

CLOSING PROGRAM OF RAVINIA OPERA

(Continued from page 4)

ism among the opera patrons of this community than anything which has been heard in a long time. That is a

gala performance of which any opera house might well be proud, and in giving the most representative parts of these operas which are among the latest additions to the repertoire, Mr. Eckstein has provided a treat for his patrons that will fittingly serve as the climax of a season which has already been well punctuated with climaxes.

Bori in Title Role

"La Rondine" it is needless to say, was introduced into the repertoire last season as a special vehicle for Mme. Bori. It had many things to recommend it. It had never been given in this part of the country and was therefore, entirely new to the vast majority of Ravinians. Then again, Mr. Eckstein had one of those perfect casts available for it. The title role fits Mme. Bori like the proverbial glove and every member of the cast measured superbly up to the demands made upon them. It was light, airy, for the most part cheerful and almost exotic in its color.

The result of this production was immediate success. Indeed, so marked was this that it was necessary to present "La Rondine" six times last season, this being a record for repeat performances at Ravinia. It was fully expected that it would be just as successful this year, and that expectation has been realized. It has not been presented six times, it is true, but it could have been so far as the public is concerned, and it is genuinely good news to know that its liveliest and most colorful act is to form a part of the closing gala. Mme. Bori will be Magda, with Edward Johnson opposite her as Ruggero. Miss Macbeth will be Lisette and Mr. Tokaty, Prunier. Miss Maxwell, Miss Paggi, Miss Falco and Mr. D'Angelo will all be importantly cast, Miss Page and Mr. Scott will head the ballet and Mr. Papi will conduct.

Another Feature

In marked contrast to this excerpt from "La Rondine" is the celebrated fourth act of "Les Huguenots," which will also form a part of the closing gala. This has been called the greatest single act ever written into an opera for it contains every element that goes to make for operatic greatness. It sums up, as it were, the story of the entire work and expresses the emotions of its various characters in music that once heard, can

never be forgotten. It contains both pathos and tragedy and is so highly dramatic that it is fairly breath-taking from beginning to end. Aria follows close upon aria, there is a magnificent love duet and one of the most monumental chorals ever written.

For the majority of Ravinia patrons this work contains the element of novelty, not that it is a new opera, but rather because it is so long since it was presented in the Chicago district, that it is new to the present generation of opera goers. It demands a quartet of outstanding principles and Ravinia has exactly the artists to do full justice to it.

Gall as Valentine

There is Mme. Gall, who has the role of Valentine, in which she has been thoroughly schooled in the Parisian opera houses where this work is a tradition. Mr. Martinelli will be Raoul, which gives him opportunity to appear before his Ravinia admirers in a new role, but one which is highly dramatic and is exactly of the type in which he is liked best. Mr. Danise will be cast as Count DeNevers, while Leon Rothier will be Count de St. Bris, which permits his unusual solo opportunities in a role which dominates that famous scene called "the consecration of the swords." Mr. Hasselmans will conduct.

"Bartered Bride," Third Act

Last, but by no means least, there is the third act of "The Bartered Bride" which Ravinia patrons call "the circus scene." This work, added to the Ravinia list during the second half of the season, achieved tremendous popularity on the night of its initial performance and it is likely, if the season could be extended somewhat, that it would equal in the matter of request performances, the record achieved by "La Rondine" last year. It is perhaps the liveliest scene in opera in which the elements of comedy and romance are co-mingled in equal measure. This famous Bohemian work, which is sung in German at Ravinia, is heart-warming, for its tunes are of the kind that register quickly and remain long in the memory, its love story is vastly appealing and its fun is contagious.

It reveals Mme. Rethberg in a mood different from that in which she ordinarily appears, but one that is none the less congenial to herself and her many admirers. Mme. Rethberg is Maria, the sprightly heroine of this Smetana work. It gives Mario Chamiee as Hans, a splendid romantic singing part which demands his most skillful histrionism as well. Louis D'Angelo is superbly cast as Kezal, the pompous marriage broker and Marek Windheim comes completely into his own as the ludicrous Wenzel. Others in this cast are Mme. Bourskaya, Mr. Cehanovsky, Miss Maxwell, Miss Falco and Mr. Ananian. One of the most pleasant features of this work is the dancing in which Miss Ruth Page and Blake Scott are seen at the head of the ballet in several of those folk-dances for which Bohemia is famous. Louis Hasselmans will conduct.

Sunday Afternoon

But the festive spirit which will mark the close of the nineteenth season of Ravinia Opera will in reality manifest itself the day before, as one of the most entertaining concerts of the season will be presented on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 31. This will be (Continued on page 28)

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