

Gala Week Marks Close of Ravinia Opera Year

Program of Unusual Brilliance Scheduled for Final Programs of Season

As the fourteenth season of Ravinia Opera and Concerts draws rapidly to a close the spirit of gala begins to manifest itself and Louis Eckstein, in outlining the performances which will round out as brilliant a season of opera as this community has ever witnessed, has scheduled a repertoire that will long remain in the memories of those who appreciate the best in music. Holding high place among the offerings of the current week is the gala concert which is scheduled for Monday night and which, despite the unusualness of the program and the large number of leading artists who are to appear as soloists, will be given as all the Monday night concerts at Ravinia, with all seats free. When it is known that the Chicago Symphony orchestra will be under the direction of two eminent conductors, Gennaro Papi and Eric DeLaMarter and that the list of soloists will include Marie Sundelius, soprano; Elvira de Hidalgo, soprano; Merle Alcock, mezzo-soprano; Giuseppe Danise, baritone; Virgilio Lazzari, basso; Jacques Gordon, violinist and Alfred Wallenstein, 'cellist, any one with even the slightest knowledge of the cost of music production will realize the magnitude of the treat Mr. Eckstein has prepared for this last concert of the season.

Broad Program

The program itself is broad in scope, the vocal part of it consisting entirely of arias from the great operas in which the artists appearing have won wide acclaim at Ravinia and elsewhere. Gennaro Papi, whose work as an opera conductor is international, will be at the desk for the first half of this concert program and Eric DeLaMarter, the regular concert conductor at Ravinia, will be in charge of the second half. The program follows: (1) Prelude to Act IV, "La Traviata", Chicago Symphony Orchestra with violin obbligato by Jacques Gordon; (2) "La Culnna" from "The Barber of Seville", Virgilio Lazzari. (3) "Eri tu" from "Ballo in Maschera", Giuseppe danise. (4) "Ah, fors' e lui" from "Traviata", Elvira de Hidalgo. (5) "Voce di donna" from "La Gioconda", Merle Alcock. (6) "William Tell" overture, Chicago Symphony orchestra. (7) Elsa's Dream from "Lohengrin", Marie Sundelius. (8) Slavonic dances, Chicago Symphony orchestra. (9) Concerto for Cello, Alfred Wallenstein. (10) "The Veiled Sweetheart" from Eric

Delamarter's "The Betrothal," Chicago Symphony orchestra. (11) Waltz from "The Bat", Chicago Symphony orchestra.

The new week will begin regularly with the program to be given Sunday afternoon by the Chicago Symphony orchestra with Mr. DeLaMarter conducting and Jacques Gordon, violinist as soloist. Sunday night "Don Pasquale" now acclaimed as the most uproariously comical of all of the lighter works falling within the category of grand opera, will be given its second performance of the season in response to urgent demand. Victorio Trevisan will have the leading comedy role in this Donizetti opus and Tito Schipa will again be heard as the lover. A change in cast will bring Elvira De Hidalgo vis-a-vis with Mr. Schipa in a delightfully romantic role. Others in the cast are Giacomo Rimini and Giordano Paltrinieri. Gennaro Papi will be the conductor.

Puccini Opera Tuesday

"Manon Lescaut" the Puccini opera which when given its initial Ravinia presentation recently created a furore that indicated the necessity of its early repetition is scheduled for Tuesday night, and again Lucrezia Bori and Giovanni Martinelli will be heard as Manon and Chevalier Des Grieux. Those who heard this opera found it entirely different in its musical treatment from the familiar "Manon" of Massenet, and it was acclaimed as one of the most

colorful works heard at Ravinia during the entire season. In it, both Mme. Bori and Mr. Martinelli have unlimited opportunities for a display of their vocal and histrionic talents, for in this Puccini opus, action is paramount. Others in the cast are Giacomo Rimini, Louis D'Angelo, Giordano Paltrinieri, Paolo Ananian, Merle Alcock and Louis D'Angelo. Gennaro Papi will conduct.

Another gala bill has been arranged for Wednesday night, when acts from "The Jewels of the Madonna", unheard at Ravinia thus far this season, "Lucia" (Turn to page 24)

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