

the country. A day was spent at the Pioneer Palace in Leningrad, and a Palace indeed it is—and was—before the Revolution and now. There are twenty other Pioneer Centers in special buildings in Leningrad. On the day of our visit to the Leningrad Pioneer Palace there was a special program celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary of the founding of the Pioneer movement.

The general purpose of this movement is to provide focal points of organization for young people within the ten-to-fourteen year brackets; through these focal points countless activities are sponsored, including some especially organized Arts in Education programs—particularly in the field of music education, dance, theater. Thus there is beginning some concerted direction in the field of the fine arts.

At the Central Pioneer Palace in Leningrad about 1,000 students participate each day; there is a total participation of over 11,000 students. Group activities and instruction include orchestras, folk instrument orchestras, a bayan (accordion) orchestra, choruses, choreography, theater, photography, painting, literature. Not infrequently, by any means, are exceptional talents of students disclosed. One post-graduate artist piano student heard at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in Leningrad, was a war orphan discovered in a Pioneer Club. A magnificent soprano, in her last year at the Conservatory in Kiev, owed her first education in music to the Pioneer Club movement.

Field work to other parts of a Republic or to another Republic is a part of the program of the movement; in turn, groups of students from other parts of the Soviet Union come to Pioneer Club Centers in large cities. Competition seems to be a strong feature of the Pioneer Clubs. On the day we were at the Pioneer Palace in Leningrad, students from 511 schools were at the Center, not only to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of the movement, but to inaugurate an inter-school competition dealing with scholastic subjects, sports and exhibitions. Later on, awards based on the decisions of the students themselves were to be made.