Roméo et Juliette

1947

Thursday, September 18, 1947 8:00 PM Wednesday, September 24, 1947 8:00 PM

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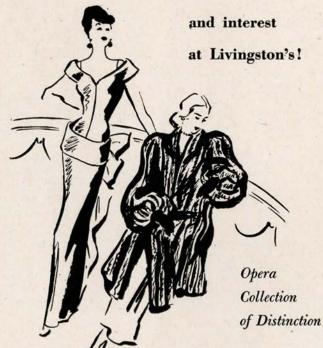
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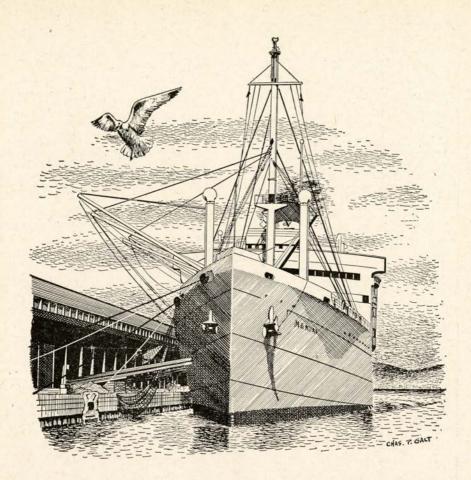
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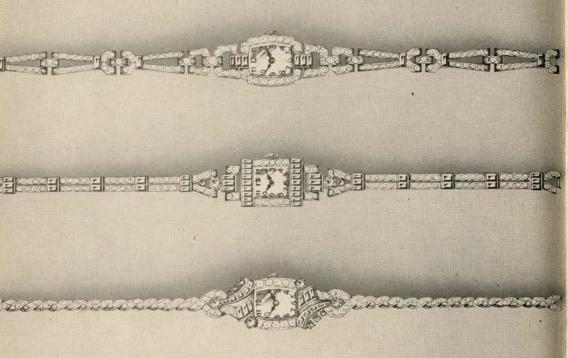
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Founded by a small group who had faith in the music appreciation of San Franciscans, the record of the company has more than justified the soundness of that belief. At the season's close, the company will have given 548 performances of 74 operas.

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.

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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.

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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

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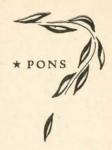
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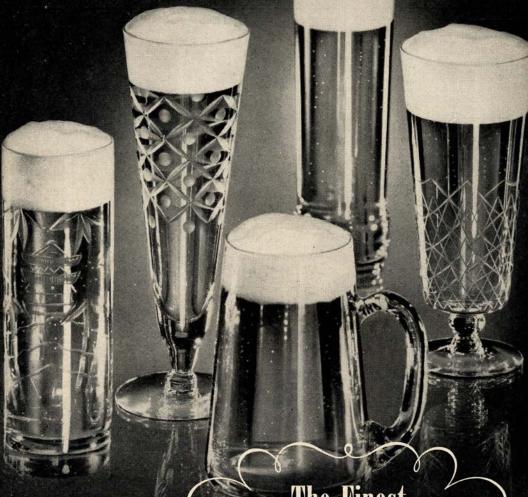
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BREISACH, Conductor
Thursday Night, September 25, at 8:00

With Traubel, Thebom, Svanholm, Czaplicki, Alvary, Ligeti, Olitzki, Chabay

STEINBERG, Conductor

ERDAMMERUNG (Warner) TRISTAN UND ISOLDE (Wagner)

GOTTERDAMMERUNG (Wagner).

With same cast as Regular Series performance
LA GIOCONDA (Ponchielli).

With same cast as Regular Series performance Thursday Night, October 16, at 8:00

EXTRA PERFORMANCES

FAUST (Gounod)
With Claudia Pinza, Glaz, Turner, Jobin, Ezio Pinza, Valdengo, Cehanovsky
PELLETIER, Conductor

Note: Sunday Matinee, September 21, at 2:00
PELLETIER, Conductor

LA BOHEME (Puccini)

With Sayao, Hartzell, Hessling, Peerce, Valentino, Moscona, Baccaloni, Cehanovsky,
Lorenzini, Vannucci, Tallone

MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart)

MEROLA, Conductor

Sunday Matinee, September 28, 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, a

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

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

ADDED PERFORMANCES

PAUST (Gounod)
With same cast as Extra performance except Weede will be Valentine
DON GIOVANNI' (Mozart)
With same cast as Extra performance except Weede will be Valentine
With same cast as Regular Series performance except Resnik will be Donna Elvira and
Conner, Zerlina

. . Monday Night, October 13, at 8:00

OPERAS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Presented by the San Francisco Opera Guild Friday Matinees, October 10 and 17, at 1:00 LA TRAVIATA (Verdi) With Conner, Votipka, Lawlor, Kullman, Tibbett, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Ligeti, Olitzki, Lorenzini MEROLA, Conductor



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TUESDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 16, at 8:00

†LA TRAVIATA

Opera in four acts. Music by Giuseppe Verdi. Text by Piave, after Dumas' "La Dame aux Camelias."

THE CAST

Violetta Valery, a lady of the demi-monde	LICIA ALBANESE
Alfredo Germont, lover of Violetta	JAN PEERCE
Giorgio Germont, his father	LEONARD WARREN
Gaston, Viscount of Letorieres	ALESSIO DE PAOLIS
Baron Douphol, a rival of Alfredo	GEORGE CEHANOVSKY
Flora, friend of Violetta	THELMA VOTIPKA
Annina, maid of Violetta	KATHLEEN LAWLOR
Dr. Granville	DESIRE LIGETI
Marquis d'Obigny	WALTER OLITZKI
Major-domo	MAX LORENZINI

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Choreography by Willam Christensen

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TIME AND PLACE: About 1840; Paris and Environs

Act 1: Drawing-room in the House of Violetta

Act II: A Villa near Paris Act III: Garden of Flora's Palace

Act IV: Violetta's Bed Chamber

†Added performance of "La Traviata," October 4, matinee. †Opera Guild matinees of "La Traviata" for Young People, October 10 and 17.

> 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 Traviata"

ACT I—A party is in progress in the salon of Violetta's home, and Alfredo, who has come with friends, succumbs to the charms and beauty of the hostess. The guests retire to an adjoining room to dance, but Violetta, who is suffering from the early stages of consumption, is prevented from joining them by a severe coughing-spell, and remains on the lounge to recover. Alfredo remains with her, expressing first his solicitation and then his love, which deeply touches Violetta. Later, when the guests have departed, Violetta contemplates this great new love which has come to her.

ACT II—Violetta has deserted her former life and friends, and is living most happily with Alfredo in a small country house near Paris to which they have retired. Alfredo, upon learning from Annina that Violetta has quietly been selling her jewelry to aid in defraying expenses, departs for Paris to get money with which to repay her. Alfredo's father (Germont) arrives and succeeds in persuading Violetta that she must give up Alfredo and their happiness, not only because Alfredo's own career is threatened by this liaison, but also because its continuance will jeopardize the marriage of Alfredo's sister, for whom the father also pleads. As Germont departs, Violetta writes a note of farewell to Alfredo, but he returns before she finishes. She hides the letter and conceals her real feelings. When Alfredo tells her he has heard his father is to visit them, she departs on the pretext of leaving them alone, but sends the letter back by messenger. When Germont arrives he finds his son in despair, and vainly attempts to stir him by recalling memories of his home in "fair Provence."

ACT III—Alfredo returns to Paris seeking Violetta and finds her with her new companion, Baron Douphol, at a ball being held at the palace of her friend Flora. Alfredo, winning heavily at the gaming-table, challenges the Baron to a game and adds further to his winnings. When the guests retire for supper, Violetta returns, followed at her request by Alfredo, whom she implores to leave, fearful of the prospect of a duel between the two men. Alfredo bitterly charges her with falseness, which, remembering her promise to Germont, she does not deny. Alfredo summons the guests and before them all denounces her, throwing at her feet his winnings of the evening. As Violetta faints, Germont arrives seeking his son. He alone knows the tragic significance of the scene, but for the sake of his son and daughter cannot disclose it.

ACT IV—Violetta is now confined to her bed by the ravages of the disease from which she has suffered, and, although the doctor attempts to cheer and reassure her, she knows she has not long to live. She is cheered by a letter from Germont, who would seek to undo the damage he has done, and writes that Alfredo is returning to seek her pardon. But she feels it will be too late. Alfredo arrives, and in the great happiness of the moment they plan to leave Paris; but the excitement proves too much, and, as Germont and the doctor arrive, Violetta collapses in her lover's arms.



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Text by Barbier and Carré.

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Romeo	RAOUL JOBIN
Tybalt, Capulet's nephew	ALESSIO DE PAOLIS
Mercutio	J*MARTIAL SINGHER
Benvolio	CEORGE TALLONE
Capulet, a Veronese noble	DESIRE LIGETI
Gregorio, kinsman of Capulet	COLIN HARVEY
Friar Laurent	NICOLA MOSCONA
Stephano, page of Romeo	HERTA GLAZ
Gertrude, Juliet's nurse	CLARAMAE TURNER
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The Action Takes Place in Verona

Act I: Ballroom in Capulet's House

Act II: Capulet's Garden-Juliet's Apartment Above

Act III: Scene 1: The Cell of Friar Laurent

Scene 2: A Street in Verona

Act IV: Juliet's Chamber

Act V: The Tomb of Juliet

†Added performance of "Romeo and Juliet," September 24.

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

Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

The Story of "Romeo and Juliet"

ACT I—The house of Capulet is en fete. A masked ball is being given for the entrance of Juliet into society. Capulet introduces his daughter to the assembled guests and all leave for the banquet hall. Romeo, Mercutio, Benvolio and others of the Montagues, in mask and bent on youthful frolic, enter. Juliet returns to the ballroom with her nurse, Gertrude. The intruders hide themselves. Gertrude is sent back to the banquet hall and Juliet is about to follow but is restrained by Romeo, entranced by her beauty. It is love at first sight. Their love banter is interrupted by the hot-headed Tybalt. He recognizes Romeo through his mask and denounces him, vowing vengeance. Romeo is about to draw his sword but is cautioned by Mercutio. Tybalt is restrained by Capulet and an open break is averted.

ACT II—Romeo ascends to Juliet's balcony. Juliet comes from her chamber and the long love scene begins. It is interrupted by Gregorio and Capulet retainers who have been warned of an intruder. Finding no one, they depart in anger. The lovers continue in bliss until Gertrude warns of the approaching dawn.

ACT III—Romeo, entering the cell of Friar Laurent, tells of his love for Juliet and their desire for a clandestine marriage. Juliet soon follows and the Friar, seeing in their union a healing of the feud between the two houses, performs the ceremony. (Scene 2) Stephano, in search of Romeo, sings an impudent song before the house of Capulet. It brings Gregorio in fury into the street. Stephano continues his taunting and in the general fighting which follows, both Capulets and Montagues coming upon the scene, Mercutio is wounded by Tybalt, who in turn, is killed by Romeo. The Duke of Verona, with his retinue, arrives. Romeo is sentenced to exile and escaping death only that he fought fairly, vows to see Juliet once more at all hazards.

ACT IV—Romeo has found a way into Capulet's house and comes to bid Juliet goodby. Juliet pardons him the death of Tybalt and their farewells continue throughout the night. (Scene 2) Capulet, with Friar Laurent, comes to tell Juliet that her marriage with Paris must straightaway take place. The Friar, when she would protest, cautions Juliet to silence. Capulet departs and the Friar, staying her desperate hand and descending dagger, gives Juliet a phial containing a potion which he tells her will cause a sleep resembling death for two and forty hours and admonishes that she take it at the hour of the marriage.

ACT V—Romeo forces his way into the Capulet vault. Perceiving the body of Juliet on her tomb and believing her dead, he drinks poison. Juliet, the effects of the sleeping potion having worn off, arouses. It is too late. Romeo, tottering, tells her of his fatal draught. Juliet, drawing his dagger from its sheath, pierces her breast and the houses of Capulet and Montague are united in death.

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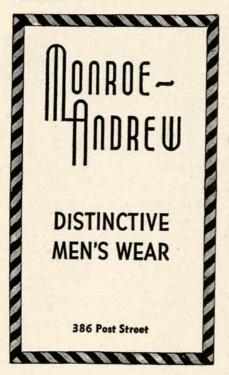


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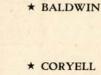






























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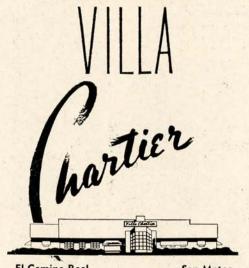








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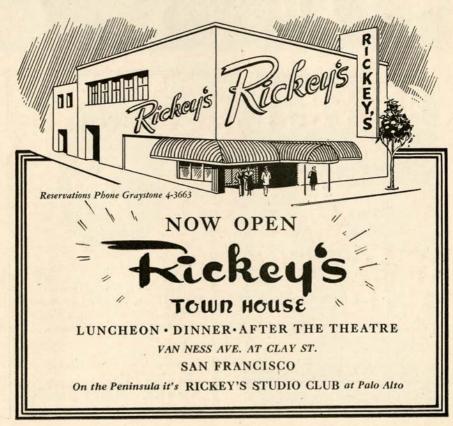
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Act I: Ballroom in Capulet's House

Act II: Capulet's Garden-Juliet's Apartment Above

Act III: Scene 1: The Cell of Friar Laurent

Scene 2: A Street in Verona

Act IV: Juliet's Chamber

Act V: The Tomb of Juliet

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