

REVIEW OF OPERA SEASON AT RAVINIA

(Continued from page 15)

der the direction of Gennaro Papi, while Louis Hasselmans directed both "The Bartered Bride" and "Les Huguenots," and before the curtain was lifted on either of them, perfection had been achieved. All of these additions to the repertoire have contributed new chapters to Ravinia operatic history, for each is distinctive and re-

ceived such splendid presentation at Ravinia as to elevate them to a superlative realm.

Other Favorites

But the new additions to the repertoire were compelled to share honors with other works which have been added to the list in seasons past. There was for example, "La Campana Sommersa," which was one of the outstanding novelties of last year and in which Mme. Rethberg and Mr. Martinelli had the leading roles. There was "La Rondine," with Mme. Bori and Mr. Johnson in the two principal

roles and Miss Macbeth and Armand Tokatyan in parts of importance. Then there was "Marouf," the outstanding novelty of two seasons ago, which was given with equal success last year and which was brought to performance three times this season. Mr. Chamlee again sang the name part with Mme. Gall as the Princess. One of the most interesting of this year's offerings was the double bill of "The Secret of Suzanne" and "La Vida Breve" with Mme. Bori appearing as the heroine of both operas. She was Suzanne in "The Secret of

Suzanne" and likewise Salud in "La Vida Breve," roles which are entirely different from each other, but which Madame Bori with her versatility, is able to interpret within the course of the same evening. Mr. Tokatyan appeared opposite Mme. Bori in both operas, being Count Gil in "The Secret of Suzanne" and Paco in "La Vida Breve."

The repertoire of thirty-six operas given throughout the season follows: Aida, Andrea Chenier, Anima Allegria, The Bartered Bride, The Barber of Seville, The Masked Ball, Carmen, Cavalleria Rusticana, Faust, Fedora, Fra Diavolo, Il Trovatore, La Boheme, La Campana Sommersa, Les Huguenots La Juive, L'Amore dei Tre Re, La Rondine, La Traviata, La Vida Breve, Lohengrin, Louise, Lucia, Madame Butterfly, Manon, Manon Lescaut, Marouf, Martha, Pagliacci, Rigoletto, Romeo and Juliet, Samson and Dalila, The Tales of Hoffman, The Secret of Suzanne, Thais, and Tosca.

The Sunday afternoon orchestra concerts given throughout the season have been unusually attractive and continuing a policy inaugurated some seasons ago, most of these were devoted to programs of national music. This national series included seven Sunday afternoon programs in which the works of American, German, French, Italian, Bohemian, Polish and Swedish composers were presented. One Sunday concert was general in scope, another was devoted to solo numbers by members of the orchestra and that of Sunday afternoon, August 31, consisted of an orchestral program of ballet music followed by ballet divertissements presented by Miss Page, Mr. Scott and the Ravinia Opera Ballet.

The children's concerts given every Thursday afternoon throughout the season have, as usual, been important among the Ravinia activities this year. These concerts are highly educational and through them thousands of children are coming to an understanding and appreciation of music of the better kind. The programs have been presented by the Chicago Symphony orchestra, Eric DeLamarter conducting, and Mr. DeLamarter has featured, during each program, an explanatory talk which has been of tremendous value in giving these juvenile audiences an adequate background upon which to base their appreciation of the music. Each orchestral program has been followed by an entertainment designed especially to bring joy to the childish heart. These have included miniature circuses with trained animals, child entertainers, a ballet program by Miss Page and Mr. Scott, a program devoted to entrancing and lively scenes from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The annual carnival marked the high spot of the season, being both spectacular and patriotic. Companies of soldiers from Fort Sheridan and of sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, gave drills and parades and there was music by the bands representing both arms of the service.

As usual the Chicago Symphony orchestra was in the pit and likewise appeared at all the concerts, thus occupying the place it has occupied for nineteen summers. Whether furnishing the musical settings for the operas, or playing the concert programs, the Chicago Symphony orchestra has always been a vital part of the Ravinia season.



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