

RAVINIA OPERA TO OPEN JUNE 25TH

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sands in "Pelleas and Melisande," none of which she has sung at Ravinia before. Equally prominent in the soprano section is Elisabeth Rethberg, who has won an exalted position on the topmost round of the operatic leader in those great dramatic roles which demand at once power of singing and tonal quality. Mme. Rethberg will be assigned to many of her greatest roles this summer and will be heard for the first time as Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana" and Amelia in "The Masked Ball."

Mary Lewis, a young American soprano with a good European reputation behind her, is among the newcomers of the soprano division. Florence Macbeth, charming coloratura who has won many friends at Ravinia during the last several seasons is to return for her favorite parts, and Tina Paggi, a youthful but experienced singer, has been added to the coloratura section.

To Make Debut
An important announcement is to the effect that Julia Claussen, contralto, is to make her Ravinia debut this year. She has a splendid reputation both in Europe and America and will be heard in many of the great contralto roles such as Amneris in "Aida" and Azucena in "Il Trovatore." "La Navarraise" and Delila in "Sampson and Delila" are likewise in her repertoire. Mme. Ina Bourskaya, mezzo-soprano, who has been on the Ravinia roster for five years will again be heard in the roles for which she is famous, which include those also assigned to Mme. Claussen. Gladys Swarthout, a young singer who has given good account of herself, is a Ravinia newcomer.

Martinelli Returning
The fact that Giovanni Martinelli will again be heard at Ravinia is matter for congratulation. This great tenor is an outstanding figure in the world of opera. He has a vocal equipment that is superb combining tonal beauty and dramatic singing in equal degree. No matter how heroic a role may be, Mr. Martinelli handles it with consummate ease, and he is just as much at home in the lyric parts. Edward Johnson, who was new to Ravinia patrons last year will be back. He is also one of the world's great tenors, and like Martinelli, combines the dramatic and the lyric, thus giving him a broad repertoire. Both Mr. Martinelli and Mr. Johnson are splendid actors. Mario Chamlee is coming back and will sing many of the lyric roles. The beauty of his voice, his polish and thorough musicianship, have won him hosts of friends at Ravinia.

Danise to Sing
At the head of the baritone contingent will again stand Giuseppe Danise, whose reputation as a bel canto singer is international. Mr. Danise has, by the sheer richness of his voice won the continual plaudits of Ravinia patrons for several seasons. Mario Basiola, a young baritone who is likewise a Ravinia favorite is to return. Leon Rothier and Virgilio Lazzari, two world famous singers and actors, will again be the mainstays of the basso section. The former in the French, the latter in the Italian works.

Conductors
Gennaro Papi and Louis Hasselmans will return as principal conductors as will Wilfred Pelletier. Giacomo Spadoni will be choral conductor and Eric DeLamarter will have charge of the concerts. Armando Agnini returns as stage director. Miss Ruth Page is to head the ballet with Jorg Lief Fasting as her associate. The Chicago Symphony orchestra will, as in all past seasons, be in the pit and will be heard in the concert series.

Complete Roster
Here is the complete roster arranged alphabetically:
Sopranos: Lucrezia Bori, Helen Freund, Mary Lewis, Florence Macbeth, Margery Maxwell, Tiny Paggi, Elisabeth Rethberg.

Mezzo-sopranos and contraltos: Ina Bourskaya, Julia Claussen, Anna Correnti, Philine Falco, Gladys Swarthout.

Tenors: Mario Chamlee, Edward Johnson, Giovanni Martinelli, Jose Mojica, Giordano Paltrinieri.

Baritones: Mario Basiola, Louis D'Angelo, Giuseppe Danise, Desire DeFrere.

Bassos: Paolo Ananian, Virgilio Lazzari, Leon Rothier, Vittorio Trevisan.

Conductors: Louis Hasselmans, Gennaro Papi, Wilfrid Pelletier.

Choral conductor: Giacomo Spadoni.

Concert conductor: Eric DeLamarter.

Stage director: Armando Agnini.

Premiere Danseuse: Ruth Page.

Repertoire
As for the repertoire it is unusually broad and although based on those famous standard works which are in constant demand, it contains some interesting revivals and novelties. "Mignon," not heard at Ravinia for years, will be presented this season and in it Mme. Bori will have the opportunity to repeat the success she won in its title role at the Metropolitan during the winter season. With Mr. Johnson she will likewise be heard in "Pelleas et Melisande." It is possible that "The King's Henchman," by Deems Taylor, will be presented as will "La Perie," a charming pantomime in which Ruth Page will be featured.

The repertoire, as it has taken form in the mind of Mr. Eckstein, follows: "La Traviata," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Rigoletto," "Aida," "Mignon," "Lucia," "Carmen," "Pagliacci," "Madame Butterfly," "Faust," "Tosca," "La Boheme," "Secret of Suzanne," "Manon" by Massenet, "Il Trovatore," "The Barber of Seville," "L'Elisir d'Amore," "L'Amore del Tre Re," "Don Pasquale," "La Navarraise," "Romeo and Juliet," "Martha," "Fedora," "Lohengrin," "The Tales of Hoffman," "Andrea Chenier," "Sampson et Delila," "Fra Diavolo," "Manon Lescaut," "The Masked Ball," "La Juive," "La Vida Breve," "Madame Sans Gene," "Pelleas et Melisande," "The King's Henchman," "La Perie."

LIBRARY HAS COVER OF GUTENBERG BIBLE

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a part of the valuable volume which they could never possess in its entirety. Mr. Wells also made a gift to the New York Public Library of all the missing pages in its copy of the Gutenberg Bible except one which he was unable to supply. In this fashion many people throughout the country became owners of part of the rarest book in the world.

Distributed Among Collectors
One man purchased the Gospel of John, another Timothy 1 and 2 another the Book of Daniel, another the Book of Genesis, another the Ten Commandments and another the Sermon on the Mount. Many others became the owners of a single page. Among these latter is Mr. Charles Rubens, who possesses one of the largest private collections of Charles Dickens in this country.

On a recent visit to New York City Mr. and Mrs. Rubens visited Mr. Wells and the latter exhibited his two covers of the two volumes of the Gutenberg Bible from which the pages had been removed. Mr. Wells is very much interested in public libraries and Mrs. Rubens spoke to him of the plans under consideration for the enlarging work of the Highland Park public library.

Gift to Local Library
As an encouragement in this work Mr. Gabriel Wells generously presented to our local library one of the covers of his Gutenberg Bible. At the last meeting of the board the presentation was made by Mrs. Rubens, a member of the board, in the name of Mr. Gabriel Wells, and a formal letter of appreciation for this valuable gift was authorized.

This cover is now on exhibition at the Highland Park Public Library and all citizens are asked to examine it. It consists of leather embossed with quaint and beautiful designs and is in a state of excellent preservation. It seems incredible that it is almost five hundred years old.

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