

# Music News and Events

## OPERA IN BRILLIANT HOLIDAY REPERTOIRE

### Sunday Matinee Omitted This Week; "Die Fledermaus" New Year's Eve Offering

The most brilliant period of Chicago's Civic opera is at hand, leading through the week to the gala New Year's eve performance Saturday, December 31, when Johann Strauss' merry and melodious operetta "Die Fledermaus" will be sung in English under its name in the vernacular, "The Bat."

The sparkling holiday week follows a pre-Christmas week rich with inviting offerings for those who seek the inspiring tranquillity of grand opera after the turmoil of a day of Christmas shopping. Thursday, December 22, brought a revival of "The Juggler of Notre Dame," with Mary Garden in one of the choicest gems of her remarkable repertoire. Saturday, December 24, afternoon's matinee will be one of the most popular bills of the season, "Madame Butterfly," with Edith Mason and a big cast, and on Saturday night "Tosca" will be sung at popular prices. This Christmas eve offering will introduce Leone Kruse in her first American performance of the name role, Fernand Anseau as the painter, and Luigi Montesanto in his colorful and electrifying performance of the villainous tyrant of Rome. Vittorio Trevisan and other familiar artists will complete the cast. The opera will be followed by a big ballot.

#### Omit Sunday Matinee

The usual matinee will be dispensed with on Christmas day, as commuters who constitute the principal patronage Sunday afternoons are assumed to be too busy at the festive board to venture to the Auditorium. The rush will start Monday evening, December 26, when "La Gioconda," one of the most lavishly cast operas in the repertoire, will be sung with Rosa Raisa, Cyrena Van Gordon, Augusta Lenska, Charles Marshall, Cesare Formichi and Chase Baromeo in the leading roles, and Roberto Moranzoni conducting. The ballet will take part in several scenes, adding the famous "Dance of the Hours" as its final contribution of the evening.

Tuesday evening's repetition of "Louise" will bring into service the identical cast which made the revival of the famous French music drama so brilliant an affair recently. Mary Garden, Fernand Anseau, Maria Claessens and Vanni-Marcoux will be prominent in the cast of thirty-five, singing under Giorgio Polacco's leadership. The ballet will appear in the brilliant Montmartre scene.

#### Tito in Finale

"Linda di Chamounix" will be sung for the last time this season on Wednesday night and it will also mark Tito Schipa's last appearance of the season. In addition the cast will include Toti Dal Monte, Lorna Doone Jackson, Luigi Montesanto, Virgilio Lazzari, Vittorio Trevisan and a distinguished cast. Roberto Moranzoni will conduct.

The season's first hearing of "Lohengrin" is announced for Thursday evening, when the great Wagnerian masterpiece will enlist the services of Leone Kruse, Cyrena Van Gordon, Rene Maison, Robert Ringling, Alexander Kipnis and Howard Preston. Miss Van Gordon is familiar as Ortrud, but Miss Kruse, Mr. Maison and Mr. Ringling are new, and favorite members of the company this season. Henry G. Weber will conduct the revival.

There will be no performance Friday night.

#### Mary Garden Saturday

"Le Jongleur de Notre Dame" will be sung Saturday afternoon by Mary Garden, Cesare Formichi, Edouard Cotreull, Jose Mojica, Desire Defrere, Howard

## Kenilworth Club Enjoys Musicale by String Quartet

By V. H.

On Friday evening of last week at the Kenilworth club, the Gordon String quartet under the leadership of Jacques Gordon, violinist, gave an evening of beauty and harmony long to be remembered. The ensemble work of this quartet is little less than perfection, the fine shading in tone and volume delicately and exquisitely done.

At the close of an evening of music of this sort, a listener feels an emotion of uplift and it seems almost too severe a break to arise and put on one's wraps and leave for home with only a word perhaps or just a nod, so the committee in charge offered a simple and appropriate bit of refreshment. The audience lingered and had coffee and discussed the program and felt that relief of spirit after the opportunity to express its pleasure. It was an innovation to have this social hour at the Kenilworth club after a concert of this kind but it proved a great success. The quartet gave the following numbers:

Quartet in G Minor, Opus 10 .....  
..... Debussy  
Quartet in E Flat Major .. Dittersdorf  
Night ..... Ernest Bloch  
Serenade ..... Eouard Lalo  
An Old Castle ..... Mussorgski  
Titania ..... Joseph Speaight

## Juilliard School Awards Fifty-Seven Fellowships

The Juilliard School of Music, awarded fifty-seven fellowships in the Graduate school and granted thirty-eight scholarships in the Institute of Musical Art to applicants who took the September examinations.

A late announcement by Dean Ernest Hutcheson states that Leopold Auer has accepted a place on the faculty of the graduate school and that he will give personal instruction to a limited number of selected violin students. Florence Page Kimball has also been added to the faculty and will assist Mme. Marcella Sembrich who is the head of the singing department.

#### GREATNESS OF BEETHOVEN

A recent essay by a Beethoven authority, asserts that the great composer's instrumental works contain, "at least seven hundred tunes, each one full of character." And most of them original.

#### HEIFETZ RETURNS

After two years' "globe-trotting" Jascha Heifetz is back for an extensive American tour.

Preston and Antonio Nicolich, Giorgio Polacco conducting.

With the New Year's Eve bill of "The Bat," Saturday night, the company will make one of the most interesting departures which has ever marked its history, by presenting an operetta with all the lavishness which brings the regular grand operas of its repertoire to so magnificent a standard of achievement. The lengthy cast of the world-famous Johann Strauss masterpiece will include such notables as Rosa Raisa, Irene Pavloska, Elinor Marlo, Alice d'Hermanoy, Lucille Meusel, Charles Hackett, Forrest Lamont, Jose Mojica, Lodovico Oliviero, Giacomo Rimini, Virgilio Lazzari, and Chase Baromeo. In addition, Mme. Toti Dal Monte will be heard in an interpolation in the second act. Another item contributing to the brilliance of the performance will be the insertion of a ballet, to be danced by the entire corps, to Strauss' waltz, "The Beautiful Blue Danube," though the original "Fledermaus" waltz will naturally be retained in the score. "The Bat" will be sung in an English translation. Henry G. Weber will conduct.

## Next Recitalist



Joseph Szigeti, violinist, who made his debut at the age of 13 in his native city of Budapest, will give the next program of the artist-recital series, which is sponsored by the Winnetka Music club. He appears at New Trier auditorium Monday evening, January 9.

While comparatively new to America, Mr. Szigeti has already been accepted as great. He has been for more than a decade one of the most popular violinists in Europe. He has appeared as soloist in America with such great conductors as Stokowski and Stock, and in Europe with the famous Richard Strauss and many other notables of the baton.

## Music Lovers Await With Interest the Arrival of Ravel

The coming of Maurice Ravel to America is an event of real historical importance. He will be guest director of the Chicago Symphony orchestra early this season. Ravel is one of the best known of living composers, and since the death of Saint-Saens and Puccini, he and Richard Strauss must presumably stand as the deans of the creative musicians of the last generation. It is true that Ravel is ten years younger than Strauss, but he became noted early in life, having written Habanera in 1895, when he was twenty, and his famous Pavane pour une infante defunte when he was twenty-four, and others of his most noted works before he was thirty.

Ravel's musical history has been a curious one. His style and manner apparently have gradually changed. His early works are of the sort that must appeal to all the music-loving world, and with them his reputation was quickly made and quickly became universal. His later works, many of them, are of a nature that only very advanced and erudite musicians and musicians with a distinct trend toward modernism will care for.

#### FEET MUSIC

Frederick Stock spoke before the Chicago City Club a few weeks ago, and after declaring that jazz appeals to the most brutal instincts, he added: "The music of the eighteenth century appealed to the head, that of the nineteenth to the heart, and this of the twentieth century appeals to the feet."

## National Bureau Aids in Planning Christmas Music

So great has become the presentation of Christmas music by various groups all over the country that there has been evidenced a need for a clearing house of information on such music. An effort to meet that need has just been made by the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music. That bureau has been active in promoting the idea of outdoor Christmas caroling, first revived on a large scale in this country by the City of Detroit. To its informative material on caroling, the bureau has just added a pamphlet, "Music for Christmas," which covers various kinds of musical performances at Christmas time. That pamphlet is intended as a guide, not only for churches and Sunday schools, but for parent-teacher associations, public schools, young people's societies, Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations, Campfire Girls, community centers and settlements.

Besides suggestions for organizing and presenting all sorts of indoor music programs for Christmas, the pamphlet contains lists of the Christmas anthems, cantatas and other compositions which are most widely used. It also includes lists of the best recordings of Christmas music for the phonograph and the player piano. Copies of the booklet are being distributed, without charge, from the headquarters of the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music at 45 West 45th street, New York City.

The fourth edition of the bureau's booklet on "Christmas Eve Caroling" has just appeared. This revised pamphlet tells how Detroit organized the caroling, gives suggestions for the formation of carol groups and ideas as to costumes, carol booklets and publicity. This leaflet is also obtained upon application to the bureau.

## Schlussnus Captivates Audience at Recital

By L. F. H.

One of the most successful of the Artist-Recital series, sponsored by the Winnetka Music club, was given Thursday evening, December 15, by Heinrich Schlussnus, the new German baritone of the Chicago Civic Opera company.

The audience was most appreciative and at the end of the program would not leave, but kept clamoring for more. Schlussnus leads us to heights of the real art of singing. His superb voice organ, combined with his rare artistry and musical understanding make him utterly satisfying to his audience.

Mr. Schlussnus expressed his admiration for the Middle West, its enthusiasm and spontaneity. He hopes to return to America in 1929.

We of the north shore surely would welcome him, and look forward to the opportunity of hearing him again.

#### MUSSOLINI LOVES MUSIC

Mussolini is passionately fond of the violin. His talent is such that it is believed he could have achieved considerable eminence as a violinist had he made violin playing his profession. When he is wearied with the vexations of statecraft he finds great pleasure and much beneficial relaxation in taking up his violin and playing for an hour or so.