way teen-agers flock by the thousands to concerts presented by traveling musical groups, both long hair and short.

Only a few nights ago an audience of 6,000 greeted the offerings of a pint-sized performer named David Cassidy.

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It all seems to have started back in the days when a young fellow named Elvis Presley came along with his guitar and twisting torso.

But long before Elvis faced his first microphone young people were being exposed to another kind of music here in the Golden Spread. It was in the mid-thirties when it began — the staging of concerts especially tailored and performed for school children by the Amarillo Symphony.

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Chris Thaulow was the conductor then — a fine, handsome young violinist who was a youngster, himself, at heart. He was a Finn, and when England went to war against Hitler he joined British intelligence and was killed in an accident in line of duty.

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Children's concerts came and went for a while; but nine years ago they were revived on a major scale with the Symphony Guild in charge.

Since then thousands of boys and girls have come to Amarillo from throughout the region for these annual music-fests.

One year Pampa sent 1,000 students, Hereford 700. There were yellow school buses parked everywhere.

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This year's concert is set for Saturday afternoon at 3:30 at the Civic Center. Dr. Tom Hohstadt will conduct. The theme will be Spanish, with a fiesta atmosphere. The tickets are 75 cents.

Another phase of the symphony music for the young people project is the day long series of Christmas programs for kindergarten youngsters, scheduled this year for Dec. 1 at the Little Theater.

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Thus young people are being exposed to good music, locally produced, perhaps in greater degree than most communities can offer — not that David Cassidy isn't good, you understand. It's just that there's something solid in music by a fine orchestra that stays with a boy or girl many years after the electric guitar glitter has worn off.

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