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FOUR INAUGURALS AT RAVINIA NEXT WEEK

Cast Changes Involving Principal Artists to Feature Program Beginning Sunday

By Music Critic

Of the seven operas scheduled for presentation at Ravinia during the seventh week of the season, which begins Sunday, August 5, four are being brought to performance for the first time this season. This is indeed record for this time of year, but it is entirely in keeping with Louis Eckstein's well established policy of giv-

ing his public as much variety as is humanly possible within a season of ten weeks and three days duration. Nor are the new operas to be presented (new is used in the sense of not having been performed this summer) the only items of importance and interest which Ravinia will have to offer during the week. There will be three cast changes of prime interest, involving such principal artists as Mr. Edward Johnson, dramatic tenor; Mr. Tito Schipa, lyric tenor and Mr. Mario Sasiola, baritone. Mr. Johnson is to sing the role of Radames in "Aida" when that classic is presented on Tuesday night, August 7, and at the same time and in the same opera, Mario Basiola will be heard as Amonasro. On Wednesday night, August 8, "Martha," Von Flotow's ever popular light opera will be brought to performance for the fourth time this year, and this time Tito Schipa will appear as Lionel. Despite the extent of Mr. Schipa's repertoire in the purely lyric roles, it is a well established fact that he is never liked better by opera patrons of all tastes, than he is as the romantic Lionel in "Martha." Miss Macbeth will have the title role with Miss Swarthout, Mr. Lazzari, Mr. Trisan and Mr. D'Angelo importantly cast.

Another of opera's best known and best loved works will be presented during the new week on Sunday night, August 5, this being Bizet's immortal "Carmen" with Mme. Ina Bourskaya in the name part. In this work Mme. Bourskaya has full opportunity for a display of that acting which is so in keeping with her exotic temperament, for she gives to the tempestuous cigaret girl an interpretation which is all her own. Opposite her, as Don Jose, Armand Tokatyan will be heard, and it may be said that the music of this role is eminently well suited to the voice of this well liked tenor. Margey Maxwell will appear as Micaela and Desire Defrere will be Escamillo.

An attractive feature of the "Carmen" performance will be the dancing of Miss Ruth Page and ballet.

"Tales of Hoffman" Thursday "The Tales of Hoffman" always finds a cordial welcome awaiting it, but it has not been given this summer. However, it is on the program for Thursday night, August 9, with a cast which is able to bring out all of the fantastic elements which this opera contains as well as to sing its beautiful music. Mario Chamlee will have the name part of this French work, with an unusually large cast which includes Miss Mac-

beth, Miss Swarthout, Miss Freund, Mr. Basiola, Mr. Rothier, Mme. Bourskaya, Mr. Defrere, Mr. Mojica, Mr. D'Angelo, Mr. Cehanovsky, Miss Falco and Mr. Paltrinieri. Four years ago, Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" was added to the Ravinia

repertoire and it immediately took its place in the regard of the public with those other Puccini favorites, "Madame Butterfly," "Tosca" and "La Boheme." It will be given its initial presentation of the season on Friday night, August 10, at which time Miss Florence Easton will be heard in the title role with Edward Johnson as the Chevalier DesGrieux, Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" must not be confused with Massenet's "Manon" which likewise forms a part of the Ravinia repertoire. Both operas are based on the same story, but in musical treatment and character development, are entirely different.

"Barber of Seville" Soon

"The Barber of Seville" is to be the offering for Saturday night, August 11. In this merry old work by Rossini fun runs riot and along with it some of the most beautiful of the operatic arias. Miss Macbeth is to be cast as Rosina while Tito Schipa will sing the part of Count Almaviva. This role gives Mr. Schipa every chance for a (Continued on Page 38)

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