

RAVINIA'S CLOSE TO BE BRILLIANT EVENT

Double Bill on Sunday and Gala Performance Monday to Feature Season's End

What is undoubtedly the most artistic season in the history of Ravinia opera will reach its close Monday night, September 3, when a gala program representative of several of the season's outstanding successes will be given. It is the aim of Louis Eckstein to make this closing performance a memorable affair, and with this end in view he has completed a program which will permit of the appearance of most of those world artists who have been heard at Ravinia this year, these artists to be cast in excerpts from the operas in which they have been highly successful.

Four operas will contribute their most interesting acts to the gala which Mr. Eckstein has arranged. These are "Fra Diavolo" of which the first act will be given; "Don Pasquale" represented by the second scene of Act II; the Nile scene from "Aida" and the third act of "Martha."

The first act of "Fra Diavolo" is at once one of the most melodious and most amusing acts to be found in the whole of opera. Miss Florence Macbeth will be heard as Zerlina, the spirited heroine of this work, while Mario Chamlee will be cast as Fra Diavolo, the romantic bandit of the title. Mme. Bourakaya and Vittorio Trevisan will be vis-a-vis as an amusing English couple, while Virgilio Lazari and Giordano Paltrineri will be the comic henchmen of Fra Diavolo. Jose Mojica will appear as Lorenzo and Louis D'Angelo will be the stern father who impedes their romance. Gennaro Papi will conduct.

After this act from "Fra Diavolo," the second scene of Act II of "Don Pasquale" will be given, which will serve to introduce the justly famous Ravinia chorus in one of the most rousing ensemble numbers in opera and one which literally stopped the performance and made an encore imperative when this work was recently presented for the first time this season. This particular scene has been called "the upset household" and it includes some amusing antics by Vittorio Trevisan, who is cast in the name

part of "Don Pasquale" and Mario Basiola, who essays the role of Malatesta.

That prolific composer Giuseppe Verdi, never wrote any music of more splendid proportions than that found in the Nile scene of "Aida," and it was only natural that in selecting a gala program vehicle for Mme. Elizabeth Rethberg, Edward Johnson and Giuseppe Danise, that Mr. Eckstein should have turned to this particular excerpt from the most popular of all the Verdi operas. Mme. Rethberg, endowed with a voice of great dra-

matic power which is combined with lyric finesse, will have in this scene that great and dramatic aria "O patria mai," which leads to the duet in which Mme. Rethberg as Aida and Mr. Danise as Amonasro, take part and which is generally regarded as one of the most beautiful of the Italian repertoire. Mr. Danise sings the immortal "Rivedrai" and then Radames, in the person of Edward Johnson, enters to join Aida in the impassioned love duet "Fuggiam gli adori." In addition to Mme. Rethberg, Mr. Johnson and Mr. (Continued on Page 18)

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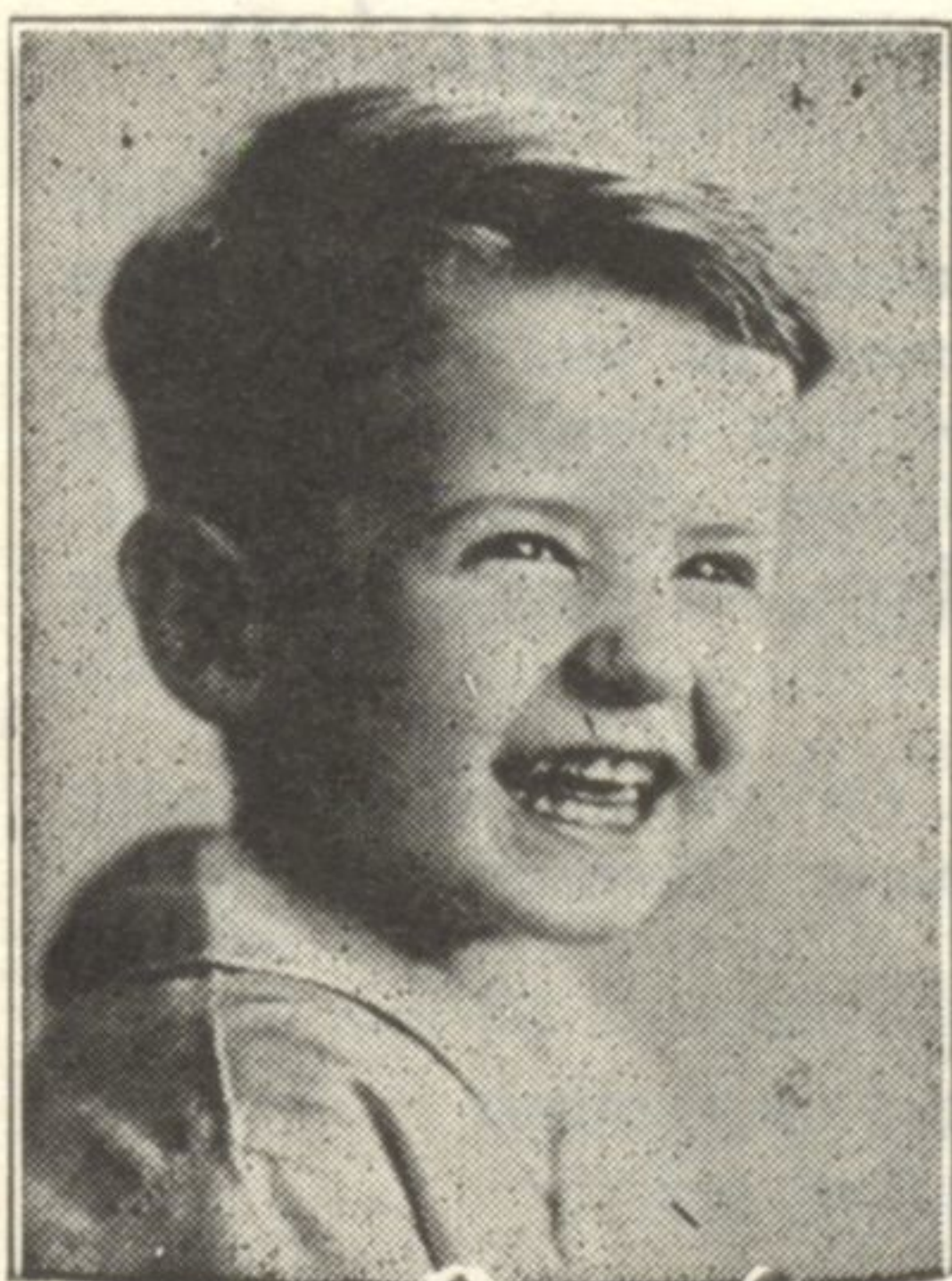
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