

"Otello" Considered Verdi's Masterpiece

"Otello," which is to be sung by the Chicago Civic Opera company on Thursday evening, December 4, is considered one of the two masterpieces composed by Verdi. "Falstaff" is considered the other.

Verdi wrote "Otello" in the late afternoon of his life, but at the full noon of his genius. He had tried other Shakespearian themes, only to fail in them through lack of an intelligent librettist. This need was supplied in the person of Arrigo Boito, novelist, poet and composer, who had a more Latin understanding of Shakespeare. Boito did what talent could do to translate genius into an alien tongue. Boito himself produced "Mefistofele," of which both the words and music were by himself.

The Civic Opera company's cast for "Otello" is remarkable not only from a musical but from a dramatic point of view. Vanni-Marcoux, who created the character study of Lorenzaccio, will appear in "Otello" as the arch-villain, Iago, a part which offers equal scope for subtle interpretation. Mr. Vanni-Marcoux is one of the most famous of lyric actors, having been lured by dramatics before he thought of developing his baritone voice. Charles Marshall will take the role of the Moor who listened only too readily to the promptings of Iago. In the part of Otello, Mr. Marshall considers himself more at home than in any other role in his repertory.

Claudia Muzio will sing Desdemona, Maria Claessens is to be Emilia, and Chase Baromeo, Lodovico.

IN DEC. 7 RECITALS

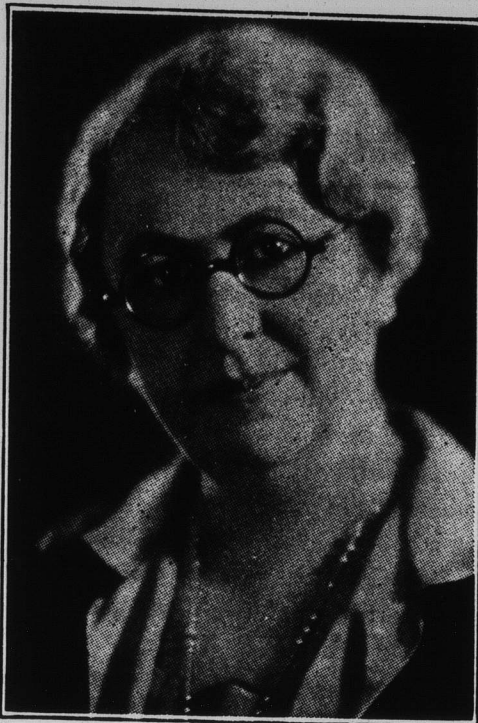
Sunday afternoon, December 7. Bertha Ott will present in concert Marvine Maazel, pianist, at the Studebaker theater; Vernon Williams, tenor, at the Playhouse; Harry Melnikoff, violinist, at the Civic theater; Andreas Pavley and the Pavley-Oukrainsky dancers with the new invention videballeton, at the Eighth Street theater.

ON UPTOWN SERIES

Erika Morini, said to be the world's greatest woman violinist, will be heard at the Peoples church of Chicago at 941 Lawrence avenue, on Friday evening, December 5. She is the second artist on the North Shore Philharmonic concerts sponsored by the Uptown Conservatory of Music.

Walter Giesecking will give a piano recital at Orchestra hall on Tuesday evening, December 2, under the auspices of Henry E. Voegeli.

Directs Festival



Gibson Photo

Mrs. Frank H. Jones, president of the St. Francis Hospital Foundation since its formation several years ago, is directing arrangements for a charity festival to be held Wednesday afternoon and evening, Dec. 3, as the foundation's annual benefit for the hospital. The festival will have among its features, bridge and other card games, an exhibit of flowers, a style show, a dinner and a bazaar.

QUARTET PLAYS DEC. 7

The Amy Neill String Quartet will play Sunday afternoon, December 7, at Orchestra hall, in the second concert of the chamber music series sponsored by the Chicago Chamber Music society.

MYRA HESS COMING

Myra Hess, pianist, will give a recital Sunday afternoon, December 14, at the Studebaker theater, under the direction of Bertha Ott.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Kelling of 1112 Greenwood avenue entertained sixteen guests at dinner and bridge Saturday evening and twelve guests at dinner on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Crego of Aurora were guests of the Kellings last week-end.



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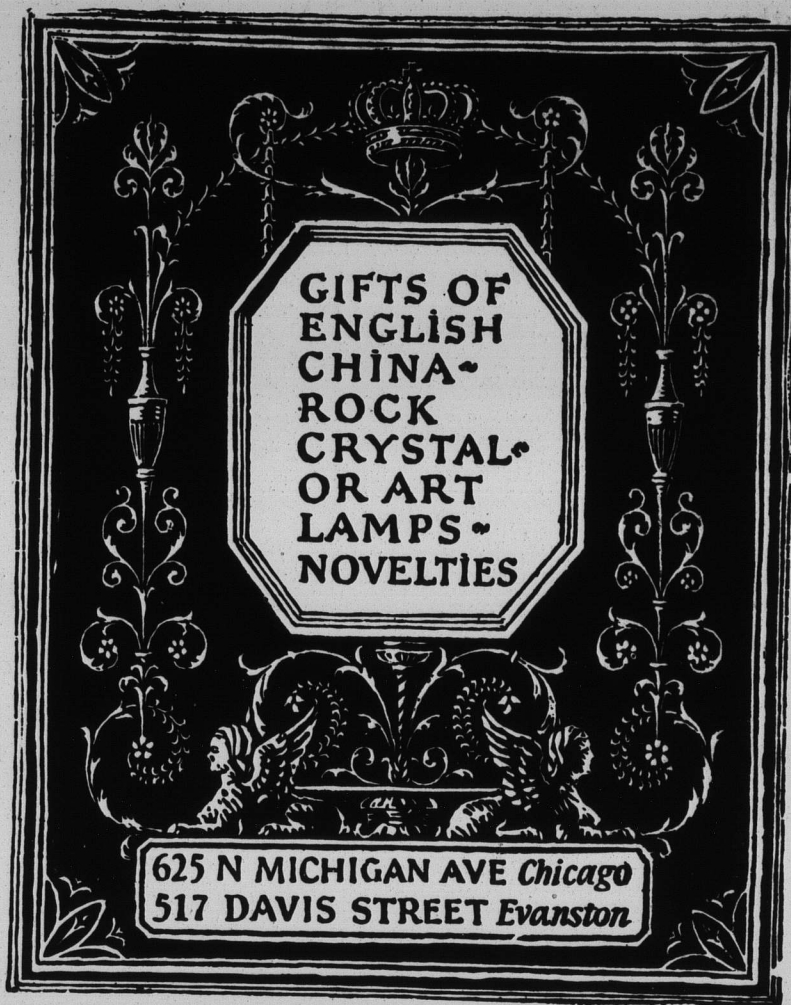
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