

Robert H. Wright,
Chapel
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I do not know just how to express to the student body and to the entertainment committee my appreciation of your bringing to us that wonderful trio that played for us last evening. It is a treat such as you will not get the opportunity to enjoy probably in five or ten years, and it may be longer than that. It has been more than five or ten years since I began to go to entertainments and of its kind, it is the best I have ever heard. Of course, I may not be, and I realize I am not a music critic, and I am going to be perfectly frank with you, I had a little misgiving about it. I guess I belong to the Plebeian class when it comes to music, and I really like jazz sometimes. When the man came back and played "The Music Box" as an encore, it took me back to my boyhood. The last time I heard that played it was played by an old uncle of mine, it must have been twenty years ago, but he could not play it like that man could. These men played classical music. It was practically all that type of music, and yet they rendered it so well that every one enjoyed it. We even enjoyed the mistake that somebody made when she went to cheering before he got through.

I have never seen an audience more completely under the spell of the music than you people were last evening, and that is one of the highest compliments that can be paid to that type of music. I have never heard music of this kind so good as that you had last evening. People leave North Carolina, all over the state, and go to New York, pay the railroad fare, hotel bills, and four or five dollars a ticket to hear music that is inferior to what we heard here last evening. I am proud of what you have done. I am glad you gave me the opportunity (it may be a streak of selfishness in me), but I am glad you can bring it here.

Now, may I be pardoned for telling you about a dream I had ten or fifteen

years ago, and then tell you of another dream I have had within the last two years. When we started this institution, way back yonder in 1909, (a lot of you girls don't remember that far back) we had assembled in this auditorium a small group of the most homesick looking people I ever saw in my life. We were starting a new institution. We didn't have any electric lights, we used lamps until we could get the electric plant. We didn't have the graded grounds, the pretty lawns and the hedges we have today. We had a board walk and they were out there grading the front of the campus. The students gave a short play to begin at eight o'clock, and it lasted about an hour. The audience in Greenville got here at 8:30 because it was the habit of the people of the town to come thirty minutes after the hour set. When they came in and just got one-half of it, they asked me to have it repeated so they might hear it. I said, "No, if you come on time we will begin on time, and if you won't come on time, we are going to begin on time anyway. We are going to have entertainers of various kinds at this place, and we want you to come and patronize them!" During that first year I had this dream, that sometime we would build this institution large enough and make some kind of arrangement by which we could bring to the student body of this college (and it wasn't a college then) the best there is in the various kinds of entertainments, and I have been living, and working and hoping for that day to come, and it has come since you young women have taken it upon yourselves to do the thing that you did a year ago, make a contribution of so much per capita per term, and take care of all of the activities and then set aside a part of that and bring outside entertainments. My dream was that we would bring the best because I feel that our people are entitled to the best, and it is cheaper to bring it to us than it is for us to go to it. You have solved the problem. Now, the dream that I had after you made this contribution and got started was that in a

short time, after we get seats in the new auditorium that we will bring somebody here like John McCormac, some of the world's greatest artists, and I am going to live to see it done, because I believe you want it done. You are showing not only to this community and to this college, but to the rest of the institutions how you, by pooling your resources, can get the best there is.

I know you enjoyed it last night. I don't know how in the world those people did what they did except by just working, working, working, and practice, practice, practice until they could bring the finest kind of notes and do it exactly right every time. I looked over at that old piano this morning, and I wondered if there was any more music left in it. It is still there, but how he got the tone out of this instrument, I don't know. I didn't know it was in the instrument; as a matter of fact, it wasn't, it was in the man, and he was handicapped, I know that.

It was simply wonderful. I just feel that way about it, and I want to thank you girls and the committee for giving the college and the community this privilege.

Didn't we have a good time?