

Siegfried

1935

Wednesday, November 6, 1935 7:30 PM

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*Gaetano Merola • General Director*



*Thirteenth Annual Season*

NOVEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 2, 1935

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The inclusion of Richard Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" in an opera repertoire is important under any circumstances. When the presentation marks the premiere performances of that cycle by an opera company, the event takes on vastly added significance. It is, then, with more than usual pride that the San Francisco Opera Association presents the San Francisco Opera Company in its Thirteenth Annual Season.

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**GAETANO MEROLA**  
 General Director



ARTUR BODANZKY



GAETANO MEROLA



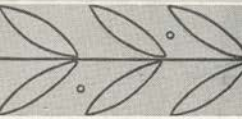
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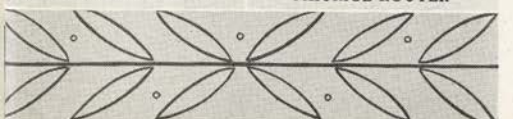
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Due to the vision, organizing powers, inspired leadership and untiring labor of Gaetano Merola, San Francisco has been restored to her traditional place among opera-producing cities. As General Director of the San Francisco Opera Company since its inception in 1923, Mr. Merola has guided the artistic affairs of the company with the hand of genius. He has brought to San Francisco the world's greatest opera artists in performances whose brilliance has spread the fame of our music-loving city broadcast; and successfully realized his ambition to produce locally grand opera comparable to that of any place in the world.



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# The San Francisco Opera Company

GAETANO MEROLA, *General Director*

Given paramount importance by premiere performances of Richard Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen," the San Francisco Opera Company, maintained by the San Francisco Opera Association, begins its Thirteenth Annual Season on Friday evening, November 1, and brings it to an end Monday evening, December 2.

## Conductors

ARTUR BODANZKY                      RICHARD LERT                      GAETANO MEROLA  
*Assistant Conductors:* Nino Comel, Antonio Dell' Orefice,  
Karl Riedel, Maurice Rouyer, Hermann Weigert

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CHASE BAROMELO, *bass*; RICHARD BONELLI, *baritone*; HANS CLEMENS, *tenor*;  
LOUIS D'ANGELO, *bass*; DORIS DOE, *contralto*; NELSON EDDY, *baritone*;  
KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD, *soprano*; HELEN GAHAGAN, *soprano*; ALFREDO GANDOLFI, *baritone*;  
COE GLADE, *soprano*; HELEN JEPSON, *soprano*; EMANUEL LIST, *bass*;  
DOROTHEE MANSKI, *soprano*; GIOVANNI MARTINELLI, *tenor*;  
KATHRYN MEISLE, *contralto*; LAURITZ MELCHIOR, *tenor*; GRACE OMERON, *soprano*;  
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IRENE FREMONT, *contralto*; GERTRUDE GERDAU, *soprano*;  
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JOHN HOWELL, *baritone*; OLIVER JONES, *bass*; LINA KNOPH, *soprano*; MARIE LEANDRE, *soprano*;  
RAYMOND MARLOWE, *tenor*; JEAN MERRILL, *soprano*;  
HELEN NOSTROM, *soprano*; MARGARET O'DEA, *contralto*; FLORENCE RINGO, *soprano*;  
GEORGETTE SCHILLER, *soprano*; JEANETTE SHOLL, *soprano*; HENRI SHEFOFF, *bass*;  
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# Repertoire

## DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN

- DAS RHEINGOLD (WAGNER) *Friday Night, November 1, at 8:30*  
With Schorr, Marlowe, Clemens, Schutzensdorf, Windheim, Baromeo, Beattie, Eybel, Manski,  
Gandolfi, Meisle, Doe, Merrill, Omeron. BODANZKY, Conductor.
- DIE WALKURE (WAGNER) *Monday Night, November 4, at 7:30*  
With Flagstad, Rethberg, Meisle, Melchior, Schorr, Baromeo, Doe, Manski.  
BODANZKY, Conductor.
- SIEGFRIED (WAGNER) *Wednesday Night, November 6, at 7:30*  
With Melchior, Flagstad, Schorr, Schutzensdorf, Windheim, Baromeo, Meisle, Hardy.  
BODANZKY, Conductor.
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (WAGNER) *Saturday Afternoon, November 9, at 5:00*  
With Melchior, Flagstad, Schorr, Schutzensdorf, List, Manski, Meisle, Doe, Merrill, Omeron.  
BODANZKY, Conductor.

The opera will begin at 5:00 p. m. There will be an intermission of about two hours after the first act. The performance will be resumed at 8:30 sharp. No one will be seated after the curtain rises.

- AIDA (VERDI) *Monday Night, November 11, at 8:00*  
With Rethberg, Meisle, Martinelli, Eddy, Pinza, Beattie, Windheim, Watt.  
MEROLA, Conductor.
- MARTHA (VON FLOTOW) *Saturday Night, November 16, at 8:15*  
With Schipa, Jepson, Glade, Sheffoff, D'Angelo, Beattie. LERT, Conductor.
- LA JUIVE (HALEVY) *Monday Night, November 18, at 8:00*  
With Martinelli, Rethberg, Hardy, Clemens, Pinza, Howell. LERT, Conductor.
- WERTHER (MASSENET) *Friday Night, November 22, at 8:15*  
With Schipa, Glade, Gerdau, Gandolfi, D'Angelo, Marlowe, Howell. MEROLA, Conductor.
- BARBER OF SEVILLE (ROSSINI) *Monday Night, November 25, at 8:15*  
With Schipa, Bonelli, D'Angelo, Tumminia, Pinza. MEROLA, Conductor.
- LA BOHEME (PUCCINI) *Wednesday Night, November 27, at 8:15*  
With Jepson, Smith, Martinelli, Bonelli, Pinza, Gandolfi, D'Angelo. LERT, Conductor.
- RIGOLETTO (VERDI) *Friday Night, November 29, at 8:00*  
With Bonelli, Hardy, Schipa, Pinza, Gruninger, Beattie, Alibertini. MEROLA, Conductor.
- SUOR ANGELICA (PUCCINI) *Monday Night, December 2, at 8:30*  
With Gahagan, O'Dea, Hartman, Gruninger, Steed, Young, Callahan, Fremont, Schiller,  
Ferguson. MEROLA, Conductor.

### Extra Performances

- DIE WALKURE (WAGNER) *Wednesday Night, November 13, at 7:30*  
With Flagstad, Rethberg, Meisle, Melchior, Schorr, List, Doe, Manski.  
BODANZKY, Conductor.
- OPERA-TUNITIES *Friday Night, November 15, at 8:15*  
OPERA ARTISTS — MOVIE STARS — RADIO FAVORITES — CHORUS — BALLET  
A Bit of MUSIC — MIRTH — MYSTERY. A Lot of Fun
- AIDA (VERDI) *Saturday Night, November 23, at 8:00*  
With Rethberg, Glade, Martinelli, Bonelli, Pinza, Beattie, Windheim, Watt.  
MEROLA, Conductor.
- MARTHA (VON FLOTOW) *Sunday Matinee, December 1, at 2:15*  
With Schipa, Jepson, Glade, Sheffoff, D'Angelo, Beattie. LERT, Conductor.



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PIERRE MONTEUX, Conductor  
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FRIDAY AFTERNOONS, 2:30

SATURDAY NIGHTS, 8:30

January 10  
January 24  
January 31  
February 14  
February 28  
March 13  
March 27  
April 3  
April 17  
April 24

January 11  
January 25  
February 1  
February 15  
February 29  
March 14  
March 28  
April 4  
April 18  
April 25

FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS (Opera House)

Sat., Apr. 11, 10:30 A.M.  
Sat., Apr. 18, 10:30 A.M.

Wed., Apr. 22, 4:00 P.M.  
Sat., Apr. 25, 10:30 A.M.

*These concerts will be conducted by Ernest Schelling of  
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THREE CONCERTS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Sun., Jan. 26, 3:15 P.M.  
Sun., Mar. 15, 3:15 P.M.  
Sun., Apr. 5, 3:15 P.M.

Grete Stueckgold, Soprano  
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### **Tenors, Baritones and Basses**

Evaristo Alibertini, Avito Alviti, Rudolph Bain, Otello Baldacci, Louis Braunstein, William H. Burgess, Adolfo Chiarpotti, John Courtney, Amerigo Del Grande, Clevene Martin Friberg, Giovanni Germanetti, Martin Green, Paul Guenter, William W. Hicks, Alois Hofman, Carlos E. Jarquini, Nikolas Kemarsky, Max Lorenzini, Allan C. Louw, Giulio Mancini, Benjamin A. Martin, Carlo Mennucci, Julian G. Nelson, Ruggerio Pelosi, Laurence R. Sherill, Lionel Somers, Marco Sorisio, Sam Stekol, Michael Susoff, John S. Tehan, Petronio Urrea, Alberto Vanucci, Paul Wright.

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SAN FRANCISCO

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# Der Ring des Nibelungen

**SIEGFRIED**    Wednesday Night, November 6, at 7:30

Opera in three acts

Music and Text (in German) by Richard Wagner

Siegfried . . . . .	LAURITZ MELCHIOR
Brunnhilde . . . . .	KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD
The Wanderer ( <i>Wotan</i> ) . . . . .	FRIEDRICH SCHORR
Alberich . . . . .	GUSTAV SCHUTZENDORF
Mime . . . . .	MAREK WINDHEIM
Fafner . . . . .	CHASE BAROMEIO
Erda . . . . .	KATHRYN MEISLE
Bird of the Forest . . . . .	EMILY HARDY

Conductor: ARTUR BODANZKY

Stage Director: ARMANDO AGNINI

TIME AND PLACE: *Legendary*

Act I    A Forest, at One Side a Cave

Act II    The Dragon's Cave in the Forest

Act III    The Foot of a Rocky Mountain

*Bell rings three minutes before the curtain rises*

*Encores not permitted*

[Over]



## *The Story*

### **ACT I**

Siegfried, the son born to Sieglinde, dead in child birth, has grown into fearless and savage young manhood under the care of Mime, who has hoped through him to regain the ring from Fafner, guarding the treasure in the form of a dragon. Mime has been unable to forge a sword with which to slay Fafner and, when the curtain rises, is at the forge in another attempt as Siegfried enters, leading a bear, to the dwarf's terror. Siegfried frees the bear, seizes the new sword and breaks it into bits. Questioning Mime, he learns the story of his birth and of the shattered Nothung sword, which he commands Mime to repair. Wotan, as the Wanderer, appears. From him Mime learns that "he who knows no fear" may reforge the Nothung. Siegfried, returning, remakes the sword in his own manner, and with it splits the anvil at a blow.

### **ACT II**

Alberich watches at the Dragon's cave, hoping for a chance to secure the ring. Wotan tells him of Siegfried's approach. Alberich warns Fafner, promising him life in exchange for the ring. But the Dragon promptly refuses. Wotan departs in crashing thunder. As the day dawns Siegfried and Mime arrive. Mime reconnoiters the Dragon's cave while Siegfried, revelling in the awakening life of the forest, attempts to imitate the bird songs. Fafner, aroused by a blast from Siegfried's horn, drags his hideous form from the cave. But Siegfried, unafraid, rushes to the attack and thrusts his sword through the monster's breast. Dying, Fafner warns him against Mime. The taste of the Dragon's blood on his fingers gives Siegfried new power. He can now understand the language of the bird, which bids him remove the treasure, the tarnhelm and the ring. Warned by the bird of a poisoned drink proffered him by Mime, he forthwith slays the dwarf and, led by the bird, hastens to the sleeping Brunnhilde in her circle of fire.

### **ACT III**

Wotan invokes the aid of Erda, the all-knowing, telling her of his hopes for the world's redemption through a new race sprung from the union of Siegfried and Brunnhilde. But she can tell him nothing, referring him to the Norns for knowledge of the future. Already Siegfried approaches. Outside the circle of fire, Wotan bars the youth's way. But with a mighty blow from his god-made sword, Siegfried beats down the pointed spear. Wotan realizing the end of the gods is at hand, makes way as Siegfried, with sounding horn, pursues his climb up the rock upon which Brunnhilde sleeps. (Scene 2) Siegfried arouses the beautiful sleeper with a kiss. Brunnhilde, who had fallen asleep a goddess but now awakens a human, first resents the passion of the kiss. But she cannot resist the tenderness which overcomes her, and abandons herself to the power of love with the coming of the dusk of the Gods.



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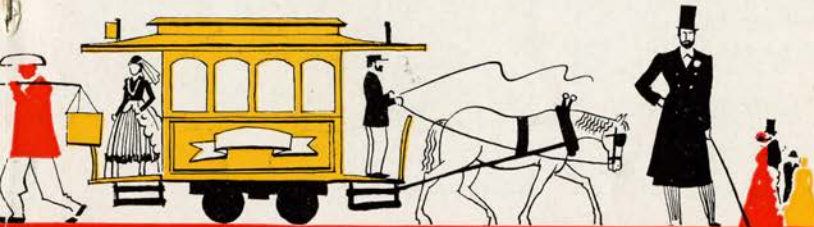
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[Over]



## *The Story*

### **PRELUDE**

It is night. The Norns spin the golden thread of the world's destiny. But the curse of Alberich snaps the cord. Their power of prophesy is ended, and they descend into the earth. Dawn reveals Siegfried and Brunnhilde emerging from their dwelling. In search of fresh adventure Siegfried, giving Brunnhilde the ring mounts her horse, Grane, and rides off to the Rhine.

### **ACT I**

Gunther and Gutrune talk with their half-brother, Hagen, conceived by Alberich, to regain the ring. Hagen arouses in Gunther a desire for Brunnhilde, in Gutrune a desire for Siegfried. A magic potion will gain their end. Hagen welcomes Siegfried who pledges loyalty to Gunther as Gutrune serves him the draught of oblivion. Siegfried drinks and his love for Brunnhilde forgotten, is enraptured with Gutrune. To gain her, he agrees to help Gunther with Brunnhilde and donning the Tarnhelm, changes himself into Gunther's form. Sped by the scheming Hagen, the two men depart. (Scene 2): Brunnhilde dreams of her absent lover when the Valkyrie, Waltraute, brings her a plea from Wotan to cast the fatal ring into the Rhine. Brunnhilde refuses. At the sound of Siegfried's horn she rushes to meet her lover. But it is Gunther in Siegfried's form. Siegfried, in the guise of Gunther, now appears and, his love forgotten, overpowers Brunnhilde and wrests the ring from her. She is forced into the grotto and in the night Siegfried follows but virtuously lays his naked sword between them.

### **ACT II**

Hagen is asleep. In his dreams Alberich spurs him to renewed effort to secure the ring. With the dawn Siegfried arrives in his own form. He announces the coming of Gutrune and Brunnhilde, and is wedded to Gutrune. On her coming, Brunnhilde declares Siegfried to have wed her with the ring. But Siegfried, his mind a blank, denies. Infuriated, Brunnhilde convinces Gunther that Siegfried has betrayed him and with Hagen they plot his death, setting the time for a hunt on the morrow. They then join in the wedding march of Siegfried and Gutrune.

### **ACT III**

Siegfried, strayed from the hunt to the banks of the river, comes upon the Rhine Maidens. They beg him to give up the ring. He refuses and they predict his death. The huntsmen arrive. Plied by Hagen with another magic potion, Siegfried, his memory returning, tells of his past life and Gunther hears the truth of his passage through the flames and marriage to Brunnhilde. The ravens of Wotan fly overhead. Siegfried turns to look and Hagen plunges a spear into his vulnerable back. (Scene 2): Gutrune, awaiting Siegfried's return, swoons at sight of his dead body. Hagen claims the ring and fatally stabs Gunther who tries to prevent his taking it. Brunnhilde commands a funeral pyre to consume Siegfried's body. With Grane, the horse, she follows her hero into death as the conflagration destroys Valhalla and begins a new world.

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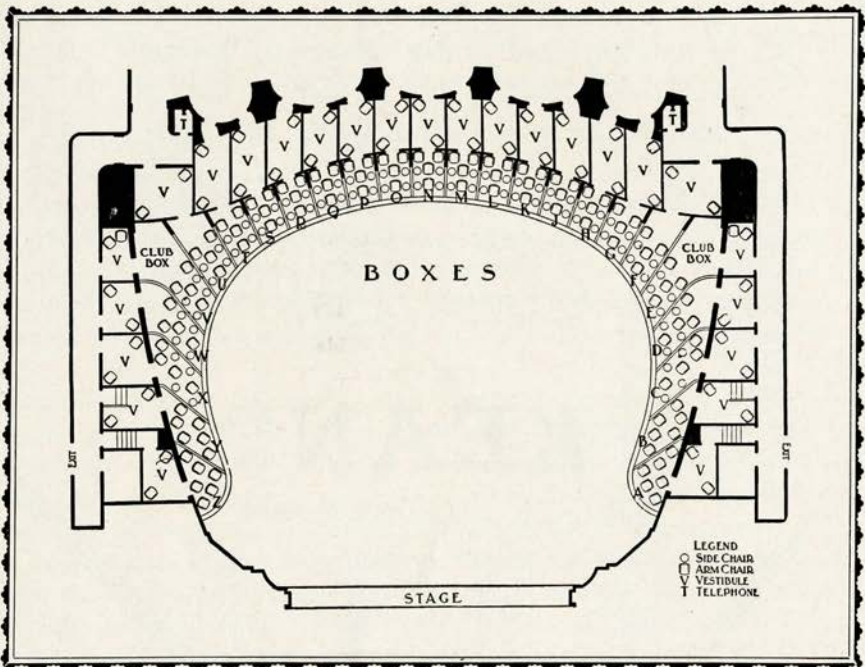
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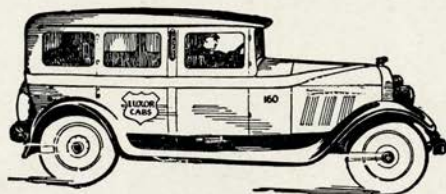
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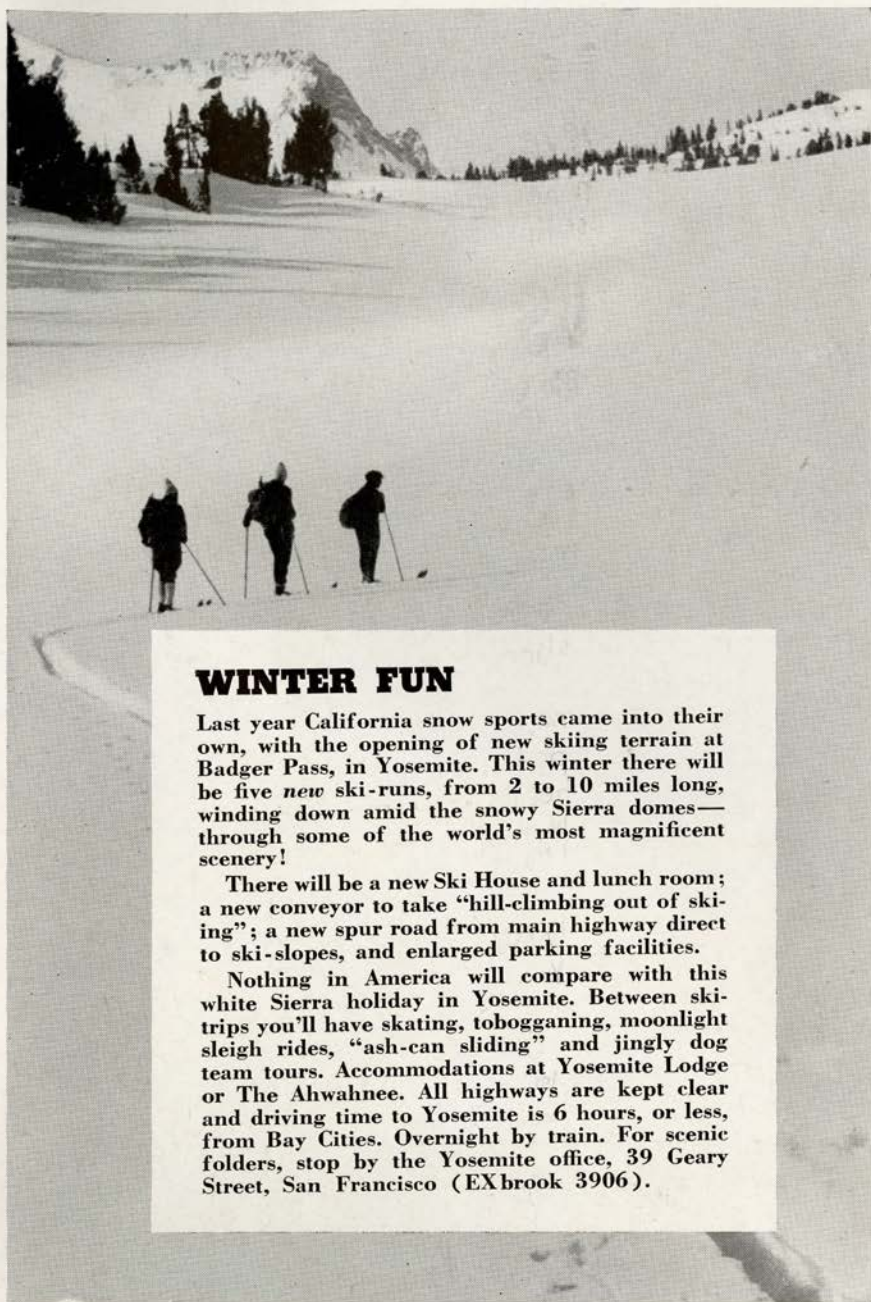
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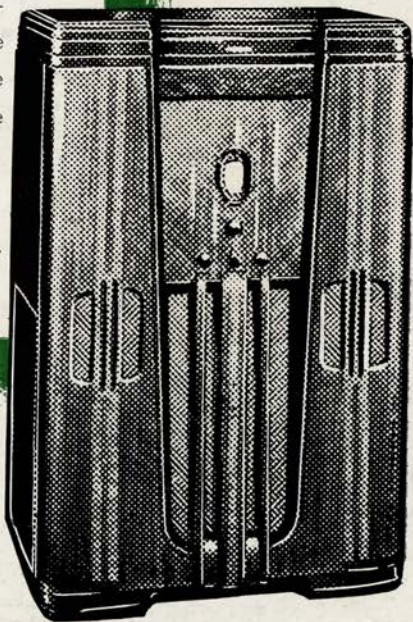


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