#### Aida

1925

Saturday, October 3, 1925 8:00 PM

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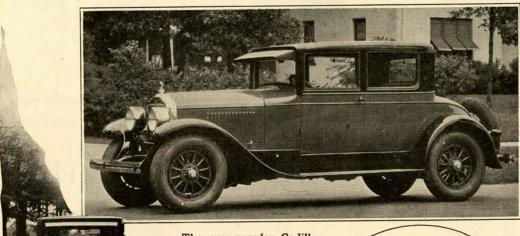
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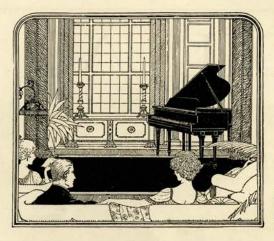
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Therefore it is with no little satisfaction that we welcome the advent of this third season of the San Francisco Opera Company. Three years ago the San Francisco Opera Association initiated a movement to give this city its own opera organization.

At that time, the opera project was an experiment. Today, however, that period is past and San Francisco is proud to acclaim its established opera company, which, for wealth of talent and artistry of production, ranks with the best in the country. The community owes a lasting debt of gratitude to the men and women of the San Francisco Opera Association and to Gaetano Merola, whose genius has been given so fully to this civic accomplishment.

James Royal



Gaetano Merola

GAETANO MEROLA was born in Naples, Italy, where he studied composition, piano and voice in the Royal Conservatory of Music. He graduated at the age of nineteen and in the same year began his operatic career, being engaged by the Metropolitan as assistant to Luigi Mancinelli.

Maestro Merola has won wide recognition in Latin America, United States and Europe. To him is due the credit for many operatic organizations, the last one being the San Francisco Opera Company, originated and organized by his skill.

He was associated with Oscar Hammerstein in the Manhattan Opera House, New York, and the London Opera House. The many members of the San Francisco Opera Association recognize in him the guiding spirit that has made possible the organization of San Francisco's own opera company and the achievement of the notable operatic successes that have added greatly to the luster of this city's name as the home of good music.

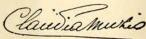


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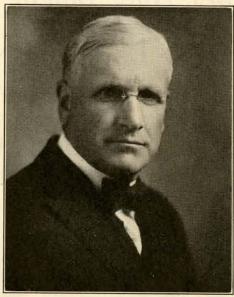
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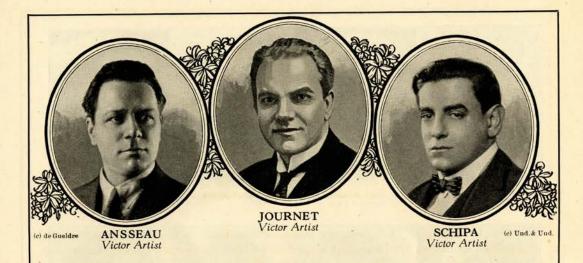
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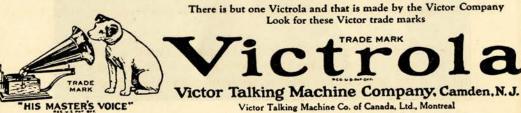
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## "AIDA"

## AN OPERA IN FOUR ACTS AND SEVEN SCENES Text by Ghislanzoni

Music by Giuseppe Verdi

#### Saturday Evening, October 3

- Act. I. Scene 1. A hall in the palace of the King of Egypt. Ministers and statesmen are assembled to select a captain to lead the armies against Amonasro, King of Ethiopia. A hostage of war, Aida, the unknown daughter of Amonasro, lives at Memphis as a slave. She loves Radames, a young warrior, but has a dangerous rival in Amneris, Princess of Egypt. Aida's father has made an incursion into Egypt to deliver her. Incited by Amneris, the high priest Ramfis declares that Radames has been selected by Isis to be leader of the army against Amonasro. Aida's heart is torn between her love for her father and for Radames, and she remains at Memphis.
- Act I. Scene 2. Temple of Vulcan. Solemn ceremonies and dance of priestesses. Consecration of Radames as captain of the Egyptian armies.
- Act II. Scene 1. Amneris's chamber. Festal dances and music. Amneris receives her slave Aida and cunningly draws from her the avowal of her love for Radames.
- Act II. Scene 2. Radames returns victorious. In the grand triumphal march Amonasro appears as a captive, unrecognized except by Aida. He declares that the Ethiopian king has been slain in battle. The prisoners are released at the request of Radames and the grateful King of Egypt declares him his successor and the betrothed of his daughter.
- Act III. Scene 1. Banks of the Nile, near the temple of Isis. Amonasro and Aida are held as hostages and he forces her to learn from Radames the position of the Egyptian army. Radames only seemingly consents to become the husband of Amneris, and is persuaded through love for Aida to give her the information required by her father. When Amonasro reveals his identity and flies with Aida the despairing Radames allows himself to be taken prisoner.
- Act IV. Scene 1. A hall in the temple of justice. Amneris desires to save Radames but he repulses her, and the priest condemns Radames to be buried alive.
- Act IV. Scene 2. Burial place in the temple of Vulcan. Aida has come to die with Radames. They accept their terrible fate, while Amneris prays above their tomb in the midst of the priestly ceremonies and the jubilant dance of the priestesses.

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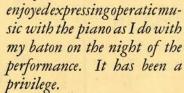
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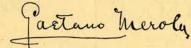
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greatness of a musical instrument for the concert stage—but do they determine the greatness of a piano for the home? For a concert piano is utterly different from a home piano. Chickering does not make its bid for favor merely on the strength of the artists who use it.

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## "LA TOSCA"

#### AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS

Text based on Sardou's drama by Illica and Giacosa

Music by Giacomo Puccini

#### Sunday Afternoon, October 4

- Act I. The Church of Sant' Andrea Della Valle. Angelotti, an escaped political offender, seeks refuge therein. A sacristan enters, followed by Cavaradossi, who proceeds to put the finishing touches on his painting of the Magdalen. Tosca arrives unexpectedly, and professing to see in the likeness of the portrait her fancied rival accuses her lover of infidelity. After her departure Cavaradossi helps Angelotti plot his escape—but the sound of a cannon shot discloses the fact that his escape has been discovered. People from the church rush in, headed by the sacristan. Suddenly there is silence; Scarpia stands there with Spoletta and his agents. During the search Scarpia finds the painter's basket emptied of food and wine. He also finds a fan of the Marchesa, and Tosca, jealous, departs in anger. Scarpia follows her and avows his love.
- Act II. Scarpia's room in the Farnese Palace. Scarpia awaits Tosca's arrival for supper. Spoletta enters with Mario, Angelotti having eluded him. Mario is questioned without result, and sent to the torture chamber. Scarpia describes to Tosca in detail her lover's anguish until, utterly prostrated, she divulges Angelotti's hiding-place. Mario denounces Tosca for her betrayal of the secret. Distant drums announce the probable victory of Bonaparte over Scarpia's forces. Scarpia demands Tosca's virtue as the price of her lover's freedom; she finally pretends to yield. Scarpia orders a mock execution of Mario; is persuaded to give Tosca safe-conduct for Tosca and Mario to leave the country. She then stabs Scarpia.
- Act III. The platform of Castle Sant' Angelo. Mario, awaiting execution at dawn, writes Tosca a farewell letter. She enters with the safe-conduct and explains the need for a mock execution. It is real, however, and Tosca not knowing this playfully compliments Mario on his marvelous acting. As she realizes the truth Spoletta enters with soldiers to take Tosca prisoner, but she thrusts him back, and leaps from the castle parapet to her death.

## IN APPRECIATION



As the 1925 season of the San Francisco Opera Company draws to a close the management wishes to express its appreciation to the music loving public for the wonderful support given this undertaking.

When the San Francisco Opera Association three years ago undertook the task of giving this city its own opera organization it was with a lofty ideal to provide opera that would rival the best to be heard anywhere. How fully this has been realized through the genius and initiative of Gaetano Merola, our general director, has been evidenced in each and every one of the performances during the present season.

But all of this artistic achievement would have been in vain had it not met with the sympathetic and appreciative support of an intelligent public. The attendance during the present season has surpassed all previous operatic records in San Francisco and has reimpressed the world at large with the fact that this city is one of the cultural centers of today.

For this support the management wishes to express its deep appreciation and assure the public that this will make possible even greater triumphs in the seasons to follow.



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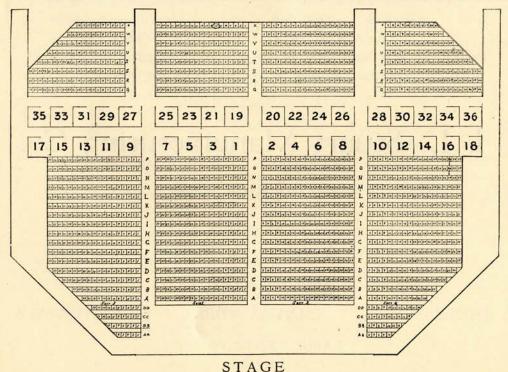
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With a view to building for the future a group of outstanding young business and professional men were called together recently by President Robert I. Bentley and an organization effected which has since been called the Men's Auxiliary. The purpose of this movement was to draft the new interest and new enthusiasm of these young men into the work of the association and prepare for the day when they will carry on the undertaking initiated three years ago by the present officers of the organization.

The Men's Auxiliary has been one of the best contributions to the advancement of the association's interests this season. After effecting their preliminary organization the young men immediately set about furthering public interest in the approaching season and devising ways and means to assure capacity performances.

The membership of the Auxiliary is as follows:

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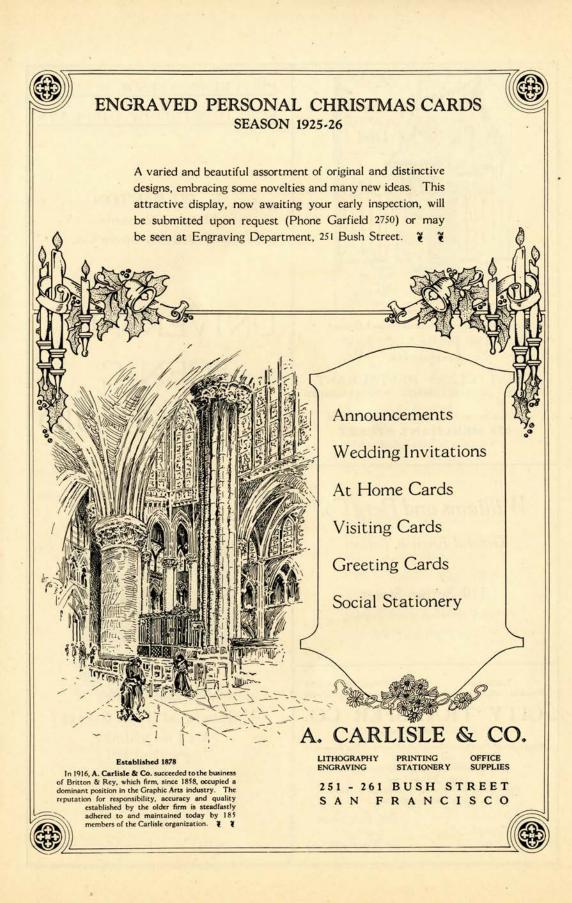
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