#### Samson et Dalila

1949

Tuesday, October 18, 1949 8:00 PM

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San Francisco Opera Association

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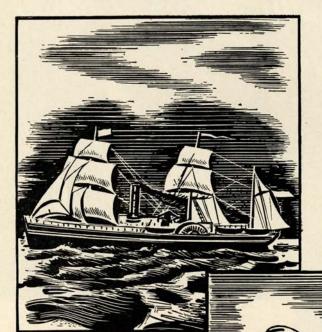
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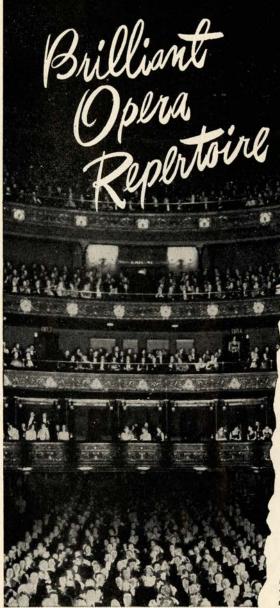
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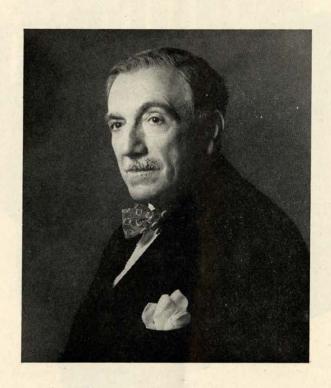
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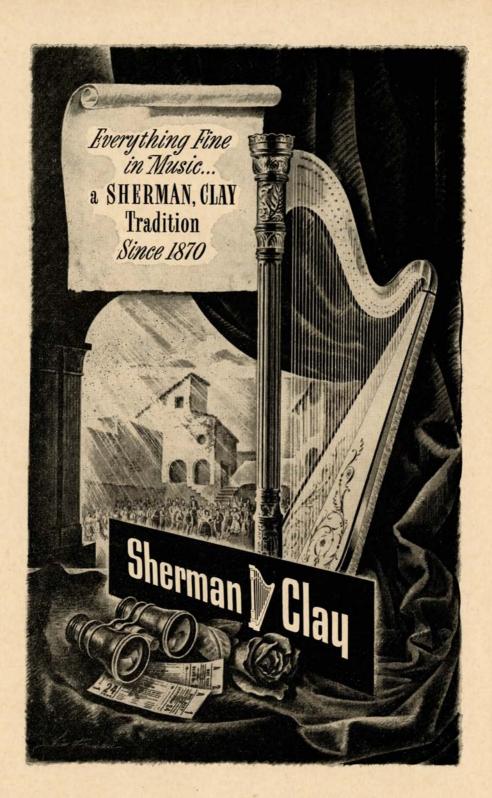
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  BREISACH, Conductor

  (Continued)



#### TUESDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 18, at 8:00

### SAMSON ET DALILA

Opera in three acts and four scenes. Music by Camille Saint-Saens
Text by Ferdinand Lemaire

#### THE CAST

Dalila	BLANCHE THEBOM
Samson	RAOUL JOBIN
The High Priest of Dagon	ROBERT WEEDE
Abimelech, Satrape of Gaza	GEORGE CEHANOVSKY
An Old Hebrew	DESIRE LIGETI
A Messenger	LESLIE CHABAY
First Philistine	*ARTHUR PETERS
Second Philistine	ROBIN NELSON
A Boy	PAULA TRACY

\* San Francisco Opera debut

Hebrew and Philistine Chorus

Solo Dancer: Joan Vickers

Incidental Dances by Corps de Ballet

Choreography by Willam Christensen

111

STAGE DIRECTOR

ARMANDO AGNINI

CONDUCTOR FAUSTO CLEVA CHORUS DIRECTOR

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111

TIME AND PLACE: 1150 B.C.; Gaza in Palestine

Act 1: Public Square in Gaza

Act II: Dalila's Home, Valley of Sorek

Act III: Scene 1: Prison at Gaza

Scene 2: Interior of Temple of Dagon

Encores not permitted — Bell rings three minutes before curtain rises

#### The Story of "Samson et Dalila"

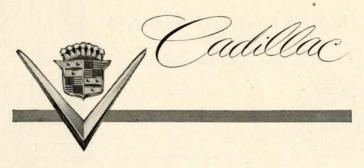
Acr I: Chanting a prayer pregnant with sorrow and resignation, a group of Hebrew slaves kneel in the square before the Philistine temple of Dagon. Samson stands forth adjuring them to lift up their hearts in faith and their arms in strength, and God shall be found to them. Inspired, the Hebrews arise and rejoice. Upon this scene comes Abimelech, who charges them to subjection. The Hebrews glorify God and in rage Abimelech leaps out with drawn sword. Samson, striking down the Prince, leads the Hebrews in glorious revolt. The High Priest comes from the temple and, discovering the slain Prince, commands immediate retribution. But a messenger hurries in to tell of the Hebrews rampant in the city, and the already cowed Philistines retreat. The Hebrews reenter rejoicing and are joined by the women from the Temple of Dagon, led by Dalila, who in tones of mellow innocence pleads with Samson for a renewal of the pleasures of love they once shared. Samson prays for strength to resist her seduction, conscious that behind it lies treachery. Act II: Dalila is appealing to the power of love for allure which shall drive Samson again into her arms and discover to her the secret of his strength. The High Priest of Dagon comes to her offering unlimited wealth if she will secure this same secret. She scorns his bribes and confides that her protestations have been only an effort to bring Samson to betray himself. Together they pray for his capitulation. Dalila is beginning to question her power over Samson when he appears in a torment of uncertainty. Loosing upon him gentle reproaches for desertion and love's every blandishment, she wooes him with dispassionate passion. Samson vows his love, but still denies the secret she would have as proof of his complete devotion. Angry and tearful, Dalila rushes from him. Samson, remembering his God, hesitates; then, in passionate abandon, follows her within. Philistine soldiers surround the house and, answering Dalila's triumphant call, overpower Samson.

Act III: Samson in prison, blinded and chained, works at the mill besieged with reproaches from the Hebrews. Deeply repentant, he beseeches that Jehovah pour His wrath upon his head alone and take again under His protection the children of Israel. Philistine soldiers come to take him away. (Scene 2.) Philistines, princes, and vulgars have flocked to the Temple of Dagon. Licentiously singing and dancing, they hail Samson, led into their midst by a child, as the savior of Israel, and ridicule his God and his own ruin. With magnificent humility Samson accepts their abuses. Dalila laughs at his weakness in the embrace of love and with the High Priest forces upon him a cup to offer in sacrifice to Dagon. Led forward, Samson, inspirited by repentance, wrath, and a mighty faith, prays for a miracle of strength, and, grasping the pillars of the temple, he crumbles them, crushing the Philistines and himself, while his voice soars

in praise of the glory of his God.



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#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 19, at 8:00

#### LA BOHEME

Opera in four acts. Music by Giacomo Puccini.

Text by Giacosa and Illica.

#### THE CAST

Mimi, an embroideress		LICIA ALBANESE					
Musetta, a grisette		LOIS HARTZELL					
Rudolph, a poet		FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI					
Marcel, painter	The Four	FRANCESCO VALENTINO					
Schaunard, musician	Bohemians	GEORGE CEHANOVSKY					
Colline, philosopher		NICOLA MOSCONA					
Benoit, an importunate la Alcindoro, state council admirer of Musetta	SALVATORE BACCALONI						
Customhouse Sergeant		MAX LORENZINI					
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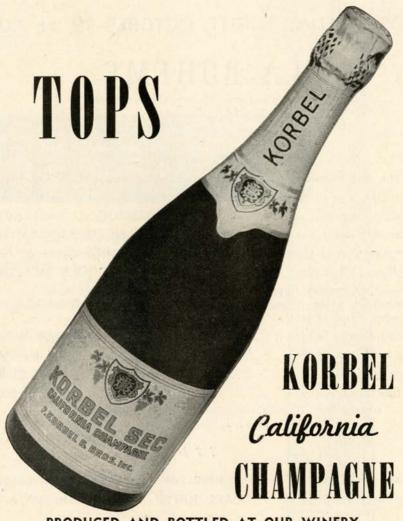
TIME AND PLACE: About 1830; Paris

Act II: Garret of the Bohemians
Act II: Terrace of the Cafe Momus
Act III: A City Gate of Paris

Act IV: Same as Act I

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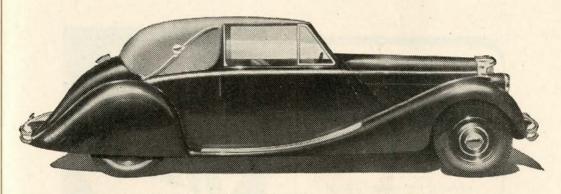
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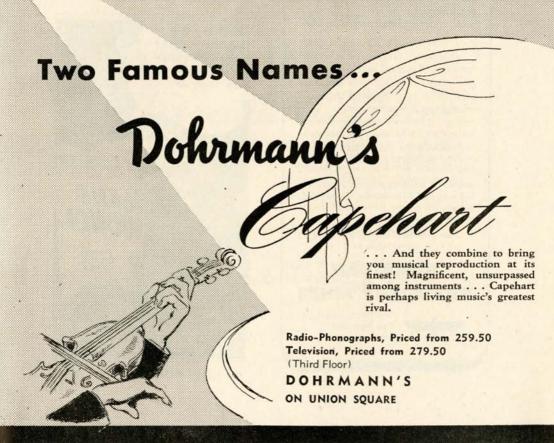
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Sahl-vah-tow'-ray Bach-ah-low'-nee

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Ah-leez-ah-bay'-tah Bahr-bah-tow

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Et-yehn Bah-row'-nay

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You-see Bee-yurl'-ing

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ALESSIO DE PAOLIS

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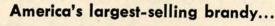
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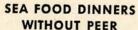
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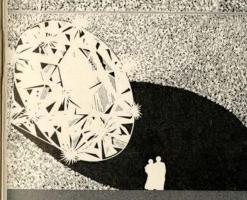
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