

### RAVINIA PROGRAM NOVELTY FEATURE

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sketches by the author, the book has had an extraordinary career in all its phases. For one thing, it was du Maurier's first novel, and the author was then in his sixties. For another, it led the way to "Trilby," which John Barrymore is even now acting in his screen version of "Strongali," even as he created the American

"Peter Ibbetson" 14 years ago when Lionel Barrymore returned from Hollywood to act the colonel.

Written in 1891

Although "Peter Ibbetson" was written in 1891, it did not reach play production until 1915, and this despite the fact that Maurice Barrymore ardently desired to play the title-role later undertaken by his famous son. Dream plays are notoriously difficult to stage, and this drama of metaphysical romance might never have found footlight fame had less expert care been lavished upon it.

Constance Collier, the well-known English actress, re-wrote John Raphael's dramatization and fought for its production like a crusader, becoming so identified with the role of the Duchess of Towers that no other actress performed the part until last season when Jessie Royce Landis (of Evanston) appeared in a New York revival. Even then, Miss Collier staged the play, and there is still talk about her touring in it next season.

So it is particularly interesting to discover that Deems Taylor selected Miss Collier as his fellow-librettist when he set to work on "Peter Ibbetson," and it is even more notable that while the play revival classified as a failure, the opera achieved tremendous popular appeal.

#### Is a Novelty

From the Ravinia point of view, "Peter Ibbetson," sung in English, is a novelty in every sense of the word. Edward Johnson hails from Canada, and the English language is quite courteously his own, but the lovely Bori is Spanish and her friends privately hope that her delectable accent has not been entirely submerged by intensive study of the score. They may be reassured by the report of one who rushed backstage at the Metropolitan premiere, mopping up tears and overflowing with felicitations at the same time, to be anxiously greeted by the star with, "Ah, did you errry? Then it was a sooksess."

In fact, "Peter Ibbetson" has always caused the flourishing of handkerchiefs, and perhaps that is the underlying secret of its eternal glamour. It tells the story of lovers who are cruelly separated in life and blissfully united in dreams through which they lift the veil commonly known as death and find the promise of infinite happiness together. It is a drama of romantic escape from blunt reality, and Mr. Taylor's score is said to have captured its compassionate beauty, its dreamy romance and its vital surge of conviction.

#### Fine Cast

Considering the picturesque quality of the opera, it is not at all odd that Miss Bori and Mr. Johnson should have been chosen to create its leading roles. Describing the Duchess of Towers in the novel, du Maurier might easily have been writing of the exquisite Spaniard, mentioning her alert lightness and grace, her thick heavy hair of coppery brown, her clear and pale complexion, her short, tilted nose, her red and mobile mouth, her small head and exquisite camellia-white shoulders. He concluded, "She was that beautiful type the French define as 'la fausse maigre,' which does not mean a 'false, thin woman.'"

As to Peter Ibbetson himself, the book was written in the first person, and Victorian modesty forbade too great dwelling upon his pictorial values, but hints abound as to his uncommon stature and du Maurier's sketches express the artist's yearning for "the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome." Mr. Johnson would be the first to disclaim such classic honors, but he is a picturesque fellow who knows his stagecraft, and you may not have forgotten that when he created the title-role in Mr. Taylor's "The King's Henchman" a season or two ago, he received among other congratulatory messages, one that read like this: "Dear God, thank You for thinking up Eddie Johnson when you were

making tenors. (signed) Deems Taylor."

"Fra Diavolo" is to be sung tomorrow night, with Florence Macbeth, Mario Chamlee, Ina Bourskaya, Virgilio Lazzari and Vittorio Trevisan in important roles. Mr. Papi conducts.

"Peter Ibbetson's" premiere on Monday was followed on Tuesday by "Il Trovatore," with Elisabeth Rethberg, Giovanni Martinelli, Julia Claussen, and Giuseppe Danise in its stellar roles. Mr. Papi conducts.

"Romeo et Juliette" had its first performance of the season on Wednesday, with Yvonne Gall, Edward Johnson, Leon Rotheir, Margery Maxwell, Desire Defrere and Alfredo Gandolfi in the cast. Mr. Hasselmans conducts.

The usual concert for children is given on Thursday afternoon by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Eric DeLamarter conducting, and it is followed by the Jack and Jill Players in "The Haunted Castle." Children under 14 years of age are admitted free at the outer park gates, but children under five years of age will not be admitted to seats in the opera house.

#### Thursday Night

Thursday night schedules "La Traviata," with Lucrezia Bori, Mario Chamlee, and Mario Basiola in the leading roles. Mr. Papi conducts.

"Andrea Chenier" is to be sung on Friday, with Elisabeth Rethberg, Giovanni Martinelli, Giuseppe Danise and others. Mr. Papi conducts.

"Peter Ibbetson" is to be repeated on Saturday night, August 8, while the Sunday afternoon concert of August 9 is devoted to German music played by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Eric DeLamarter conducting, and John Weicher, violin, soloist. The program includes: Symphony No. 4, in D minor, by Schumann; concerto for violin, by Bruch; academic festival overture, by Brahms; Bacchanale from "Tannhaeuser," by Wagner; ride of the valkyries, by Wagner.

"The Bartered Bride," will be sung Sunday night, August 9, with Elisabeth Rethberg, Mario Chamlee, Ina Bourskaya, Louis D'Angelo and Marek Windheim heading the cast. Ruth Page and Blake Scott dance, while Louis Hasselmans conducts.

### Union Church Services at Deerfield

During the month of August the First Presbyterian church and St. Paul's Evangelical church will unite in the regular worship services on Sunday morning. This plan has worked out very successfully in past years and by consent of the Presbyterian session and St. Paul's council, they will again join in this bit of Christian fellowship this summer.

#### The schedule:

August 9—Service at Presbyterian church. Rev. F. G. Piepenbrok in charge. Time 10:45 a. m.

August 16—Service at St. Paul's church. Rev. M. J. Andrews in charge. Time 10:30 a. m.

August 23—Service at Presbyterian church. Pulpit appointment open. Time 10:45 a. m.

August 30—Service at St. Paul's church. Rev. M. J. Andrews in charge. Time 10:30 a. m.

Sunday school will be conducted as usual at the respective churches.

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Labor Day, there will be no Sunday school or church services at St. Paul's church.

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