

RAVINIA SEASON TO OPEN ON JUNE 22ND

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these will form a part of the series of national concerts which have won high favor during the last several seasons. The regular children's concerts will be given on Thursday afternoon during the season and will be under the supervision of the women of the Ravinia Opera club. The Monday nights of every Ravinia season have always been designated as "concert nights," but both last season and the season before many of these Monday nights had to be given over to extra performances of opera. It is likely that the same will be true this year. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has been re-engaged both for the operas and the concerts and the Ravinia chorus will, as usual, be

the best singing body that could possibly be brought together.

Seven works this season are classed as revivals and novelties, and of these, three will be absolutely new to Ravinia. They include "La Rondine," a Puccini work which was completed only a short time before the death of this great modern composer and which is still but little known even in those opera houses where Puccini is a prime favorite. Mme. Lucrezia Bori will have the principal soprano part in this opera, and it is a role in which she scored tremendous success when it was first given in New York. The tenor part will be in the hands of both Edward Johnson and Mario Chamlee, these artists alternating in the role. But so exacting are the cast demands that there is another important tenor part which will be sung by Armand Tokaty and a soubrette soprano part which will be interpreted by Florence Macbeth.

Lastest Development

The latest development in modern opera will be exemplified by "La Campana Sommersa," Ottorino Respighi's great opera which, with Elisabeth Rethberg and Giovanni Martinelli in its principal roles was given its world premier in New York early last winter. Both Mme. Rethberg and Mr. Martinelli will again be on the Ravinia artists' roll this season and will be heard in this opera. The libretto of this work is the famous symbolic dramatic poem of Gerhart Hauptman, with which English readers are familiar as "The Sunken Bell." So pronounced was the impression made by this opera when it was given in New York, that it was immediately selected for the spring season in Rome, and Mme. Rethberg and Mr. Martinelli are now in the Italian capital where they are appearing in the roles created by them. A third outstanding novelty contemplated for the season of 1929 is "Ariane et Barbe Bleue," a modern French opera by Paul Dukas which will be given if the Ravinia studio can complete the scenery in time.

It is always customary at Ravinia to present during each season some operas which although not forming a regular part of the repertoire are of supreme interest when revived. Among such works which Mr. Eckstein has in mind for the coming summer are "La Vida Breve" in which Lucrezia Bori won new honors

when it was first given at Ravinia three years ago. Mme. Bori will again be heard as the gypsy girl whose trusting love turns to tragedy. Mme. Bori will likewise be heard in a revival of "Mignon," the Thomas opera in which she made a profound impression season before last. Attention is called to the fact that "Marouf" which was a phenomenal success last year with Mme. Gall and Mr. Chamlee in the principal parts, and "L'Heure Espagnol" which provided fine opportunity for Mme. Gall and other Ravinia artists, will form a part of the regular repertoire this season.

Individual Artists

As for the individual artists who will be most prominent during the season, there is Lucrezia Bori, who is coming back and will find a cordial welcome awaiting her. There is no singer more popular with Ravinia audiences than is this charming soprano and none who is more effective in the roles assigned her. Mme. Bori returns with new honors added to her already blazoned crest and she will be heard in all of those works in which she has so endeared herself in the past. In addition to these parts, which give her such splendid opportunity both for singing and acting, she will be heard in "La Rondine" which provides her with another unusual role.

Then there is Mme. Rethberg, one of the world's outstanding dramatic sopranos, who time without number has taken Ravinia audiences completely by storm. Mme. Rethberg has every gift which goes to make for greatness in singing the dramatic roles, for her voice is almost unlimited in power and at the same time she produces a tone which is of exquisite quality. She is able to present role after role, for she does not confine herself to any one school of singing being equally well versed in the French, German and Italian repertoires. Mme. Rethberg will likewise be heard in all of her favorite roles and there will be new interest in the fact that she is to appear in "The

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