

La Gioconda

1947

Tuesday, September 30, 1947 8:00 PM

Thursday, October 16, 1947 8:00 PM

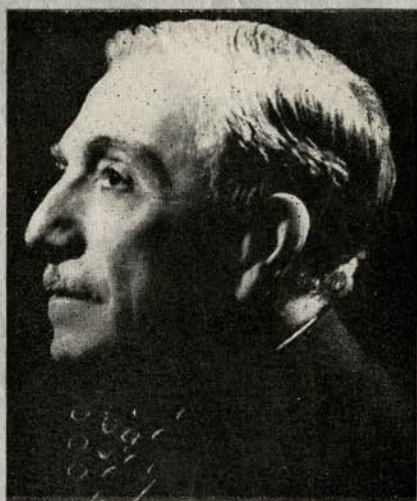
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25th

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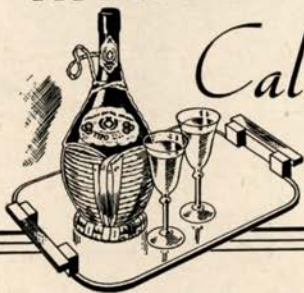
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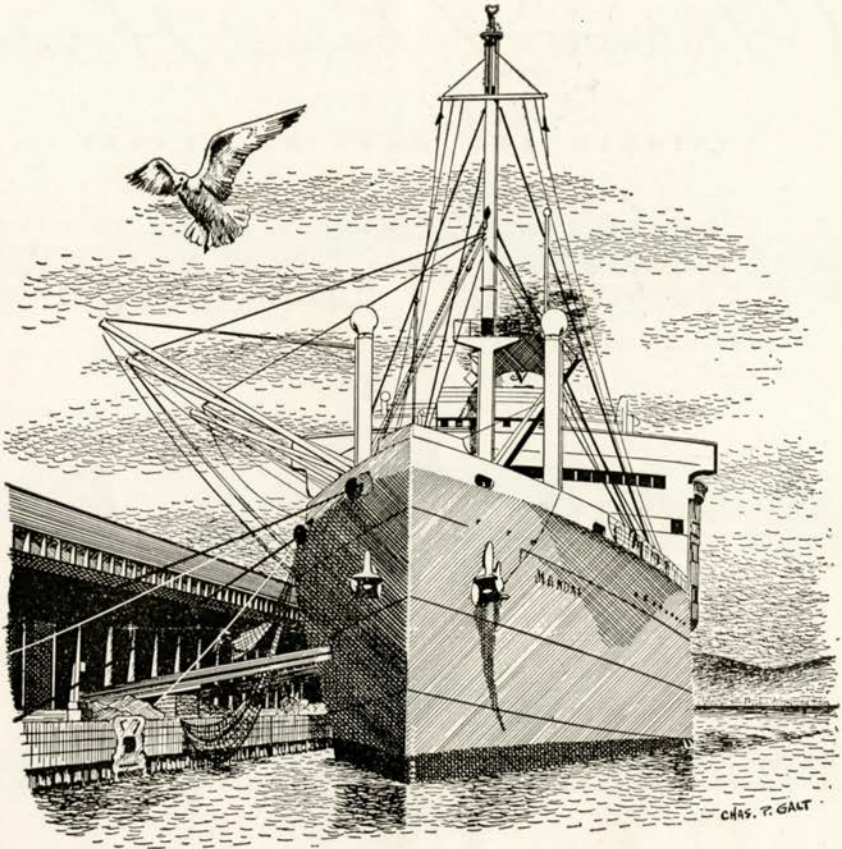
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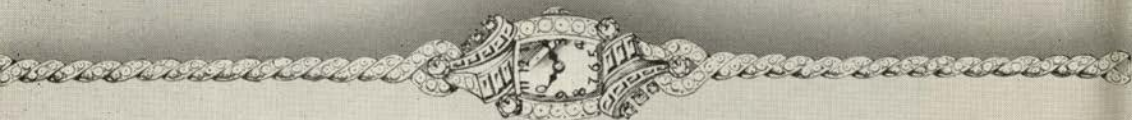
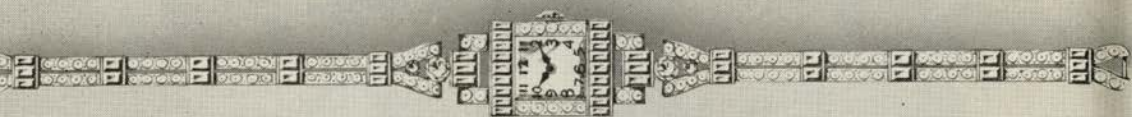
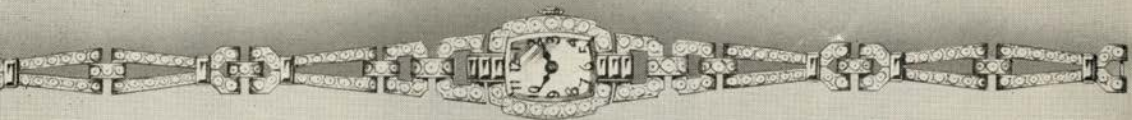
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Founded by a small group who had faith in the music appreciation of San Franciscans, the record of the company has more than justified the soundness of that belief. At the season's close, the company will have given 548 performances of 74 operas.

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.

Kenneth Monteagle

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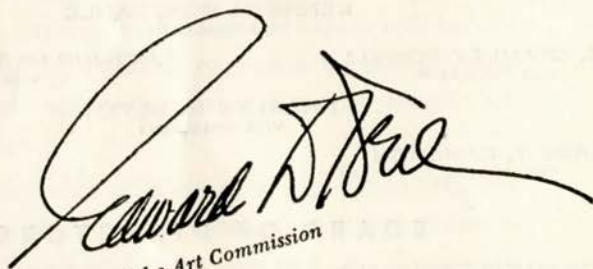
The Art Commission of San Francisco

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.

Sincerely,



President of the Art Commission

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EVARISTO ALIBERTINI BARITONE	COLIN HARVEY BARITONE	FLORENCE QUARTARARO SOPRANO
LORENZO ALVARY BASS	ELMA HEITMAN SOPRANO	REGINA RESNIK SOPRANO
SALVATORE BACCALONI BASS	ESTER V. HESSLING SOPRANO	STELLA ROMAN SOPRANO
EILEEN BALDWIN CONTRALTO	RAOUL JOBIN TENOR	BIDU SAYAO SOPRANO
KURT BAUM TENOR	DOROTHY KIRSTEN SOPRANO	ALLEN SCHMIDLING TENOR
NORMAN BENSON BARITONE	CHARLES KULLMAN TENOR	MARTIAL SINGER BARITONE
DORA BISH SOPRANO	KATHLEEN LAWLOR SOPRANO	MARY JANE SPRY SOPRANO
EILEEN BROWNE SOPRANO	ERICH LAWRENCE TENOR	SET SVANHOLM TENOR
BEVERLY CAMPBELL SOPRANO	VIRGILIO LAZZARI BASS	GEORGE TALLONE TENOR
GEORGE CEHANOVSKY BARITONE	DESIRE LIGETI BASS	BLANCHE THEBOM CONTRALTO
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NADINE CONNER SOPRANO	PATRICK McVEY BARITONE	HELEN TRAUBEL SOPRANO
ELEANOR CORYELL SOPRANO	BENJAMIN MARTIN BARITONE	MARY JEAN TURNBULL SOPRANO
GEORGE CZAPLICKI BARITONE	NICOLA MOSCONA BASS	CLARAMAE TURNER CONTRALTO
GALLIANO DANELUZ TENOR	ROBIN NELSON BARITONE	GIUSEPPE VALDENGIO BARITONE
FLOYD DAVIS TENOR	KAYTON NESBITT TENOR	FRANCESCO VALENTINO BARITONE
ALESSIO DE PAOLIS TENOR	WALTER DLITZKI BARITONE	EDWIN VANNUCCI BARITONE
HERTA GLAZ CONTRALTO	JAN PEERCE TENOR	THELMA VOTIPKA SOPRANO
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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

C H O R A L E N S E M B L E

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KATHERINE BRAVOS
JOANNE BREHM
BIANCA BRUNI
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JANET DODD
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VIVIAN C. STEWART
MARY JANE TURNBULL
MARTINA ZUBIRI

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ANTHONY ALONZO
GEORGE ARGYRES
JAMES ATTARIAN
NORMAN BENSON
LOUIS BRAUNSTEIN
WILLIS BURROUGHS
CECK COOPER
GALLIANO DANELUZ
FLOYD DAVIS
AMERIGO DEL GRANDE
PHILIP DOAN
FREDERICK D. FRASER
JOHN GETAS
JOSEPH GIAMMANCO
PAUL GUENTER
COLIN HARVEY
EDSON B. HOEL
GEORGE D. JENSEN
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ERICH LAWRENCE
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LOIS TREADWELL
JOAN VICKERS

MISSES

WANA WILLIAMS
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MISSES

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VELERIE BOOTH
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JANE BOWEN
JOAN EDGERTON

MISSES

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MARGRET LLOYDS

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VALLA RAMEY
MARCIANNE RAUB

MISSES

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Brereton, Robert
Burgin, Richard
Chapple, Stanley
Cleva, Fausto
Copland, Aaron
D'Attili, Glauco
Echaniz, Jose
Eidus, Arnold
Ericourt, Daniel
Fiedler, Arthur
Flagstad, Kirsten
Foss, Lukas
Francescatti, Zino
Francois, Samson
Giannini, Dusolina
Gieseking, Walter
Goldovsky, Boris
Goldsand, Robert
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Martini, Nino
Milhaud, Darius
Moiseiwitsch, Benno
Monteux, Pierre
Nelson, Monte
Pennario, Leonard
Piatigorsky, Gregor
Pinza, Ezio
Podolsky, Leo
Pons, Lily
Ponselle, Rosa
Posselt, Ruth
Quartararo, Florence
Rosenthal, Manuel
Sanroma, Jesus Maria
Schmitz, E. Robert
Shure, Leonard
Spivakovsky, Tossy
Stravinsky, Igor
Szigeti, Joseph
Tapia-Caballero
Tansman, Alexander
Tetley-Kardos, Richard
Thibaud, Jacques
Traubel, Helen
Weede, Robert
Wittgenstein, Paul

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- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) Tuesday Night, September 16, at 8:00
 With Albanese, Votipka, Lawlor, Pearce, Warren, Cehanovsky, De Paolis, Olitzki, Ligeti,
 Lorenzini MEROLA, Conductor
- DON GIOVANNI (*Mozart*) Friday Night, September 19, at 8:00
 With Roman, Quartararo, Albanese, Pinza, Baccaloni, Kullman, Alvary, Ligeti
 BREISACH, Conductor
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*) Monday Night, September 22, at 8:00
 With Albanese, Glaz, Votipka, Pearce, Valentino, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Lazzari, Olitzki,
 Harvey CIMARA, Conductor
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (*Wagner*) Friday Night, September 26, at 7:30
 With Traubel, Resnik, Harshaw, Glaz, Turner, Votipka, Hartzell, Popper, Svanholm,
 Czaplicki, Alvary, Olitzki, Guenter, Benson, Daneluz STEINBERG, Conductor
- LA GIOCONDA (*Ponchielli*) Tuesday Night, September 30, at 8:00
 With Roman, Thebom, Harshaw, Baum, Warren, Moscona, Chabay, Ligeti, Benson, Nelson,
 Alibertini, Tallone MARZOLLO, Conductor
- LOUISE (*Charpentier*) Friday Night, October 3, at 8:00
 With Kirsten, Turner, Pinza, Jobin, Hartzell, Popper, Gray, Votipka, Zubiri, Coryell,
 Lawlor, Heitman, Phillips, Campbell, Harper, Hessling, Baldwin, Browne, Spry, Bish,
 Nathanson, De Paolis, Lazzari, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Olitzki, Chabay, Nesbitt, Martin, Davis,
 McVey, Lawrence, Schmidling, Harvey, Lorenzini, Daneluz
 BREISACH, Conductor
- OTELLO (*Verdi*) Tuesday Night, October 7, at 8:00
 With Albanese, Votipka, Svanholm, Tibbett, De Paolis, Lazzari, Chabay, Cehanovsky,
 Nelson STEINBERG, Conductor
- PELLEAS ET MELISANDE (*Debussy*) Friday Night, October 10, at 8:00
 With Sayao, Harshaw, Zubiri, Singher, Tibbett, Alvary, Ligeti
 PELLETIER, Conductor
- L'AMORE DEI TRE RE (*Montemezzi*) Tuesday Night, October 14, at 8:00
 With Kirsten, Turner, Alvary, Turnbull, Baldwin, Pinza, Kullman, Weede, De Paolis,
 Nesbitt MONTEMEZZI, Conductor
- LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR (*Donizetti*) Friday Night, October 17, at 8:00
 With Pons, Votipka, Pearce, Valentino, Lazzari, Chabay, Tallone
 CIMARA, Conductor

POPULAR SERIES

- ROMEO AND JULIET (*Gounod*) Thursday Night, September 18, at 8:00
 With Sayao, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Singher, Moscona, De Paolis, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Harvey,
 Tallone PELLETIER, Conductor
- AIDA (*Verdi*) Thursday Night, September 25, at 8:00
 With Roman, Thebom, Votipka, Baum, Warren, Moscona, Alvary, Chabay
 BREISACH, Conductor
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (*Wagner*) Thursday Night, October 2, at 8:00
 With Traubel, Thebom, Svanholm, Czaplicki, Alvary, Ligeti, Olitzki, Chabay
 STEINBERG, Conductor
- GOTTERDAMMERUNG (*Wagner*) Thursday Night, October 9, at 7:30
 With same cast as Regular Series performance
- LA GIOCONDA (*Ponchielli*) Thursday Night, October 16, at 8:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance

EXTRA PERFORMANCES

- FAUST (*Gounod*) Sunday Matinee, September 21, at 2:00
 With Claudia Pinza, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Ezio Pinza, Valdengo, Cehanovsky
 PELLETIER, Conductor
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*) Sunday Matinee, September 28, at 2:00
 With Sayao, Hartzell, Hessling, Pearce, Valentino, Moscona, Baccaloni, Cehanovsky,
 Lorenzini, Vannucci, Tallone MEROLA, Conductor
- MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (*Mozart*) Sunday Matinee, October 5, at 2:00
 With Quartararo, Sayao, Thebom, Glaz, Zubiri, Phillips, Gray, Pinza, Baccaloni, Singher,
 De Paolis, Ligeti, Chabay STEINBERG, Conductor
- RIGOLETTO (*Verdi*) Sunday Matinee, October 12, at 2:00
 With Pons, Glaz, Votipka, Heitman, Lawlor, Tibbett, Pearce, Alvary, Cehanovsky, Chabay,
 Harvey, Ligeti CIMARA, Conductor
- 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*) Saturday Matinee, October 4, at 2:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Kullman will be Alfredo Germont
 and ADLER, Conductor
- FAUST (*Gounod*) Monday Night, October 6, at 8:00
 With same cast as Extra performance except Weede will be Valentine
- DON GIOVANNI (*Mozart*) Wednesday Night, October 8, at 8:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Resnik will be Donna Elvira and
 Conner, Zerlina
- TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (*Wagner*) Monday Night, October 13, at 8:00
 With same cast as Popular Series performance
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*) Wednesday Night, October 15, at 8:00
 With same cast as Extra performance except Lazzari will be Colline
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*) Saturday Night, October 18, at 8:00
 With same cast as Regular Series performance except Kullman will be Pinkerton and
 Alvary The Bonze

OPERAS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- LA TRAVIATA (*Verdi*) Presented by the San Francisco Opera Guild
 Friday Matinee, October 10 and 17, at 1:00
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SUNDAY MATINEE, SEPTEMBER 28, at 2:00

†LA BOHEME

Opera in four acts. Music by Giacomo Puccini.

Text by Giacosa and Illica.

THE CAST

Mimi, an embroideress.....		BIDU SAYAO
Musetta, a grisette.....		LOIS HARTZELL
Rudolph, a poet.....	} The Four Bohemians	} JAN PEERCE FRANCESCO VALENTINO GEORGE CEHANOVSKY NICOLA MOSCONA
Marcel, painter.....		
Schaunard, musician.....		
Colline, philosopher.....		
Benoit, an importunate landlord } Alcindoro, state councilor and admirer of Musetta }		SALVATORE BACCALONI
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Students, Work-Girls, Grisettes, Shopkeepers, Vendors, Waiters, Soldiers, etc.

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TIME AND PLACE: About 1830; Paris

- Act I: Garret of the Bohemians
- Act II: Terrace of the Cafe Momus
- Act III: A City Gate of Paris
- Act IV: Same as Act I

Because of copyright the story of the opera cannot be printed.

†Added performance of "La Boheme," October 15

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

Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

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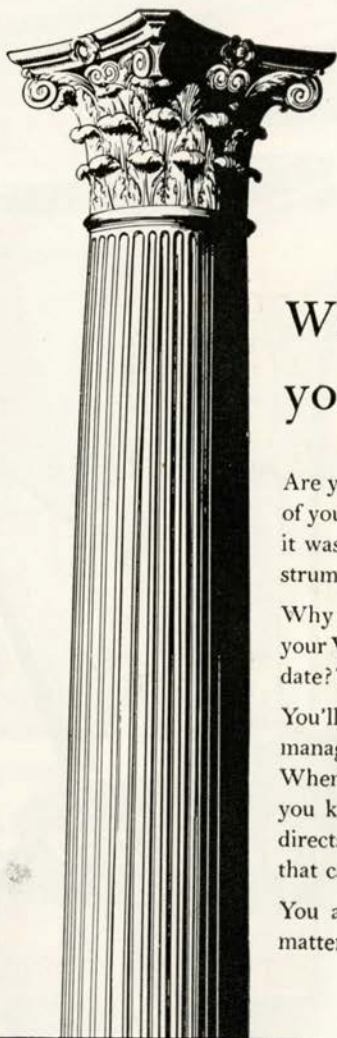
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- ★ CZAPLICKI



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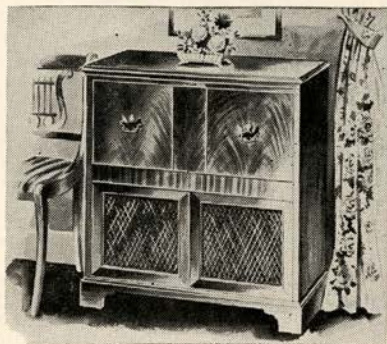


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†LA GIOCONDA

Opera in four acts. Music by Amilcare Ponchielli. Text by Arrigo Boito.

First performance by the San Francisco Opera Company.

THE CAST

La Gioconda, a ballad singer.....	STELLA ROMAN
La Cieca, her blind mother.....	MARGARET HARSHAW
Alvise, a leader of the Inquisition.....	NICOLA MOSCONA
Laura Adorno, his wife.....	BLANCHE THEBOM
Enzo Grimaldo, a Genoese noble.....	KURT BAUM
Barnaba, a spy of the Inquisition.....	LEONARD WARREN
Zuane, a boatman.....	**NORMAN BENSON
A Cantor.....	**PATRICK McVEY
Isepo, a public letter-writer.....	GEORGE TALLONE
A Pilot	ROBIN NELSON
A Monk	DESIRE LIGETI
Two Voices.....	EVARISTO ALIBERTINI, GEORGE TALLONE

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STAGE DIRECTOR

ARMANDO AGNINI

CONDUCTOR

*DICK MARZOLLO

CHORUS DIRECTOR

KURT HERBERT ADLER



TIME AND PLACE: Seventh Century; Venice

Act I: Courtyard of Ducal Palace

Act II: Lagoon near City—Night

Act III: Scene 1: Room in Palace of Alvise

Scene 2: Great Hall in the Ca D'Or

Act IV: A Ruined Palace on an Island near Venice

Settings designed by Armando Agnini and Eugene B. Dunkel.

Painted by Dunkel and constructed in the Studios of the
San Francisco Opera Association.

†Popular Series performance of "La Gioconda," October 16.

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

Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

The Story of "La Gioconda"

ACT I—It is in the court of the ducal palace, "The Lion's Mouth," that letters for the Inquisition are received. Men and maidens in holiday attire, gathered for a regatta, sing while Barnaba looks on. He is infatuated with Gioconda who now arrives leading La Cieca, her blind mother. Gioconda is seeking Enzo whom she loves. She is stopped by Barnaba who declares his love. Infuriated she hurries away. Barnaba plans a dire revenge. He tells Zuane, defeated in the regatta, that La Cieca has thrown a spell of ill-luck over him. Zuane and his friends attack the old woman but she is saved by the arrival of Enzo. Alvisè also arrives with Laura, who is loved by Enzo. Alvisè orders the release of La Cieca who in gratitude, gives Laura her rosary. Barnaba, noting the meaningful glances between Enzo and Laura, tells Enzo that Laura is planning to visit his ship that night. Enzo hurries off to receive her. Barnaba dictates an anonymous letter to Alvisè informing him of the coming meeting between Enzo and Laura. Gioconda overhears and is heart broken at the faithlessness of Enzo.

ACT II—Barnaba, disguised as a fisherman, sings to the sailors and leaves after sending for police galleys. Enzo arrives and is royally greeted by the sailors. Laura reaches the ship and the lovers passionately embrace. Enzo goes below deck to make ready for their departure at dawn. Gioconda unexpectedly appears and denounces Laura. Each declares her love for Enzo. Gioconda attempts to stab Laura. Alvisè is seen approaching in a boat and Laura, in despair, holds aloft her rosary in prayer. Gioconda recognizes the rosary as her mother's and generously aids Laura to escape. Enzo comes on deck and is greeted by the vengeful Gioconda. Trapped by Alvisè and Barnaba he sets fire to his ship.

ACT III—Scene 1—Alvisè decides that the unfaithful Laura shall die. He orders her to drink poison. Gioconda, remembering how Laura befriended her mother, substitutes a narcotic for the poison. Laura drinks and goes into a deep sleep. Scene 2: For the entertainment of his guests Alvisè has provided a grand masque ball. He greets the arriving guests and announces the ballet "Dance of the Hours." At the conclusion of the dance Barnaba rushes in dragging La Cieca whom he accuses of performing her magic rites. But she vows that she was but praying for the soul of the dead. Barnaba whispers to Enzo that Laura is dead. Enzo un.masks and denounces Alvisè. The murderous husband draws aside a curtain showing the presumably dead Laura. Enzo attempts to kill Alvisè and Barnaba is placed over him as a guard. Gioconda then promises herself to Barnaba if he arrange for the release of Enzo.

ACT IV—Gioconda is alone with the unconscious Laura. She persuades the men who have brought them to the island to search for her mother. Suicide seems her only recourse. Enzo, released from prison, arrives. Laura revives and Gioconda aids them to escape. Gioconda is about to swallow poison when Barnaba appears to claim his reward. She seems to yield but instead stabs herself with the dagger she carries. But Barnaba still has his revenge—he cries into Gioconda's ears that he has murdered her mother.

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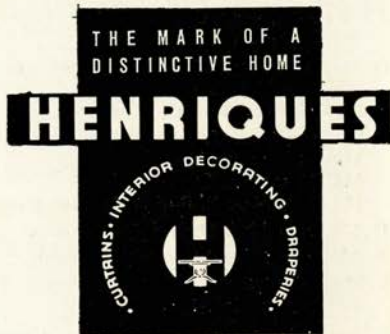


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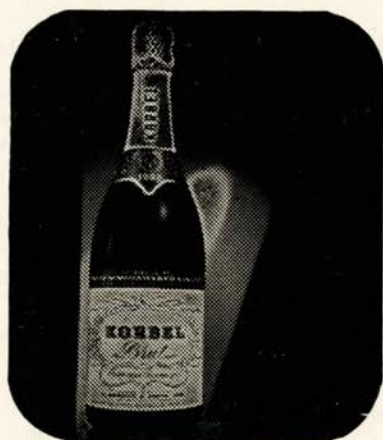
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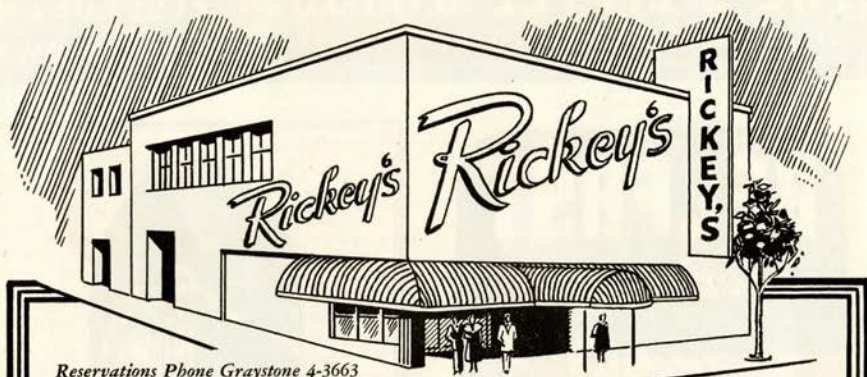
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