

VARIETY ASSURED IN RAVINIA PRODUCTIONS

Two Sets of Principals Available for Every Opera Review of Talent Indicates

In accordance with the long established rule variety will be given repeat performances of Ravinia opera this season by having several principals available for the important roles in various works. Louis Eckstein has always held that patrons of opera take a keener interest in this art form if they are given the opportunity to study the many interpretations of which virtually all the great roles are capable. With this in mind he engages his artists and arranges his repertoire in such a manner that he is always able to make several cast changes throughout the season. This year this possibility is greater than ever before, and few indeed are the roles for which there are not at least two, and sometimes more, principals on the Ravinia roster, who by training and experience are able to give good account of themselves in them.

Choosing at random a large selection of operas which have been announced for presentation during the season of 1927 one finds many striking examples of the variety of performances that may be heard at Ravinia this year.

Let us start with that standard favorite, "Aida." Madam Rethberg is scheduled for the name part of this celebrated Verdi opus and her splendid work in this part needs no introduction to Ravinia audiences. Madam Bourskaya, alluring as Amneris, is likewise well known to those who have attended opera at Ravinia during the last several seasons. This year another artist, Madam Claussen, will alternate with Madam Bourskaya in this role, and one may take it for granted that her idea of the psychology of the jealous princess will be much different from that held by the Russian singer. What is even more important is that two tenors are available to sing the part of the heroic Radames. These are Mr. Martinelli and Mr. Johnson. Each has his opinion of what the Egyptian captain would do and how he would act under the circumstances, and it will be interesting to see how each presents this character. Both Mr. Danise and Mr. Basiola may be heard during the season as Amonasro, one of the outstanding parts in this opera, while Mr. Rother and Mr. Lazzari will take their turns as Ramfis.

Both Mr. Martinelli and Mr. Johnson are exponents of the title role in "Andra Chenier" and each will present the revolutionary poet according to his individual ideas of the character. Gerard will likely find both Mr. Danise and Mr. Basiola in the role, while Madam Bourskaya and Madam Claussen will alternate in the mezzo soprano part. "The Masked Ball," which has been an outstanding Ravinia success for two seasons, will have Madam Rethberg as its heroine, but the lyric part of Oscar will have three possible exponents during the coming season, these being Miss Macbeth, Miss Paggi and Miss Lewis. Madam Bourskaya and Madam Claussen are both available as Ulrica, while Mr. Martinelli will always be heard as Richard. Mr. Danise and Mr. Basiola are both well versed in the part of Reinhart.

Splendid variety is promised for "The Barber of Seville," both Miss Macbeth and Miss Paggi being well-known as Rosina, while Mr. Danise and Mr. Basiola are both experts in the name part. Mr. Chamlee is the only artist scheduled as Almaviva, but Mr. Rother and Mr. Lazzari are both splendid interpreters of Dom Basiolo, and Mr. Ananian and Mr. Trevisan bring much fun to bear as Doctor Bartolo.

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