

RAVINIA PROGRAM BETTER THAN EVER

(Continued from page 1)

tiful as it is powerful, has no rivals. Mme. Rethberg's work in the great roles of the Italian, French and German schools, has won her acclaim in many of the world's opera houses and time and again last season she thrilled Ravinia audiences by combining with singing, the art of histrionism, and this is such a way as to make the operas in which she appeared, true "music drama." This artist has an extensive repertoire and this year she will be heard in a wide variety of roles.

Mme. Yvonne Gall is to return. It will be remembered that this famous artist from the Grand Opera and the Opera Comique at Paris, was brought to Ravinia for a limited series of performances last season in which she scored tremendous success. She sang the name parts of "Louise" and "Thais" in addition to other roles, arousing unbounded enthusiasm on the part of her auditors. This year Mme. Gall comes to Ravinia for the entire season and of course this will make it possible for her to appear in many of the best know roles chosen from an unusually broad repertoire. Mme. Gall will be prominent in the new operas "Marouf" and "L'Heure Espagnole" which are being added to the repertoire, being cast for the principal soprano part in both, and she will be heard as Toinette in "Le Chemineau" which is among the revivals.

Bori Here in August

Mme. Lucrezia Bori is expected in August when she will be heard as Magda in Puccini's "La Rondine" which Mr. Eckstein is adding to the list. She appeared in this role in New York last winter winning the unstinted praise of critics and public. Tito Schipa is to sing opposite Mme. Bori in this work, being cast for the part of Ruggiero, which he created when "La Rondine" was given its world premiere at the San Carlo in Naples in 1918.

Florence Easton, a dramatic soprano who has achieved many triumphs at Ravinia in seasons past, is to return after an absence of several years. This English prima donna ranks high as an interpreter of the highly dramatic roles of opera and she has a repertoire that is seemingly without limit. Few artists possess her thorough schooling, and her voice, which is of magnificent tonal quality throughout its entire range, is likewise equal to the most strenuous roles. Florence Macbeth, long identified with the coloratura section, will again be heard in the florid operas this year. She is an artist who has many friends among Ravinia patrons.

Mme. Ina Bourskaya, who has long ranked high among Ravinia's mezzo-sopranos is coming back and will be heard in those roles she has interpreted so capably in the past. Julia Claussen, an artist of broad experience who made her Ravinia debut last season, has been re-engaged for many of the mezzo roles.

There is ample reason for enthusiasm in the announcement that Giovanni Martinelli is coming back. This dramatic tenor has an army of ardent admirers and with little wonder, for he occupies a place entirely his own among the world's great artists. No role is so heroic but that Mr. Martinelli can measure up to its every demand, and yet he has such perfect command of his vocal resources that he is able to sing the lyric parts with equal facility. That he is one of the greatest dramatic tenors in the world today is a fact fully appreciated by the Ravinia public as it is by opera-goers in New York and the music centers of Europe.

Johnson Coming


Edward Johnson is to return. Two years ago he was a newcomer at Ravinia, but he quickly won a place for himself and last year he scored many triumphs throughout the season. Role after role fell to his share and he put the stamp of individual distinction on everything he did. He has a voice well adapted to both dramatic and lyric singing and he is one of the great actors of grand opera. Another Ravinia favorite whose name again appears on the roster is Mario Chamlee. This artist holds a prime position among those tenors who devote themselves to the lyric operas and his work is greatly appreciated by all lovers of sheer melody.

Tito Schipa is coming back. He is not a newcomer by any means, but he has not been heard at Ravinia in five years and during that time he has sung in many important places. Mr. Schipa, who is to appear during August, is one of the foremost lyric tenors of his generation, having a long list of romantic roles to his credit. He will be heard in many of these during his Ravinia engagement.

Armand Tokatyan, who, like Mr. Schipa has been absent from Ravinia for some time has been re-engaged for the new season. He is a young singer who has gone far in the world of opera. Jose Mojica, who has filled a distinctive place at Ravinia for several seasons is to return and will be heard in an interesting range of parts.

Then there is Giuseppe Danise, the richness of whose baritone voice has won the acclaim of opera patrons in many parts of the world. He has been a leading member of the Ravinia forces for six seasons, and will be warmly welcomed at the beginning of his seventh. Mr. Danise is a master of that vanishing art, bel canto singing. As his splendid performances of past seasons come to mind, there is ample assurance that many treats are in store for the season that is

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ahead. Mario Basiola will resume his old place in the baritone section. This young artist has many admirers among Ravinia patrons and his work meets high standard of excellence. Desire Defrere will be heard in many baritone parts.

Basso Roles

The basso roles will be in the same hands as before, both Leon Rothier and Virgilio Lazzari having been re-engaged to head this contingent of singers. The fame of these two artists is international and both, in addition to possessing singing voices of rare quality, are equally known as actors and character delineators. Mr. Rothier is an exponent of the French school of singing while Mr. Lazzari is representative of the Italian. Vittorio Trevisan will be heard in the important basso-buffo roles.

Gennaro Papi and Louis Hasselmans return as principal conductors as does Wilfrid Pelletier. Eric DeLamarter will have charge of the concerts and Giacomo Spadoni will be chorus master. Desire Defrere is to be stage manager during the coming season. Miss Ruth Page will head the ballet and her associate will be Edwin Strawbridge. The Ravinia chorus has long excited the warmest praise of those who appreciate fine ensemble singing. The same careful attention has been given to its selection for the coming season. Since its inception Ravinia has enjoyed the distinction of being the only opera house in the world having a permanent symphony orchestra in its employ. This distinction will continue, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra having been re-engaged. It will supply the musical settings for the operas and play the concert programs.

New Operas

The presentation of new operas and likewise of operas which have not been heard for sometime is always interesting and the repertoire for the coming season gives fine promise in this regard, including "La Rondine," one of Giacomo Puccini's last works. "Marouf," by Henri Rabaud, an ultra-modern among the French composers, is another important addition to the repertoire. This fanciful opera, with its story taken from the pages of the Arabian Nights, is said to represent the latest development of the French school. Mr. Rabaud, who has been a principal conductor at the Grand Opera Comique in Paris, has written some highly successful symphonies in addition to his operatic work and was for a season conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Mme. Yvonne Gall will be cast as the Princess, which is the leading soprano role of "Marouf," while Mario Chamlee will have the name part.

"Le Chemineau" is among the contemplated revivals and Mme. Gall will be heard as Toinette, with Giuseppe Danise in the title role. This work was a Ravinia favorite for several seasons and it is good to know that it is to be restored. It is a highly dramatic opera having been taken from the play of the same name by Richepin. Theater devotees will remember that Otis Skinner used an English adaptation of its some years ago which he called "The Harvester." "L'Heure Espagnole" is another entertaining opera which will be given its first Ravinia presentation this year. It is highly amusing and contains a wealth of good music. In this work Mme. Gall will have the principal soprano role, a part which she has sung at the Opera Comique and elsewhere.

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