Faust

1949

Thursday, September 22, 1949 8:00 PM Sunday, October 2, 1949 2:00 PM

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27th Annual Season

San Francisco Opera Association

September 20 through October 23, 1949

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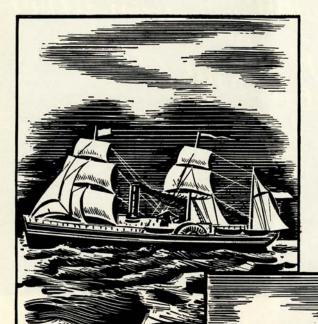
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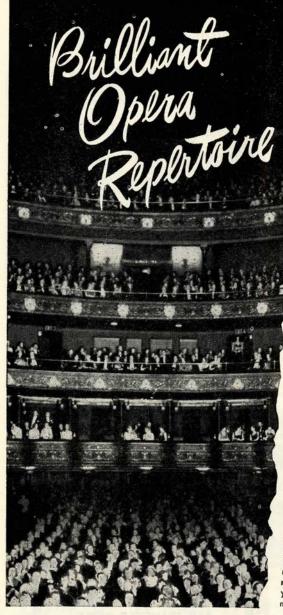
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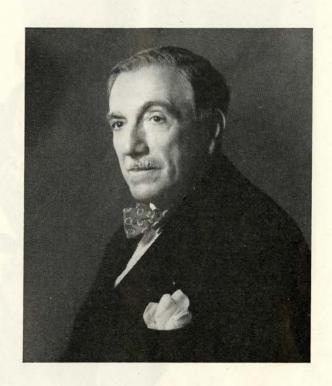
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Opera in three acts. Music by Giacomo Puccini. Text by Illica and Giacosa, after Sardou's drama.

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Judge, Cardinal, Officer, Sergeant, Soldiers, Police Agents, Ladies, Nobles, Citizens Boys selected from San Francisco Boys Chorus

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TIME AND PLACE: Rome, 1800

Act 1: Interior of the Church of St. Andrea.

Act II: A Room in Scarpia's Apartments in the Farnese Palace.

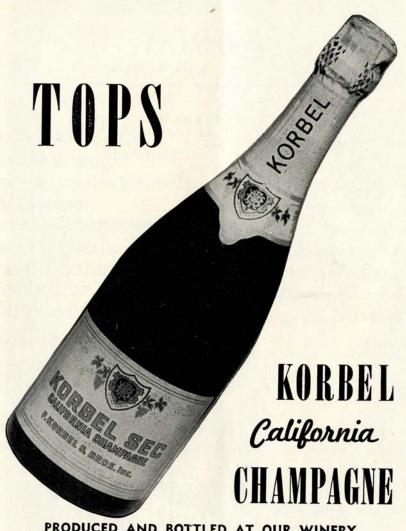
Act III: A Terrace of the San Angelo Castle, outside the Prison.

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†Repeat Performances of "Tosca," September 29 and October 8

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THURSDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 22, at 8:00

† FAUST

Opera in a prologue and four acts. Music by Charles Gounod.

Text by Barbier and Carré, after Goethe's tragedy.

THE CAST

* San Francisco debut

Students, Soldiers, Villagers
Incidental Dances by Corps de Ballet

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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: Street before the Cathedral

Act IV: The Prison

†Popular Evening Performance of "Faust," October 2

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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 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 the 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

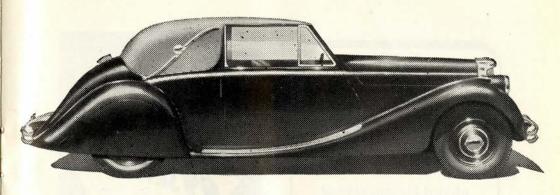
Siebel leaves flowers at Marguerite's door. They wither before the curse of Mephistopheles (uttered in Act I) and cannot be revived. Later Faust comes with his now constant companion, Mephistopheles, and places a casket of jewels at her window. Together, they hide to watch Marguerite when she opens her 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.



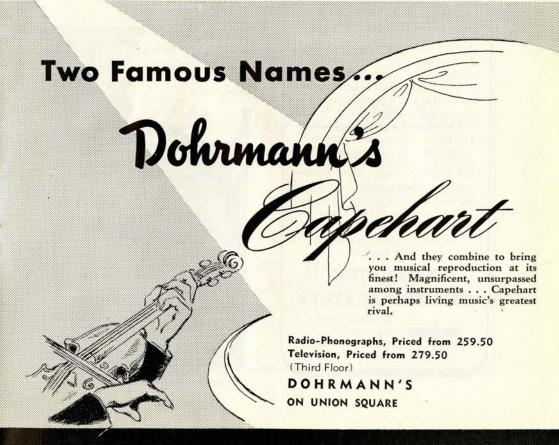
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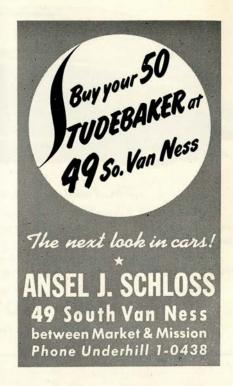
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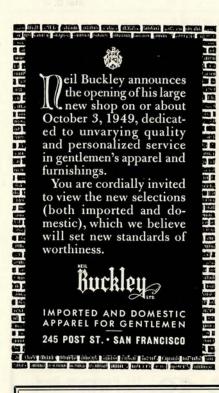
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NOTICE

CHANGE OF CAST

Alice Ostrowsky sings Martha instead of Claramae Turner

BANTAL.

SUNDAY MATINEE, OCTOBER 2, at 2:00

FAUST

Opera in a prologue and four acts. Music by Charles Gounod.

Text by Barbier and Carré, after Goethe's tragedy.

THE CAST

Faust, a learned philosopher	JUSSI BJOERLING
Mephistopheles	NICOLA MOSCONA
Marguerite	FLORENCE QUARTARARO
Valentine, her brother	ENZO MASCHERINI
Siebel, a young soldier in love with Ma	rgueriteHERTA 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: Marquerite's Garden

Act III: Street before the Cathedral

Act IV: The Prison

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