

Music News and Events

Queena Mario to Sing "Traviata" Sunday Evening

This week-end at Ravinia brings a third performance of "Peter Ibbetson" on Friday night, with the same cast as before, and with Wilfred Pelletier conducting.

"La Juive" has its first performance of the season on Thursday night, August 13, with Elisabeth Rethberg, Giovanni Martinelli, Leon Rothier, Florence Macbeth, George Cehanovsky, Giuseppe Cavadore, and Paolo Ananian. Ruth Page will dance, and Louis Hasselmans will conduct.

"Il Trovatore," will be heard on Saturday night, August 15, for the second time this season. Elisabeth Rethberg and Giovanni Martinelli will carry the leading roles, and the rest of the cast will be composed of Julia Claussen, Mario Basiola, Louis D'Angelo, Philine Falco, and Lodovico Oliviero. Gennaro Papi will conduct.

Polish compositions will be played by the Chicago Symphony orchestra on Sunday afternoon, August 16, at 3 o'clock. Eric DeLamarre will conduct. The soloist will be Ina Bourskaya, Marek Windheim, Mary Broniarczyk, Wanda Paul, and Michel Wilkomirski.

"La Traviata" will be sung by Queena Mario and Mario Chamlee on Sunday night, August 16. Mario Basiola, Philine Falco, Marek Windheim, Louis D'Angelo, Paolo Ananian and George Cehanovsky are also in the cast. Ruth Page will dance, and Gennaro Papi will conduct.

The entire program for next week appears in another section of this issue.

Carleton Smith Lectures to Students on Friday

Carleton Smith is taking a large group of summer students to Ravinia Park on Friday night of this week to see Deems Taylor's opera, "Peter Ibbetson." Before the opening of the opera he will lecture on it, explaining his views concerning it.

Mr. Smith will talk over radio station WIBO on Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock on Verdi's opera, "La Traviata," and will be assisted by the studio orchestra. He is to talk over the same station at nine o'clock on Thursday night, on "The Love of Three Kings."

Mr. Smith is living at 547 Hill road, Winnetka, during the summer.

Italian Composers Will Tour Italy Next Fall

A group of modern Italian composers is organizing a company to take on tour a number of their recent chamber operas and ballets, as well as chamber pieces of old Italian masters, according to an announcement in the New York Times. The troupe will be known as the "Teatro dell'Opera da Camera," and it will open its tour in Rome during October.

AWARDED DEGREE

Frank Laird Waller, conductor of the Milwaukee Philharmonic orchestra, was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Music by the Gunn School of Music in Chicago. Mr. Waller is in charge of the department of opera at the school. He has been the coach for a number of now famous stars.

Versatile Star



Ina Bourskaya, mezzo soprano of the Ravinia Opera company, is one of the busiest members, for she appears almost nightly. She sings and acts a variety of roles, her latest role being that of Mrs. Glyn in Deems Taylor's opera, "Peter Ibbetson," which she sings in English.

Chamlee Example of What Operatic Tenor May Expect

Mario Chamlee, leading tenor of the Ravinia Opera company, accomplishes the phenomenal feat of singing four operas within six days in the middle of a season which has been particularly taxing.

Mr. Chamlee opened on a Monday night with "Martha," and two days later sang the exacting role of Chevalier des Grieux in Massenet's "Manon" with Lucrezia Bori. This role calls for supreme artistry, the utmost refinement in voice and acting. As the Chevalier, Mr. Chamlee is said to be surpassed by no one. On Friday night of that week—two nights later, he sang the role of Hans in "The Bartered Bride," which is tremendously exacting both vocally and dramatically. This was followed by a performance of "Fra Diavolo" on Sunday night, when the tenor appeared in still another guise, as the high-handed, aristocratic bandit who comes onto the stage and sings a half dozen high A's the first thing.

Voice Always Fresh, Smooth

That Mr. Chamlee was able to do each role with a voice that was always fresh and smooth, and with a spirit that never lagged, seems almost miraculous. Rehearsals occupy his days, and in between times he must learn new operas, work up songs for his winter concert tours, and keep up his thirty-five roles.

The first week of the Ravinia season Mr. Chamlee sang four operas in seven days, beginning on the second night with a performance of "La Traviata," following on Tuesday with Massenet's "Manon," continuing on Friday with "Marouf," and ending on Sunday as the swashbuckling Almaviva in "The Barber of Seville."

During the season, Mr. Chamlee sings in twenty-two performances.

George Swigart Returns From Study in Europe

George Swigart, Wilmette violinist, returned on Sunday from a year's study in Berlin with Richard Czerwonky. During the summer he will be at his home, 1037 Ashland avenue, working on his repertoire for the winter.

Mr. Swigart expects to continue his studies with Mr. Czerwonky at the Bush Conservatory in Chicago, and to spend some of his time teaching.

Miss Estelle Swigart, who was with her brother in Berlin, studying 'cello, is to stay abroad another year. She was joined by Miss Pauline Manchester, Glencoe pianist, who will spend a year in Berlin studying with Arthur Schnabel.

Milan Lusk Wins Glowing Praise for His Concert

Milan Lusk, Wilmette violinist, has received glowing press comments for his concert in Boulder, Colorado, recently. He drew a large audience there, which gave him an ovation.

The Boulder News-Herald said of him, "Milan Lusk brought an absorbing hour of music to an enthusiastic audience here last night, and at the close of the concert admirers of this master all but declined to permit him to leave the stage.

"His playing moved and stirred his audience, and carried his hearers to new heights. He played with warm, throbbing tone and stirring rhythm, and with great appreciation of the master selection which comprised his program. His offering was the climax of the artist series. Scores of patrons were jubilant today in their praise for the management which was able to book this noted artist. Today a number expressed the hope that he will be able to return next year."

Mr. Lusk is at present teaching privately in his home studio in Wilmette, and he has announced that he will take on new applicants for violin instruction. Arrangements are now being made for his fall term, which begins next month.

Mr. Lusk has been playing on Sunday mornings appearing in a series of Wurlitzer hours over radio station WGN.

TO MAKE TOUR

Edward Johnson will make a concert tour after completing his sixth season with the Ravinia Opera club, and will then join the Metropolitan Opera company for another season in fall.

ENGAGE SWEDISH ARTIST

Goeta Ljungberg, Swedish soprano, has been engaged by the Metropolitan Opera company for its coming season.

He has had only two days of vacation since arriving. Every week finds him taking leading tenor roles in at least two operas.

Some tenors merely sing. Mr. Chamlee not only sings but puts his very soul into his music and acting. His characterizations are always convincing and infused with his own personal magnetism, and his voice is marvelously floating and lilting, sensitively controlled and superbly expressive.

Suggests English Translations for Lighter Operas

By Rutheda L. Pretzel

Now that "Peter Ibbetson" has plunged Ravinia patrons into the maelstrom of opera in English, it is hoped that the language will become popular enough to make them demand for next season a few more operas in our native language.

"Fra Diavolo," so full of humor and mischief, which in Italian may not go over the footlights, would be an excellent vehicle for translation. A very good English text has been written for it, and the opera would resume its rightful place in popularity if it could be understood by all. It is given in translation anyway, having been written originally in German.

"Martha," which is suffering a waning popularity, would revive interest in its still lovely and appealing melodies if the English version of it were used at Ravinia.

English for "The Bride"

Still another opera in the lighter vein, "The Bartered Bride," which is heard in German at Ravinia, would not lose any of its charm if it were translated into English, providing the translator caught the mood of Smetana's melodies and found English words as appropriate as the German.

All comic operas need to be thoroughly understood in order to be fully appreciated, for much depends on the whimsical twist of words, the repartee and the humor.

English might have seemed a little banal in the first act of "Peter Ibbetson," but any experiment is apt to meet with resistance at first. The text for Mr. Taylor's opera is not as interesting as it ought to be, for it lacks the poetry of word picture which it ought to have in order to blend harmoniously with the lyricism of the story. Still, in spite of having the language colored by French and Italian accents, it went over the footlights distinctly and met with a loyal, if somewhat wary, response. A few doses of English in "Peter Ibbetson"—the opera is to be heard several times before the season closes—and patrons would become surprisingly acclimated to it.

Gives European Views

Europeans never understood why Americans will listen to operas in languages which they do not know. They say that opera will never become popular in our country until it is given in English. Over there innumerable opera companies sing only in the native language. A visiting tenor often will find himself unable to use the language of the country in which he is visiting, so he sings opera in his language and the company sings in its language—and things proceed merrily, if somewhat crazily. In Chicago last season Schipa sang his role in "Mignon" in Italian, while Coe Glade and the rest of the Chicago Civic Opera company sang in French.

AT VERDI HOME

"Aida" was recently given in Busseto, Italy, before the little house where Verdi was born. A thousand persons came from many Italian towns to witness the presentation.

WRITES FIRST OPERA

Otto Klemperer, conductor of a Berlin orchestra, is said to have written his first opera, "The Goal."