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Doth Anniversary of the San Trancisco Opera Company



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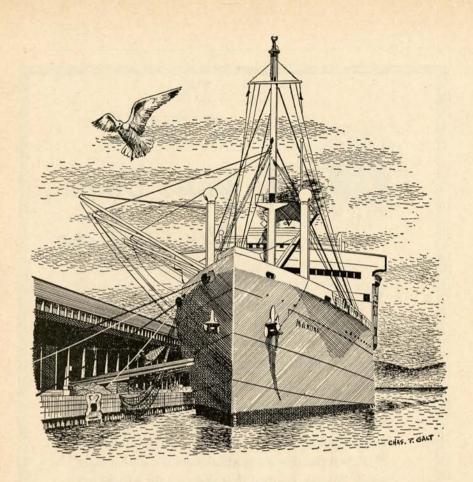
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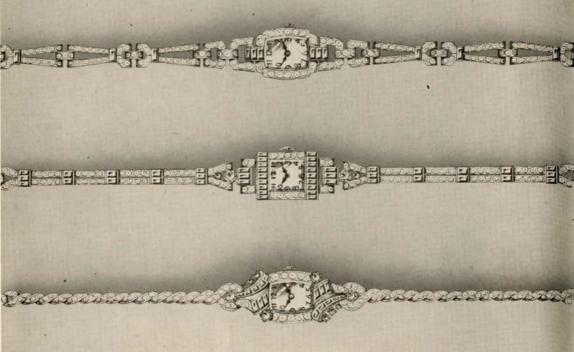
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With this season the San Francisco Opera Association celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the San Francisco Opera Company. It is a most propitious season marking, as it does, a quarter century of progress that has carried the fame of the company throughout the music world.

Founded by a small group who had faith in the music appreciation of San Franciscans, the record of the company has more than justified the soundness of that belief. At the season's close, the company will have given 548 performances of 74 operas.

No other city, with the single exception of New York, can cite such an unbroken record in grand opera. And yet, the San Francisco Opera Company no longer belongs to this city alone, but to the entire Pacific Coast. Annually, a number of these cities look forward to being host to the company. All of this, we feel, is a tribute not alone to the artistry and good management of the company, but to the people of San Francisco whose support has made this accomplishment possible.

The San Francisco Opera Association is grateful for this support and the untiring efforts and genius of Gaetano Merola, General Director of the company since its inception.

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TO GAETANO MEROLA AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ASSOCIATION

On this, the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Opera in San Francisco, we desire to mark that epoch and to pause and hear, in memory, the hundred arias that have enchanted the music-loving people of San Francisco, and to appraise the renown and distinction which the Opera has brought to the City of San Francisco. To you, and to the men and women who have made

possible this great and graceful contribution to the life of our community, we present at this hour our tribute of praise and offer the warmth of our cordial regard.

President of the Art Commission

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To Gaetano Merola...

The Musical Association of San Francisco happily participates in this 25th Anniversary celebration.

Through your patience, sagacity, and artistic aims the San Francisco Opera has become an institution of lasting value to the collective musical activity of the nation as well as to the audiences of the Pacific Coast.

Your great spirit, manifesting itself in behalf of music which shall have lasting importance to its public, is an asset we pay homage to—with the sincere wish that you will continue to guide us for many years to come.

May the future bring you the fulfillment of your fondest dreams.

Leonora Wood Armsby

Congratulations!

San Francisco owes an immense debt of gratitude to the San Francisco Opera Association, and to General Director Gaetano Merola. May I add my personal congratulations to the City's thanks on the occasion of the Association's 25th Anniversary.

Elmer E. Robinson

Judge of the Superior Court

R S E

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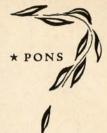
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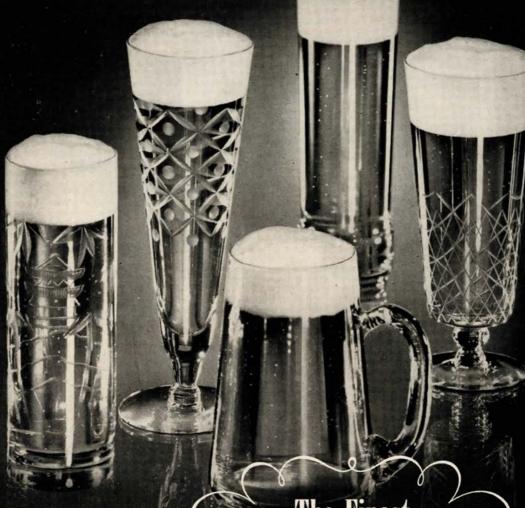
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With Albanese, Glaz, Heitman, Peerce, Valentino, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Lazzari, Olitzki, CIMARA, Conductor MADAMA BUTTERFLY (Puccini) .

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With Kirsten, Turner, Lawlor, Mary Jean Turnbull, Eileen Baldwin, Pinza, Kullman,
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Thursday Night, October 16, at 8:00 With same cast as Regular Series performance

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LA BOHEME (Puccini) Valentino, Moscona, Baccaloni, Cehanovsky, With Sayao, Hartzell, Hesslir Lorenzini, Vannucci, Tallone MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart) Hessling, Peerce, Valentino, Ilone MEROLA, Conductor

Sunday Matinee, October 5, at 2:00

With Pons, Glaz, Votipka, Heitman, Lawlor, Tibbett, Peerce, Alvary, Cehanovsky, Chabay, Harvey, Ligeti Sunday Matinee, October 12, at 2:00

Harvey, Ligeti LOUISE (Charpentier) Sunday Matinee, October 19, at 2:00 With same cast as Regular Performance

ADDED PERFORMANCES ROMEO AND JULIET (Gounod) Wednesday Night, September 24, at 8:00

With same cast as Popular Series performance

LA TRAVIATA (Verdi)

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FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 19, at 8:00

†DON GIOVANNI

Opera in two acts with ten scenes. Music by Wolfgang Amedeus Mozart.

Text by Lorenzo da Ponte.

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TIME AND PLACE: Seventeenth Century; Seville

Act 1: Scene 1: Courtyard of Palace of the Commandant

Scene 2: Street in Suburban Seville

Scene 3: In Don Giovanni's Palace

Scene 4: Outside Don Giovanni's Palace

Scene 5: Ballroom in Don Giovanni's Palace

Act II: Scene 1: Same as Scene 2. Act I

Scene 2: A Dark Hallway

Scene 3: A Cemetery

Scene 4: Room in Donna Anna's Palace

Scene 5: In Don Giovanni's Palace

†Extra performance of "Don Giovanni," October 8.

TICKETS FOR EXTRA PERFORMANCES AT OPERA BOX OFFICE, CITY OF PARIS

Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

The Story of "Don Giovanni"

ACT I—It is night. Leporello awaits his master, Don Giovanni, notorious enticer of women, outside the apartment of Donna Anna which he has surreptitiously entered. Believing the visitor to be her betrothed, Don Ottavio, Donna Anna does not at first repulse his advances. But discovering her mistake she cries for help. Don Giovanni now rushes into the courtyard, closely followed by Donna Anna. Her aged father, Don Pedro, the Commandant, coming in answer to her cries, is killed by Don Giovanni who, with Leporello, makes off in haste. Donna Anna, who has gone for help returns with Don Ottavio. He joins her in a solemn oath to avenge the death of her father.

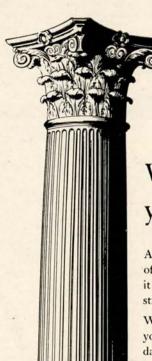
SCENE 2: On the approach of a carriage, Don Giovanni scents another amorous adventure. With Leporello he hides, lustfully awaiting its occupant. Dismayed to find her to be Donna Elvira, a former sweetheart whom he has discarded, he flees her upbraiding, leaving Leporello to explain. This the servant proceeds to do, reciting his master's thousand and one affairs with women. The nonplussed Donna Elvira swears she will have rich justice for her torn heart. The wedding party of Masetto and Zerlina enter. Don Giovanni comes upon them. Fascinated by the beauty of the bride, the libertine invites the entire company to his palace for refreshments. Threatening Masetto when he protests, Don Giovanni detains Zerlina as Leporello conducts the peasants to the palace. Don Giovanni's love-making to the bride is interrupted by the entrance of Donna Elvira, who has overheard. She denounces him and leads Zerlina away. Donna Anna and Don Ottavio arrive to seek the aid of Don Giovanni, of all persons, in finding the murderer of the Commandant, which the Don readily promises. The returning Donna Elvira, thinking she sees in Donna Anna another victim to the lust of Don Giovanni, exposes him. But he declares her to be demented and follows her away. As they depart, Donna Anna tells Don Ottavio that, by his voice, she thinks she recognizes in Don Giovanni the assassin under whose sword her father had fallen.

SCENE 3: Despite impending complications, Don Giovanni, returning with Leporello, sings merrily of wine and women.

SCENE 4: Masetto chides Zerlina for her flirtation with Don Giovanni. They hastily hide on the approach of the Don followed by a crowd of peasants gaily dressed for the ball. Perceiving Zerlina, Don Giovanni attempts to force her toward a pavillion. But, confronted by Masetto, he gallantly escorts her into the palace instead. Donna Elvira, Donna Anna and Don Ottavio, wearing masks and dominoes, enter. Leporello, from a balcony invites them to the ball.

SCENE 5: During the dance Don Giovanni leads Zerlina to the door of a side chamber and forces her to enter. Masetto, breaking loose from Leporello, spreads the alarm. At Zerlina's cry for help, Anna, Elvira and Ottavio rush to the rescue, breaking in the door. Don Giovanni, with drawn sword, escapes from the palace with Leporello.

(Continued)



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ACT II—Zerlina is now Donna Elvira's maid, and Don Giovanni again comes wooing. He exchanges hat and cloak with Leporello. When Donna Elvira comes to her window he pretends repentance. Moved by his appeal she comes into the plaza to meet him and is led away by the disguised Leporello. Now Don Giovanni sings beneath the window of Zerlina. His song is interrupted by Masetto, entering with villagers who have come on the hunt for him. Passing himself off as Leporello, he sends the villagers on a false scent, cudgels Masetto with his own weapons, and himself steals away. Masetto, bleeding, is found by Zerlina who assures him of her love and quietly leads him from the scene.

SCENE 2: Leporello, still disguised as Don Giovanni, enters with Donna Elvira. In attempting to get away from her, he takes the wrong door and to his confusion encounters the entering Donna Anna and Don Ottavio with their attendants. Leporello and Donna Elvira conceal themselves in different places. As Don Ottavio endeavors to console Donna Anna, they attempt to escape by the same door, but run into Masetto and Zerlina and a group of armed peasants. Masetto, thinking him to be Don Giovanni, drags Leporello to the front. In fear Leporello discloses his real identity and declares himself to be the dupe of Don Giovanni. All noisily claim the right to chastise Leporello but he makes off as they argue. Now convinced that Don Giovanni murdered the Commandant, Don Ottavio vows vengeance.

SCENE 3: It is moonlight. Visible on the monument of the Commandant is the inscription: "I here await the vengeance decreed by heaven unto the wretch who slew me." Don Giovanni and Leporello, arriving by different ways, unexpectedly come upon each other. Reciting their respective adventures, they re-exchange garments. The statue of the Commandant speaks. Mystified, they try to locate the sepulchural voice. Leporello is terrified. Don Giovanni ascribes it to a practical joker. He then commands Leporello to read the inscription. The trembling servant finds many excuses but hesitantly approaches the statue, bowing and scraping. Again the statue speaks. But Don Giovanni defiantly invites the marble image of the man he has murdered to a banquet at the palace.

SCENE 4: Don Ottavio, tenderly leading Donna Anna, soothes her grief as she laments the loss of her father.

SCENE 5: Don Giovanni superintends preparations for the evening's banquet. Donna Elvira entreats him to mend his ways but he ridicules her. She rushes away but immediately returns with a terrified shriek and escapes by another door. Leporello is sent to investigate but limps back in abject fear. Don Giovanni goes out to see for himself. The lights go out. Don Giovanni re-enters, backing before the statue of the Commandant. Terror strikes all hearts. Three times the marble figure commands Don Giovanni to repent. Three times Don Giovanni refuses. Hands of stone lay hold of him, flames envelop the surroundings and the licentious young nobleman, his life of lust come to an end, is carried by demons to his eternal punishment.

(FINALE) "Such his end—who doeth ill to like account the wicked ever did come—ever will."

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Mephistopheles	EZIO PINZA
Marguerite	*CLAUDIA PINZA
Valentine, her brother	*GIUSEPPE VALDENGO
Siebel, a young soldier in love with Margue	eriteHERTA GLAZ
Martha, chaperon of Marguerite	CLARAMAE TURNER
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TIME AND PLACE: Germany during the Sixteenth Century

Prologue: Faust's Study

Act I: A Public Square — The Kermesse

Act II: Marguerite's Garden

Act III: Scene 1: In the Cathedral

Scene 2: A street scene

Scene 3: Marguerite's Garden several

months later

Act IV: The Prison

†Added performance of "Faust," October 6.

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Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

The Story of "Faust"

PROLOGUE—Faust, an aged philosopher, having passed his lonesome life in study, longs for his lost youth and is planning suicide when attracted by the joyousness of the young people about him. Mephistopheles, the devil incarnate, appears in answer to a summons uttered in desperation. With the beautiful Marguerite as a lure he does not find it difficult to bargain with the old philosopher for his soul, and a magic potion brings him youth.

ACT I—Valentine, about to leave for the war, entrusts his sister, Marguerite, to Siebel who loves her. It is Kermess time and there is festive drinking. Faust and Mephistopheles mingle with the townspeople. Mephistopheles, scorning proffered wine, causes a nectar vintage to flow from the sign over the inn door. He proposes a toast to Marguerite. Valentine resents this with his sword, which Mephistopheles breaks in two. When Valentine holds the two pieces before him in the shape of a cross Mephistopheles shrinks away. In the midst of dancing which now begins, Marguerite appears. She is charmed by Faust, who had retained the wisdom of his years when he became invested with the form and charm of youth.

ACT II—Siebel leaves flowers at Marguerite's door. They wither before the curse of Mephistopheles (uttered in Act I) and cannot be revived. Later Faust comes with his now constant companion, Mephistopheles, and places a casket of jewels at her window. Together, they hide to watch Marguerite when she opens her door to the flowers and to the jewels. Marguerite revels in the ornaments. Her rapturous song brings the querulous Martha, her companion, to the scene. Mephistopheles draws Martha into an amusing flirtation while Faust approaches Marguerite, who is completely won by his ardent protestations of love. Bidding Faust farewell, Marguerite wafts him a kiss as she enters the house. The casement opens and the enraptured Marguerite pours out the happiness of her heart into the night. Faust rushes to the window and clasps her in his arms where she lies fainting.

ACT III—A year and a half have passed. Marguerite, abandoned in her shame and deserted by Faust, cannot find peace from the scorn of her townsmen even in church. But Siebel, true to Valentine's trust in him, remains faithful to her. Valentine returns from the fighting to find Faust haunting Marguerite's window and Mephistopheles serenading her with an insulting song. Engaging in sword play to avenge his sister, Valentine is killed by Faust and dies, cursing her.

ACT IV—Marguerite, half demented, is in prison awaiting execution for the murder of her child. She takes happiness in the visit of Faust, who, with Mephistopheles, has come to deliver her. In her joy at again being in his arms, her life passes out and Mephistopheles' curses avail nothing against the sword of the archangel who guides the soul of Marguerite to heaven as Faust is dragged to perdition by his infernal master to fulfill his compact.

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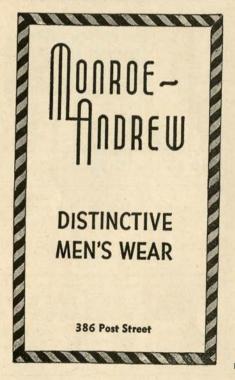


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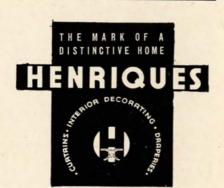
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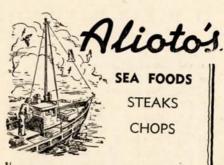


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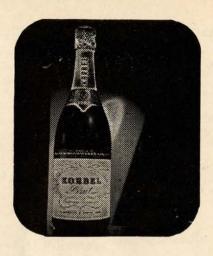
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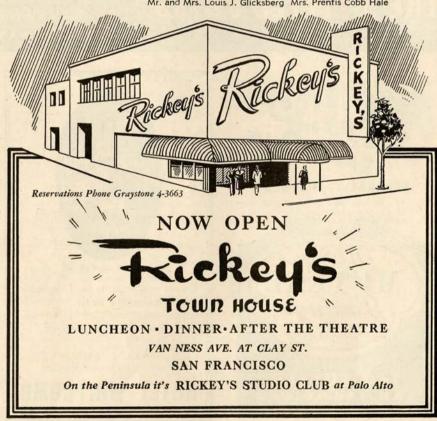
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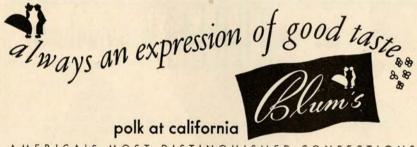
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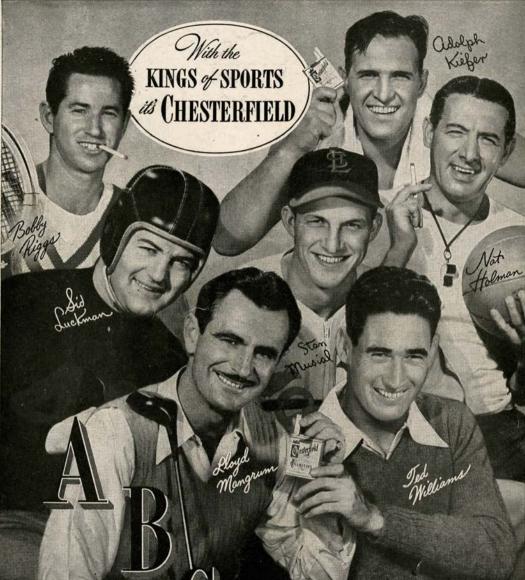
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Prologue: Faust's Study

1: A Public Square - The Kermesse

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Act III: Scene 1: In the Cathedral

Scene 2: The Soldier's Chorus

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Act IV: The Prison

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