MEMORIAL DAY PAGEANT, ARRANGED FOR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS

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Memorial day pageant, arranged for communities and schools by Constance D'Arcy. Mackay

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CONSTANCE D'ARCY. MACKAY

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CONSTANCE D'ARCY MACKAY



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NOTE ON PRODUCTION

This pageant may be given by communities and schools. It may be given indoors or outdoors, but the outdoor production described in the text is the one to be preferred. For an indoor production have a brown floor-cloth tacked tightly to the stage. This may be of denim. Failing this, use the bare floor. Have pine-trees stuck in baxes of moist sand to suggest a forest, and cover the baxes with dark green or dark brown denim—not straightly and tightly, but in bulky lines, as if the pine-trees grew out of green banks. If pine-trees thus placed cannot be had, have simple hangings of forest green, which are an excellent substitute, and a good background for costumes.

All the costumes may be made of cheese-cloth, cambric, khaki, and woolen cloth. There are full directions for them under "Costumes."

The pageant may be given as it is written here, with the community and the schools taking part, which is the ideal way for a pageant to be produced. Or it may be given by a community. It may be given in the form in which it is printed here, or it

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Note on Production

may be cut, and given with no special groups of men of the G. A. R. in the audience, and with a smaller chorus than here suggested, and still preserve its integrity as a whole. It may be given by several schools together, or by one school, but in either case be sure that leading figures are adults or very tall young people. Such figures as AMERICA, THE STATE, NORTH, SOUTH, etc., etc., cannot be played by small-sized children. It will ruin the effect of the pageant.

Be sure to have as much space as possible for the production of the pageant, for too cramped a space will ruin the effect of it.

The music should be a band, if possible, if the pageant is given out of doors. Next to the band, an orchestra is best. But a piano, a flute, and a few strings can also be used. For indoors use orchestra, or piano and strings, or just piano, if the others cannot be had.

If the pageant is given by a community on Decoration Day, divide the parts among the different schools and societies in the town, and let these community-societies be responsible for the costumes. This will divide expense and labor so that no one will have too much to do.

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Note on Production

The pageant should be rehearsed for two weeks. No additions can be made to it without destroying the effect that it is meant to produce. Do not lengthen the songs or introduce other excerpts from the poets. Above all, do not introduce dances, for this pageant is a memorial one, and everything depends on its being given with true pairiotic fervor, and solemnity.

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The entire pageant will play an hour and a quarter. It has already been acted, and its first production as a civic celebration took place in North Chillicothe, Illinois, July 4th, 1915.

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MUSIC

The patriotic songs of the pageant, "Firmly Stand, O Native Land," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Yankee Doodle," "We Are Coming, Father Abraham, Three Hundred Thousand More," can be had, both words and music, from a book called *War Songs*, published by the Oliver Ditson Co., Boston, Mass. Price, fifty cents.

America the Beautiful can be had from Cressy & Allen, 534 Congress St., Portland, Me., for five cents a copy, or \$3.00 a hundred.

The Pilgrim hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," can be had in some hymn-books, or can be obtained from a volume called *Home Songs*, published by the Oliver H. Ditson Co., Boston, Mass.

The incidental instrumental music, Dvorak's "Largo" from the "New World Symphony," Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette," Grieg's "Death of Ase," from the "Peer Gynt" suite, and John Phillip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" can be had at any music-store, or can be obtained from the Oliver Ditson Co., Boston, Mass., as can also Edward MacDowell's "From an Indian Lodge."