

'Tales of Hoffmann' performed at IU in '48'

The program may have said matter-of-factly that the Indiana University School of Music was celebrating its 30th season and 88th program, but there was more than the usual emotional energy alive on the stage of the IU Auditorium on the evening of May 15, 1948.

Perhaps part of the energy had been generated when Herman B Wells, then president of IU, had decided that the IU School of Music was going to take a giant step forward. It was for that reason that the search for a new dean had plucked Wilfred C. Bain from a comfortable academic atmosphere at North Texas State College and gave him the responsibility for 450 hopeful music students.

Once he had discovered the talents of the students, Bain recruited faculty to assist in an ambitious production to show the rest of the world what he had discovered in Indiana. Happily, the new dean's hopes coincided with that of Wells. The president had said, "I'll not be satisfied 'til we have a symphony orchestra in every county, singing socie-



Looking back

By Rose
McIlveen

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ties and art classes for all who want them, and a little theater group in every town hall."

Certainly a tall order for a modest-sized School of Music in the state's university. But staging an opera was a start, and that is exactly what Bain did.

Opera companies don't grow on trees. Neither do the talented people who direct the orchestra, coach the singers and design the scenery. But Bain found those miracles in the persons of visiting artists, Ernst Hoffmann and Hans Busch.

Their production, "Tales of Hoffmann," was part of a Spring Music Festival that also included the presentation of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion." Of the opera, one review commented, it was "a sensible choice for the purpose

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