

## Appendix D. Fred Hinger

### THE SOUNDING BOARD

#### Personnel Profiles—IV

##### FRED D. HINGER

Fred Hinger got his first toy drum at the tender age of four, and he's been specializing in the art of drumming ever since. He came to his present position as first percussionist of the Philadelphia Orchestra by way of his high school orchestra in Cleveland, the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, and the Navy Band in Washington—but we're getting ahead of our story.

One of Hinger's high school teachers was largely responsible for his following a musical career, a man named Melvin Balliett, who during his college days was a member of A. Austin Harding's famous University of Illinois band, and also the band's librarian. (Balliett, incidentally, is now in charge of the Chicago branch of Boosey & Hawkes, music publishers.) He encouraged his tympani-thumping pupil to apply for admission

though not a professional, knows enough about music that her husband modestly admits "She's more musical than I, but I make a living at it."



to the Eastman School of Music. Hinger not only entered the school, but departed in 1942 with a Bachelor of Music degree and a Performer's Certificate, having been a star pupil of William G. Street, and a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra during his last two years there.

Actually he joined the U. S. Navy Band a few months before graduation, remaining in uniform until 1948. The Band itself embraces several other units, including a full symphony orchestra, and smaller ensembles for the innumerable fancy functions in Washington's official circles. Hinger was first percussionist and xylophone soloist with the Navy musicians in these groups during his hitch in the Service. He joined the Philadelphia Orchestra in a similar capacity this season, replacing Benjamin Podemski, who retired. He is also on the faculty of the band school at Knecht's Music Store.

Hinger pursues an unusual hobby—toy-making, which started with his playing Santa Claus to his young daughter and son, aged four and two respectively. Mrs. Hinger,

*Philadelphia Orchestra Program, 4-5 February 1949.*

Courtesy of the Philadelphia Orchestra Association Archives.