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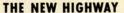
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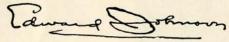
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Opera in two acts and three scenes. Music by Ludwig van Beethoven. Text (in German) by Joseph Sonnleitner from Bouilly's "Lénore, ou l'Amour Conjugal"

FIRST TIME BY THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA COMPANY

THE CAST

Florestan, a Spanish nobleman
Leonore, his wife, known as Fidelio
Don Pizarro, Governor of the State Prison
Rocco, chief jailer
Marzellina, daughter of Rocco
Jaquino, prison gate-keeper
Don Fernando, Prime Minister of Spain
First Prisoner
Second Prisoner

RENE MAISON
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*LAWRENCE SHERRILL *San Francisco Opera Début

Prisoners, Guards, Soldiers, Townspeople

Conductor: FRITZ REINER
Stage Director: HERBERT GRAF

Chorus Masters: WILLIAM TYROLER, HERMANN WEIGERT

TIME AND PLACE: About 1800; Near Seville, Spain
ACT I Courtyard of the State Prison
ACT II Scene 1 A Dungeon in the Prison
Scene 2 Before Don Fernando's Castle

Settings designed by HERBERT GRAF

SEATS FOR "LOHENGRIN" THURSDAY NIGHT ARE AVAILABLE AT SHERMAN, CLAY BOX OFFICE

Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

Encores not permitted

THE STORY

Note: Florestan, a noble Spaniard and valued friend of Don Fernando, the prime minister, has incurred the hatred of Pizarro, governor of a fortress used for the confinement of political prisoners. Pizarro has gotten Florestan into his power, circulated a report of his death, and confined him in the deepest of the prison's dungeons. Leonore, suspecting Pizarro, has disguised herself as a young man and, under the name of Fidelio, has secured employment in the prison where she has gained the goodwill of Rocco, chief jailer, and won the affection of Marzelline, his daughter, to the neglect of the girl's rustic lover, Jacquino.

ACT I

After Jacquino's not too well received love-making to Marzelline has had many interruptions, Leonore enters heavily laden with provisions, much to the pleasure of Rocco. Implored by Leonore, he promises to take her to the forbidden dungeons, all save one, which he dare not. Pizarro, with officers and guards, arrives. Rocco gives to him dispatches one of which warns that Don Fernando has learned of his cruelty and is about to inspect the prison. Fearing that Florestan will be discovered, he attempts to bribe Rocco to kill him. Rocco refuses. Pizarro then orders him to dig a grave for the body. He, himself, will do the murder. Leonore overhears. Besought by Leonore and Marzelline, Rocco permits the prisoners to leave their cells and enter the courtyard. He tells Leonore that they are to go together to the dungeons to dig a grave. Leonore believes it to be for her husband. Pizarro, returning in a fury, orders the prisoners to be taken back to their cells.

ACT II

Florestan, chained to the wall, sings of a vision of Leonore and sinks exhausted upon his stony bench. Rocco, Leonore and Pizarro come into the dungeon. In the dim light Leonore can not be sure that the prisoner, whom they think asleep, is Florestan. She and Rocco dig the grave carrying on a duo-drama. Florestan raises his head and speaks to Rocco. Leonore recognizing him, falls senseless. Recovering, she implores Rocco to give Florestan the water he craves. She herself gives him a crust of bread. The grave ready, Rocco summons Pizarro. Entering, he orders that Leonore be sent away. She withdraws to the background, but springs forward as Pizarro's knife is about to descend and declaring her identity, protects Florestan's body with her own, facing Pizarro with drawn pistol. Trumpets sound the arrival of Don Fernando and Pizarro rushes away to meet him. (Scene 2) Don Fernando, with Pizarro and officers, enters the courtyard and the released state prisoners throw themselves at the Minister's feet. Rocco, with Florestan and Leonore, presses through the throng and reveals Pizarro's attempted crime. Don Fernando orders that Leonore herself shall unlock the fetters from her husband. And happiness comes to all save Pizarro; to him disgrace.



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Mr. B.—Never enjoyed it more. I'm completely at peace with the world.

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Feb.	11	 Josef Hofmann, Pianist
Feb.	25	 GRISHA GOLUBOFF, Violinist
Mar.	11	 TILLY LOSCH, Danseuse
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Mar.	26				MISCHA ELMAN, Violinist
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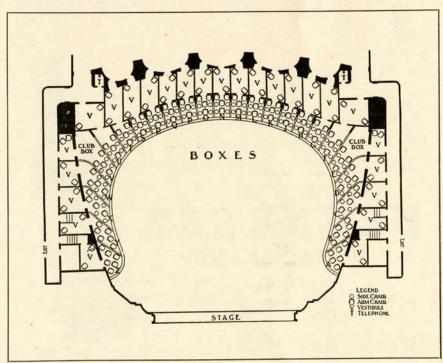
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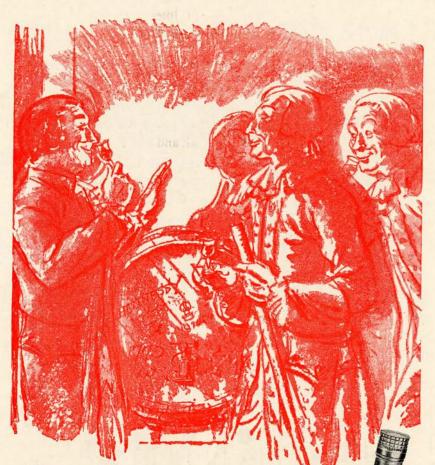
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THE STORY

ACTI

Lescaut, a bibulous officer of the guard, is awaiting the coming of a coach bearing Manon, his cousin, who is being sent to a convent in his care. On her arrival, Guillot Morfontaine, an old roué, who is at the inn with a party, takes a fancy to the petite and pretty Manon and pays her court. Amused but flattered, Manon rejects his advances and he is called away by Bretigny, his traveling companion. Among those who have been attracted by Manon is young Chevalier des Grieux on his way to begin study for the priesthood. He approaches and pays his addresses. Manon, not liking the prospect of life in a convent, accepts his proposal and suggests an elopement to Paris. They use Guillot's coach for the purpose.

ACT II

Des Grieux and Manon are living in an apartment in Paris. Des Grieux writes for his father's consent to his marriage with Manon and goes out to post the letter. The capricious Manon, having found that the modest style of their menage hardly meets with her desires, listens to the advances made to her by Bretigny, who promises a life of luxury. It ends by her conniving in a scheme, planned by the elder des Grieux, for carrying off the son from his questionable surroundings. However, she cannot leave without regret, for she knows how deeply des Grieux loves her. And when he returns from posting the letter and tells her of a dream that has come to him, it is with a heavy heart that she thinks of their separation. A knock at the door halts the dream narrative. Manon, suddenly repentant, vainly tries to prevent her lover's capture.

ACT III

Manon, as the mistress of Bretigny, is admired and feted. During an entertainment she has overheard a conversation between Bretigny and the elder des Grieux from which she learned that the latter's son is a novice at Saint Sulpice, and seized with a sudden return of her old love she has hastened to the seminary. But the father is before her. He does his utmost to persuade his son from taking up the holy life. Des Grieux stubbornly refuses and seeks the sanctity of his cell. Manon arrives and sends for him. Des Grieux prays for strength to resist her sensuous pleadings. It is in vain and he flees the monastery with her.

ACT IV

That Manon may have her love and still satisfy her craving for luxury, she persuades des Grieux to gamble. In a fashionable temple of chance he wins large sums from Guillot, who revenges himself by denouncing des Grieux as a cheat and Manon as an accomplice. Des Grieux and Manon are placed under arrest. The former is released through his father's influence, but Manon is sentenced to deportation.

ACT V

Des Grieux is waiting for Manon to pass on her way to the ship that is to carry her to her exile. She approaches and, exhausted by the harsh treatment and illness, falls by the wayside. Lescaut restrains des Grieux from attacking the guard and himself disappears with the sergeant that Manon may find peace in her lover's arms.



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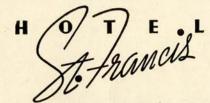
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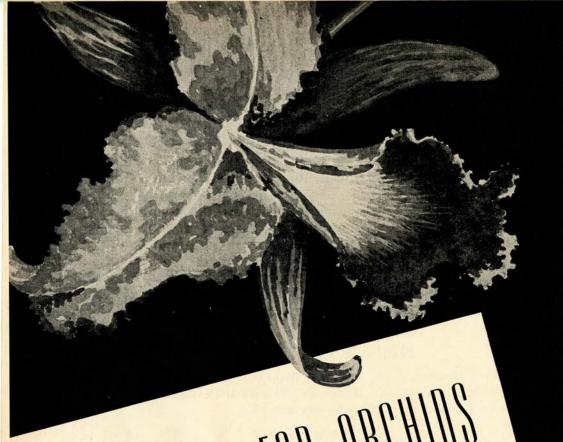
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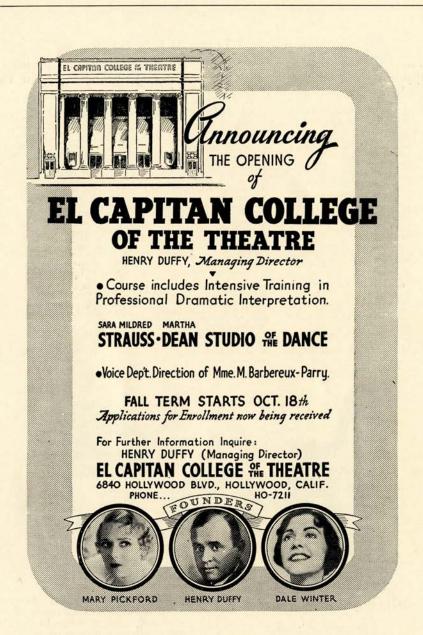
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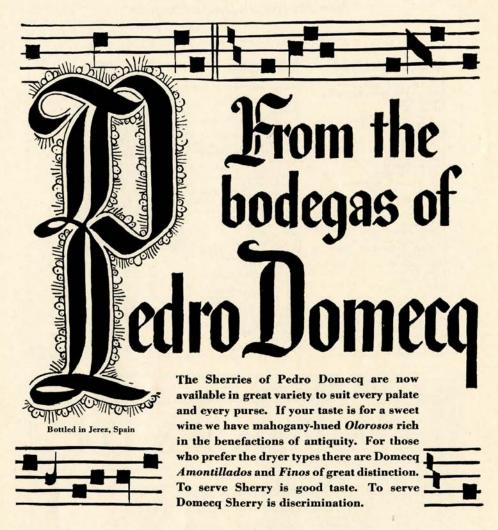
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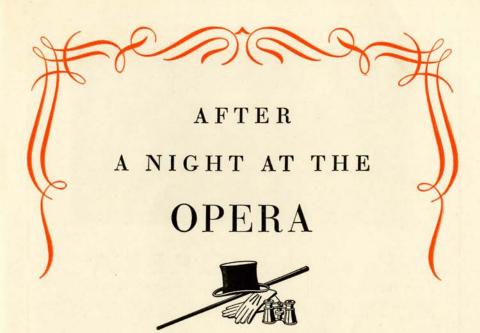
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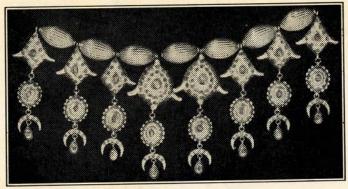
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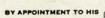
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