

### Chicago Symphony Orchestra Re-Engaged for 1919 Opera Season at Ravinia Park

When, seven or eight years ago, it was first suggested that the Chicago Symphony orchestra should play the operas to be put on at Ravinia Park, a howl was heard from many persons.

"Why," they said, "this is an orchestra founded for and dedicated to 'absolute' music, and not to the music of the opera house! Is it a good thing to take the minds of the players of their work, even for a Ravinia summer?"

But there were wiser heads, too, who passed upon the proposition; they put their belief in words something like these:

"A summer of opera at Ravinia will broaden the outlook of the players in the orchestra. It will put them in touch with a wealth of music by a variety of composers. The more styles and moods of composition they learn the greater will be their appreciation of the best in music, whether written for the orchestra alone or for the opera house.

#### Gain Valuable Experience

"They will in playing opera scores gain more knowledge about accompanying singers in one week than they would pick up in a season of symphony concerts. That is important. And the orchestras which give the best accompaniment to singers are the same orchestras which give the best accompaniments to violinists, to pianists, and to other instrumental soloists."

All of which is a foreword to the announcement made last week by Louis Eckstein, executive director of Ravinia, that the great Chicago orchestra again goes to the north shore for the summer of 1919. All the first desk men and the soloists are included this year. One fine artist of the orchestra who has hitherto not taken the summer engagement, Enrich Tramonti, the first harpist, goes along, and it will surprise nobody if he figures in the concerts as a soloist when opera is not in the bill.

This year's conductors will be last year's—Gennaro Papi and Richard Hageman, both from the Metropolitan Opera house. Their re-engagement is an immense advantage because they are intimate with the singers Mr. Eckstein is engaging. Virtually all of this year's roster of singers is from the Metropolitan.

Additional announcements of the week from Mr. Eckstein are of Edith Mason, Morgan Kingston, and, as a guest-artist, Francis MacLennan. Miss Mason was at Ravinia last summer, near the end of the season, and put some exquisite singing into Macaela, among other roles. Mr. Kingston has been the principal dramatic tenor there through a number of seasons, and Mr. MacLennan is well remem-

bered in Chicago, although he is new to Ravinia, for his singing in Wagner and in the Chicago production of Humperdinck's "Koenigskinder." He is now on tour with Antonio Scotti in "L'Oracolo" and "Madame Butterfly."

Mr. Kingston is resting after his twenty-four weeks' season with the Metropolitan; and Miss Mason is in

the City of Mexico with Titto Ruffo, Rosa Raisa and other celebrities.

#### W. C. T. U. Session

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union will meet with Mrs. W. S. Hamm, 270 Scott avenue, Hubbard Woods, on Monday, May 19, at 2:30 o'clock.

Ensign Lyman Drake of 933 Lake avenue, left last Thursday for active sea service after a two weeks' leave.

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