Il Tabarro (The Cloak)

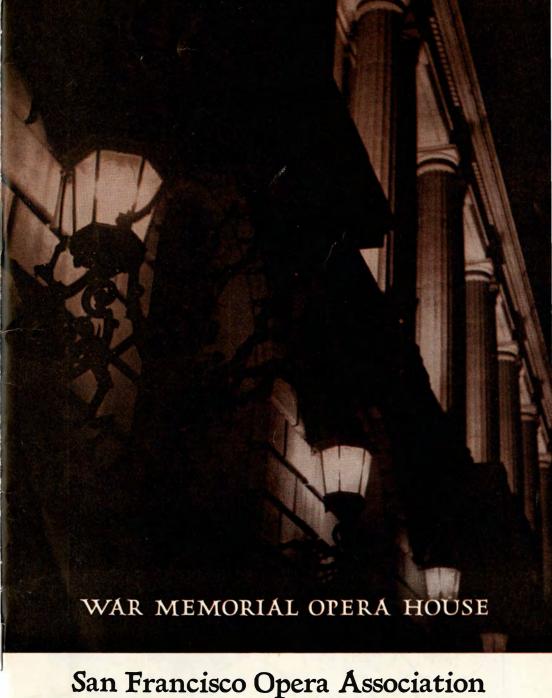
1954

Friday, October 15, 1954 8:30 PM Thursday, October 21, 1954 8:30 PM

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San Francisco Opera Association
Thirty-Second Annual Season
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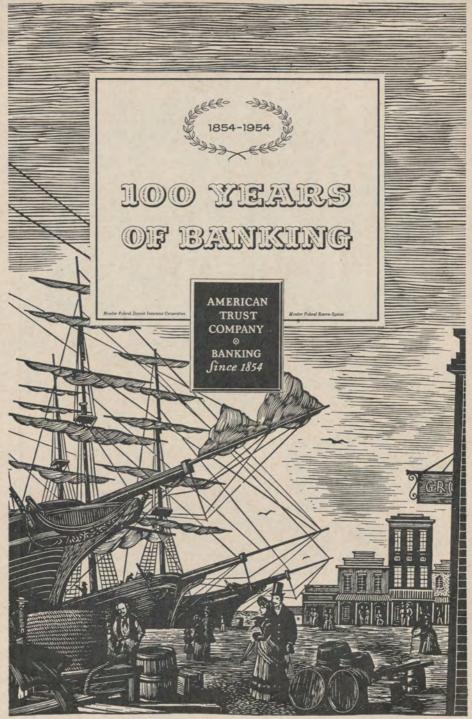
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, The San Francisco Opera Association opens its thirty-second Annual Season on Friday evening, September 17, 1954, at the War Memorial Opera House; and
- WHEREAS, The Association's 1954 Season, which will run through October 21, 1954, comprises not only a repertoire of standard favorites, but also its first performance of Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman," and two stage productions never before seen in America, "The Portuguese Inn" and "Joan of Arc at the Stake"; and
- WHEREAS, The San Francisco Opera Association is maintaining its fine operatic tradition, and will present a brilliant array of world famous artists during its forthcoming season:
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Elmer E. Robinson, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby proclaim that the period from September 17 through October 24, 1954 shall be known and observed as "THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA SEASON," and I invite not only the citizens of San Francisco, but the people outside of the city to attend the artistic and cultural productions of the San Francisco Opera Association during its 1954 Season.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this seventh day of September, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

ELMER E. ROBINSON
Mayor



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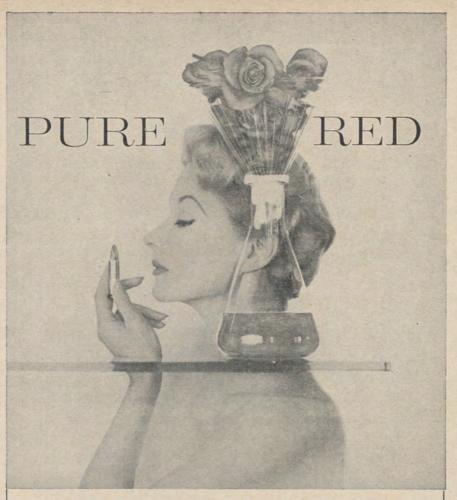
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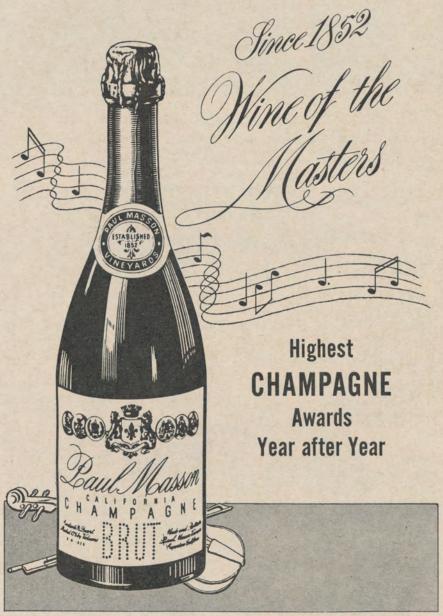
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- MANON (Massenet) Tuesday Night, September 28, at 8:00
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 Priday Night, October 1, at 8:30

 PiCCINATO, Stage Director
- Tuesday Night, October 5, at 8:30
- TURANDOT (Puccini) Palangi, Bruce CLEVA, Conductor PICCINATO, Stage Director
- THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart)
- With Mmes. Martinis, Turner, Currier, Ring; Messrs. Sullivan, Weede, Moscona, Assandri, Curzi, Petersen, White
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- Sunday Afternoon, October 10, at 2:00
- THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Mozart)

 With Mmes. Albanese, Carteri, Warenskjold, E. Warren, Casselle, Ring, Roehr; Messrs. Siepi, Hotter, Baccaloni, De Paolis, Cehanovsky, Curzi

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(Continued on Page 31)



FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 15 at 8:30

(FINAL CURTAIN APPROXIMATELY 11:25)

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(In Italian)

Opera in one act by Giacomo Puccini.

Text by Giuseppe Adami, based on Didier Gold's "La Houppelande"

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II Talpa		NICOLA	MOSCONA
La Frugola, Talpa's v	vife	CLARAMA	E TURNER
A Vendor of Songs		CESA	ARE CURZI
Two Lovers	SHARON CUR	RIER, WILLIAM	PETERSEN
Two Voices	LYDI	A RING, HARO	LD WHITE
An Organ Grinder, Longshoremen, Midinettes			

111

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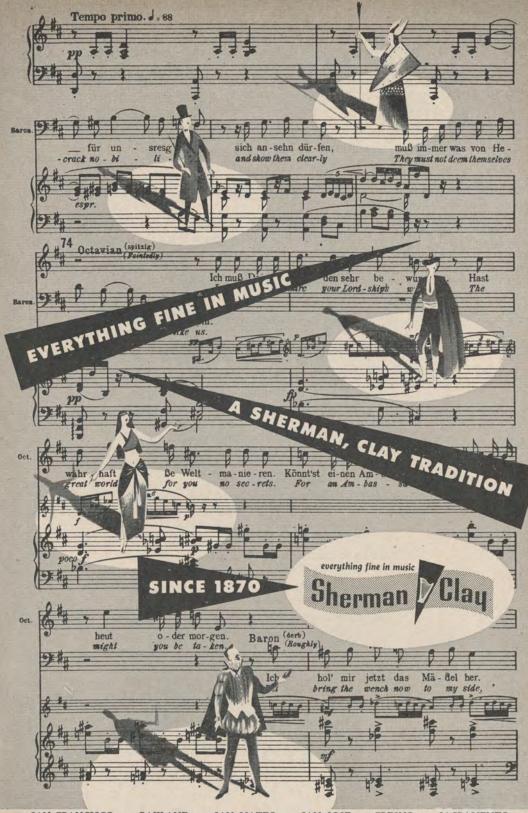
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* Joan of Arc at the Stake

(In English) Music Drama in eleven scenes.

Music by Arthur Honegger. Text by Paul Claudel. English Translation by Dennis Arundell

THE CAST				
Joan of Arc	*DOROTHY McGUIRE			
Friar Dominic	*LEE MARVIN			
Porcus				
Virgin	FRANCA DUVAL			
St. Margaret	MARILYNN HALL			
St. Catherine	ROSALIND NADELL			
	LAWRENCE MASON			
Second Herald	RALPH HERBERT			
	CARL PALANGI			
	CESARE CURZI			
A Judge				
	VIRGINIO ASSANDRI			
Voice in the Prologue				
Two Voices	WINTHER ANDERSEN, JOHN FLYNN			
A Child	JAMES URSINO			
The Ass	*SIDNEY WALKER			
Duke of Bedford	RUSSELL PAGE			
	GORDON PAXMAN			
Daymold of Chartres	CADLOS CADVALAL			
William of Flavy	DOLL DOSS			
Grinder Trusty	RON ROSS			
Mother of Barrels				
Young Peasant				
Old Peasant				
Parrot (Roy)	*ROBERT HAGOPIAN			
Two lailors	STEPHEN HATCH*JOHN SULLIVAN, *ANTHONY VERDELL *San Francisco Opera Company debut			
I WO Janers	JUNIN SULLIVAN, ANTHUNY VERDELL			
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San Francisco Boys' Chorus Choreographic Pantomime by Willam Christensen and Lew Christensen Corps de Ballet

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PROLOGUE

Scene 1: The voices of heaven

Scene 2: The book

Scene 3: The voices of the earth

Scene 4: Joan delivered to the beasts

Scene 5: Joan at the stake

Scene 6: The kings, or the invention of the card game

Scene 7: Catherine and Margaret
Scene 8: The king who goes to Rheims
Scene 9: The sword of Joan
Scene 10: Trimazo
Scene 11: Joan of Arc in the flames

†Thursday Evening Performance of "II Tabarro" and "Joan of Arc At The Stake." October 21 at 8:30 P.M.

The Story of "Joan of Arc at the Stake"

Joan of Arc at the Stake, a dramatic poem by Paul Claudel, set to music by Arthur Honneger in 1938, was created on commission from the great pantomime artist Ida Rubinstein, who first played Joan. Since its premiere at Basle on May 10, 1938, it has most frequently been given in concert performances. During the past season in Europe, the Ingrid Bergman-Roberto Rossellini production of Joan created renewed interest in the work for its dramatic interpretation, faithfully adhering, however, to the tradition of first performances obliging the principal actress to play Joan's entire part from one position chained to the stake. Such staging perhaps deprives the theatre of a more dramatic use of the actor's talent. The present performance employs the speaking actor to a greater degree creating a less stationary progression of events. Thus the story of Joan of Arc and her trial is told in the following way:

The war-torn country-side of France lies barren. Out of darkness voices are heard lamenting the emptiness and destruction. Death himself is tired as he looks over the scarred fields and defeated soldiers. A despairing cry rises up to God in pain, but is answered by a hopeful voice giving new courage and announcing that a maid Joan will

come forth to save her country.

But this maiden is not as yet appreciated, for the walls and barred windows of a prison emerge from the darkness. Joan, forced on by jailors and torturers, dragging heavy chains, comes to her last trial. Left alone with her anxiety and fears, she escapes to the glorious moments of her earlier life. Saint Dominic, appearing as a vision from the past, reads to her from the book of her life and trial, which has been compiled in heaven.

He apologizes for his Dominican successors who, in Joan's lifetime, have acted only as politicians. In her bewilderment Joan asks him why she, the daughter of the people, should be tried so severely; Dominic explains that she is being tried not by human beings, but by animals. Indeed, as the trial takes place, the audience, seeing the event through Joan's eyes, observes her prosecutors as a group of beasts led by Archbishop Cochon, the Pig, who distorts the girl's confessions and condemns her to be burned. The Court, having prerogative to pardon her in its own right, is shown next—again through the distortion of Joan's tortured mind, so that we see the arrival of the royal entourage as a puppetlike card game: the King and dukes of the country play against each other—Joan as highest prize. Finally there is but one loser in this royal game of cards—Joan herself. The court dances around her in a politely fanciful gavotte as Death accompanies on the fiddle.

Joan is again alone. The Church bells peal out. Fearfully she asks what they mean. Dominic explains hesitantly that these are the bells that ring for her death. But already her mind has wandered back to her triumph: the bells sound now as if they were the voices of her two favorite saints, Margaret and Catherine—voices urging her to lead the Dauphin to his coronation at Rheims. The tolling deathbells represent to

her the marching song of the armies on their way to the coronation.

Against the snowy countryside peasants and wanderers are waiting for the King. They drink and dance robustly celebrating in their primitive gaiety the unification of France. A wandering monk reprimands them for their lack of dignity and respect and obediently they kneel to thank God for the coronation of Their King. The procession passes by and the joyous throng goes off with the marchers. Joan is jubilant: it is she who has brought about this glorious event. Reality, however, is quickly forced upon her; where the people have just marched off soldiers are seen again—this time bringing down the heavy stake to which Joan will be chained for burning.

The full energy of her past returns as she proudly affirms that it is because of herself, together with God, that the King has been crowned. For a short moment the jailors are impressed by her strength and conviction, as were once the royal soldiers before Orleans.

But quickly Joan's force abandons her and she is chained to the stake,

A reddening sky evokes for her the beautiful sunrise over Normandy. But the audience sees that the glow is caused by the torch-bearers bringing the fire for her burning. Her thoughts, dwelling in the past with her playmates, recall the little children of Domremy, who appear to sing folksongs with her. They hold candles, as they used to do when going from shrine to shrine, paying homage to the Virgin. The children lower their candles to light them at the pyre and, guided by their fragile illumination, wander off into the distance and past time. Joan is alone chained among slowly growing flames. In pain and frightened, she finds help in the voices of her saints and of the Holy Virgin, who remind her that it is she who creates the flame which will burn over all France—a light to guide her country to recovery and dignity.

Finally, the fatherly Dominic, tortured by Joan's physical pain, urges her to confess to escape her suffering, but she refuses. Father Dominic realizes that his wisdom and stature are overshadowed by Joan's greatness; he sinks down, holding out to God the book of Joan: the final chapter, the glorious ending will have to be written in future time.









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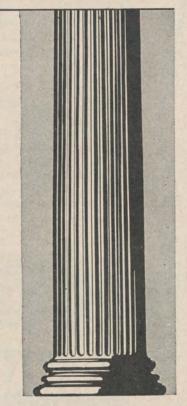
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TOSCA - Puccini (complete with libretto)
Caniglia, Marcangeli, Gigli, Mazziotti, Tomei, Borgioli,
Conti, Dominici. Orchestra of the Royal Opera House,
Rome. De Fabritiis conducting.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY - Puccini (complete with libretto)
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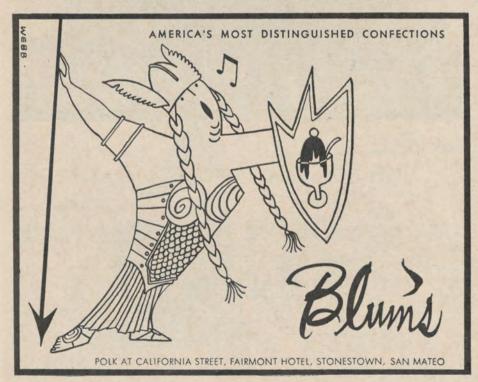
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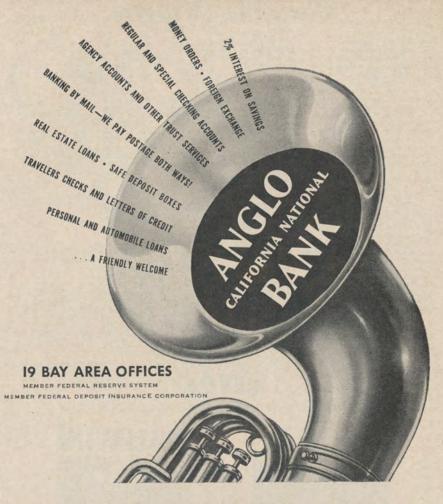
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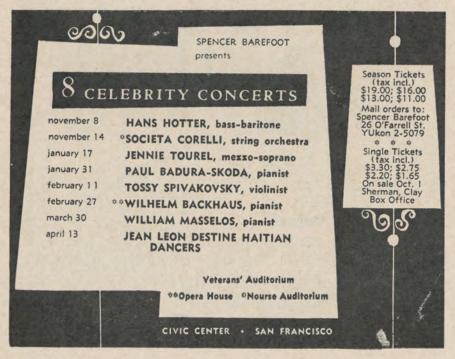


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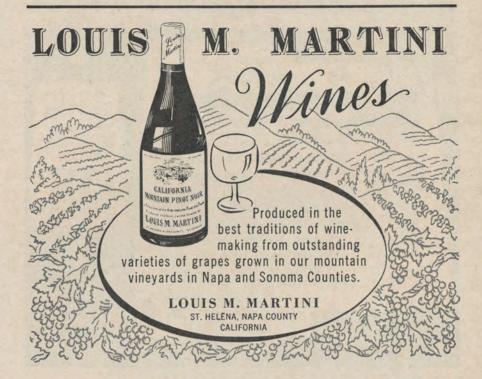




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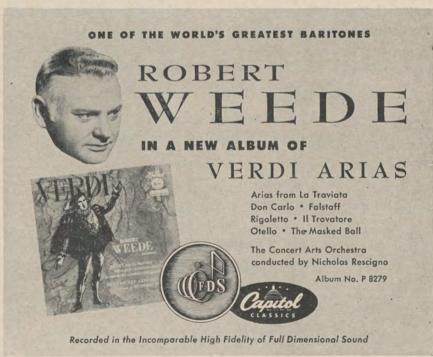


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Thursday Evening, September 30

"THE FLYING DUTCHMAN" by RICHARD WAGNER

Speaker: ALEXANDER FRIED, Music and Art Critic, San Francisco Examiner. Time and Place: 8:30 p.m., Peacock Court, Hotel Mark Hopkins.

Tuesday Morning, October 12

"JOAN OF ARC AT THE STAKE" by ARTHUR HONEGGER

Speaker: HARRY HORNER, Stage Director and Designer
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