

## Dodworth Reminiscences of the Early Days - 2015

Edited 1/13

Set in 1888

*(Allen is onstage with Harvey and the band.)*

Lucy: *(Entering)* Good morning, Mr. Allen Dodworth? So good of you make time for a little interview! I'm Miss Lucy Lane of the *American Art Journal*.

Allen: Why, you're early, Miss Lane! So pleased to see you again. *(Slight bow, takes her hand briefly, consults his pocket watch.)* I have a few minutes to spare before our rehearsal.

Lucy: I'd like to write a little column about the history of the Dodworth band for our publication...

Allen: A little column! You actually purport to summarize nearly fifty years of performing, composing, teaching, publishing, Twelve United States Presidential inaugurations - the entire history of New York City's finest brass band---all in a "little column"?

Lucy: Well, sir, I'll do my best.

Allen: Well then, Harvey, why don't we warm up with some of that old music by Mr. Von Weber-- Der Freischutz?

**CUE: *Der Freischutz* (band only)**

Lucy: *(to Harvey B.)* Wonderful, Mr. Dodworth! *(to Allen)* Your young brother Harvey B. seems to have complete control of the band.

Allen: *(looks at Harvey)* Young brother? Hmmmph! Yes, Miss Lane, I became occupied with the patenting of the "backard blaster", and the manufacturing of the world's first consonant family of valved horns, in eighteen hundred thirty-eight. I was also busy introducing the latest European dances, such as the polka, to New York society at my dancing academy, so Harvey took over the band when he was still in his teens. At that time he led by playing the cornet, not with the baton. Harvey, do you still recall any of those old warhorses we played forty years ago? How about a bit of Mozart?

**CUE: "*Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*" (band only) (no repeat)**

Lucy: I understand your father Thomas began by peddling fruit at a stand on Broadway?

Allen: He was a greengrocer, and sold sheet music as well. We emigrated from Sheffield in the year eighteen hundred twenty-six. My father was the original treasurer of the New York Philharmonic Society, which we Dodworths were, if you'll forgive me, instrumental in establishing. *(She, a sucker for bad puns, chuckles or groans politely.)* My father and Harvey and I played with the Philharmonic in their first concert, and Harvey was first desk trumpet of the orchestra for several years.

Lucy: Would you mind playing another piece from that period?

Allen: Not at all! Why don't we feature New York's finest cornetist, Mr. Benjamin Bent, in a concerto by Joahann Nepomulk Hummel. The third movement – Rondo

**CUE: J.N. Hummel Concerto for Trumpet - Rondo** (band with Eb soloist)

Lucy: I always particularly enjoyed the music of the famous Irish operatic tenor, Mr. Michael Balfe. Does your Dodworth band play any of it?

Allen: Why, I personally arranged music from his tremendously popular opera *The Bohemian Girl* for the brass band. Would you care to hear "Then You'll Remember Me"?

Lucy: With pleasure.

**CUE: *Then You'll Remember Me*, vocal tenor solo** (Balfe, arr. Dodworth)

Lucy: Thank you, Mr. Dodworth. If I'm not mistaken, you also arranged another piece by Mr. Balfe for soprano– Light of Other Days. If I may?

Allen: A budding soprano, eh? By all means.

**CUE: *Light Of Other Days*, soprano solo** (Balfe, arr. Dodworth)

Allen: Miss Lane, it just so happens we have an opening for a soprano. Would you be at all interested in the position?

Lucy: By all means, I'd be honored!

Allen: Let's talk about it after our interview.

Lucy: I understand your Dodworth band performed for President Lincoln on several occasions. Would you be so kind as to play us one of his favorites?

Allen: Of course! Harvey, let's wrap up our rehearsal with that song Mr. Harrison Millard wrote for our New York 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment concert we played for Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet at the Navy Yard, in May of eighteen hundred sixty-one – Viva L'America.

**CUE: *Viva L'America***

Music selections:

Der Freischutz

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Free and Easy

Then You'll Remember Me

Light of Other Days

Viva L'America

Dialogue: 4 min. 5 sec.

Music: approx. 19 min.