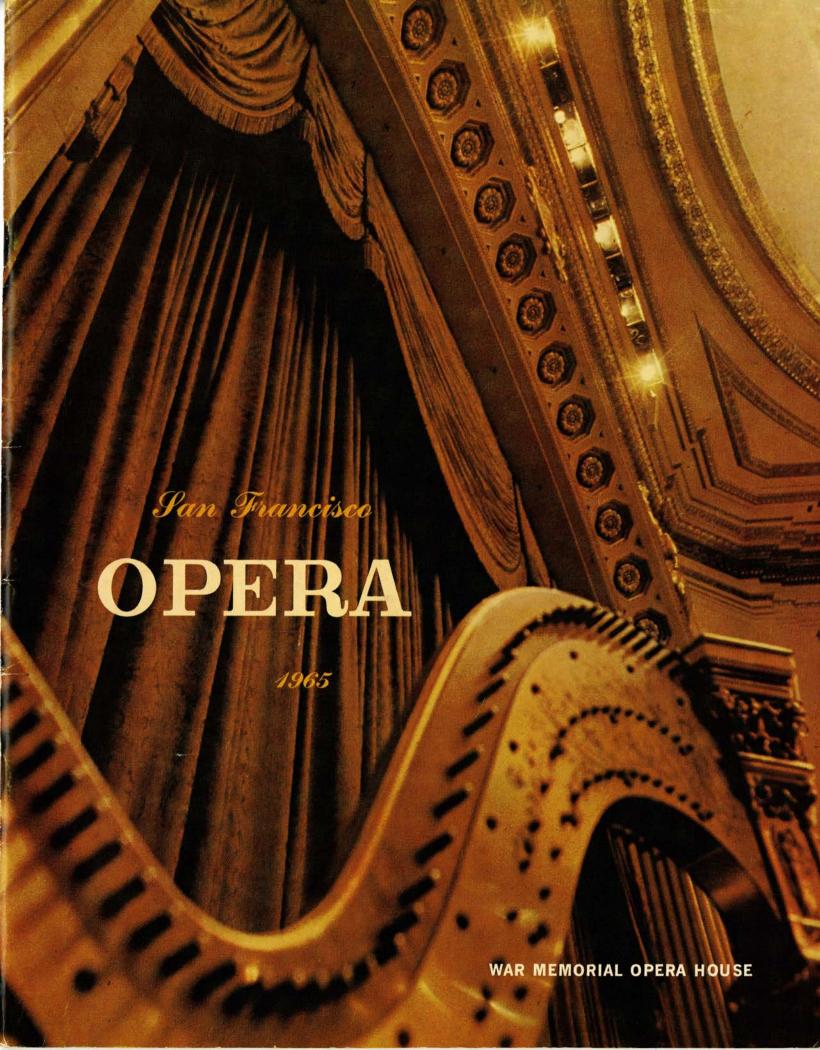
#### La Fanciulla del West

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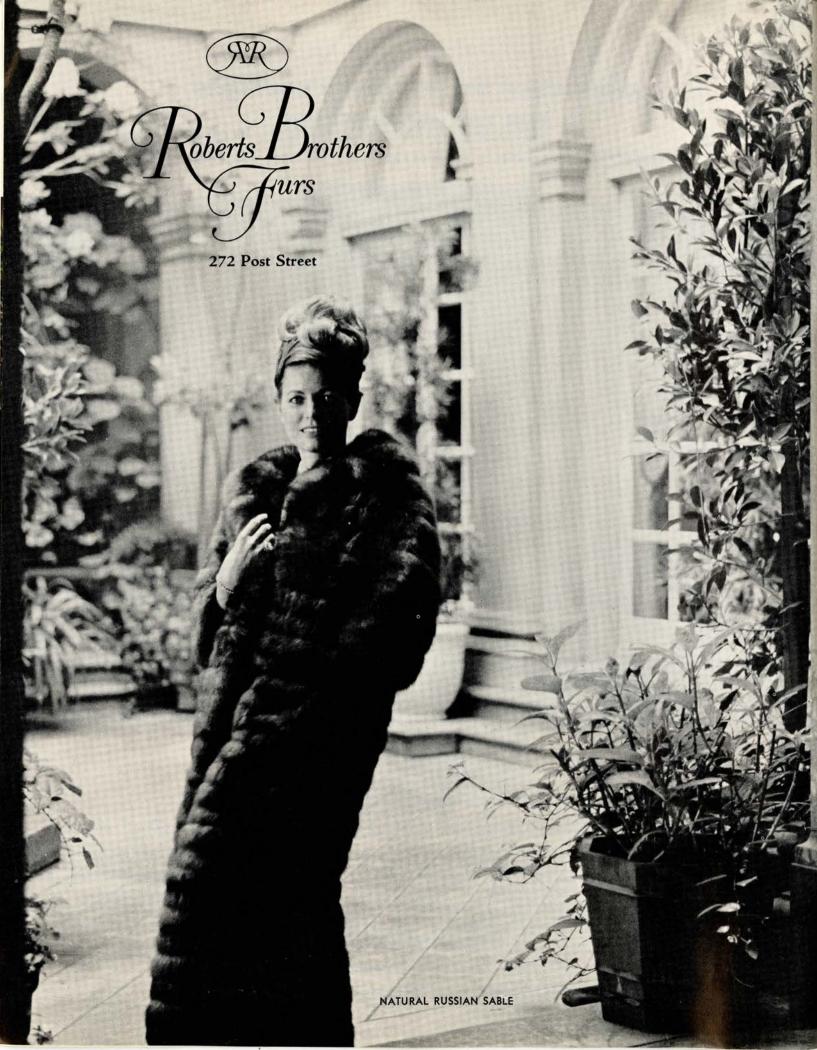
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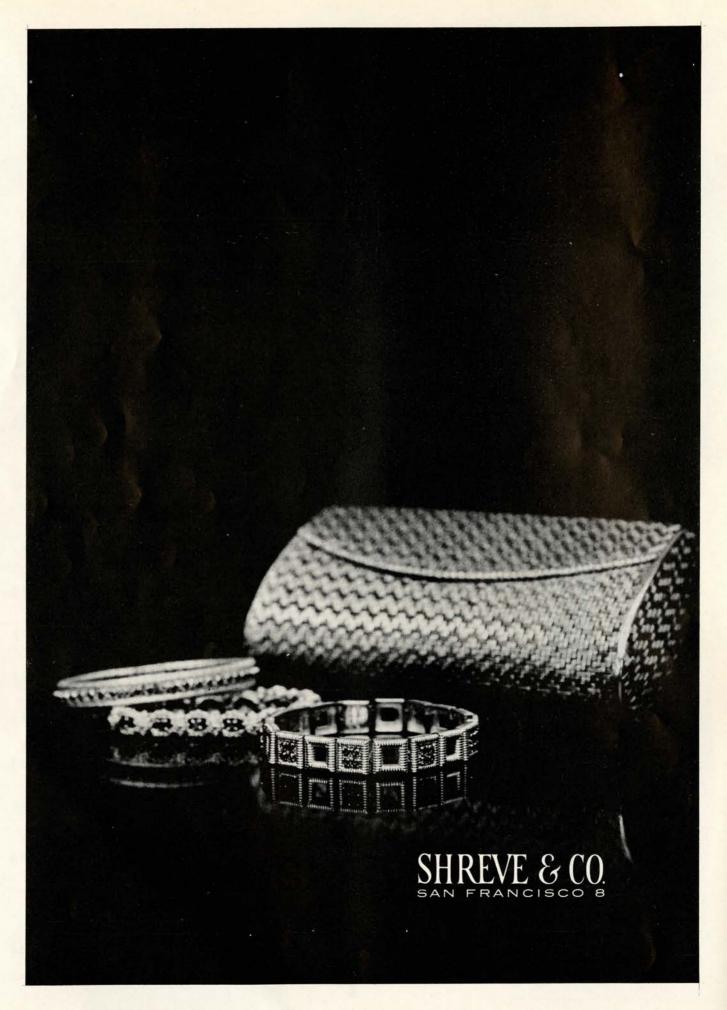
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BERG: Lulu

DEBUSSY: Pelléas et Mélisande

GIORDANO: Andrea Chénier

MOZART: Don Giovanni

PUCCINI: La Bohème

PUCCINI: La Fanciulla del West

PUCCINI: Tosca

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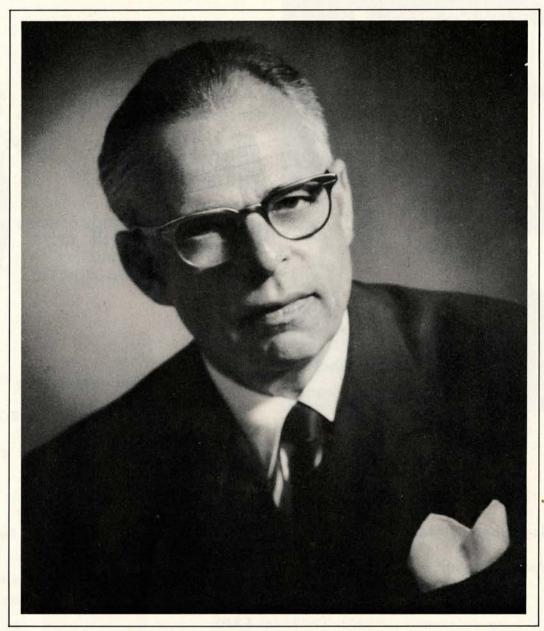
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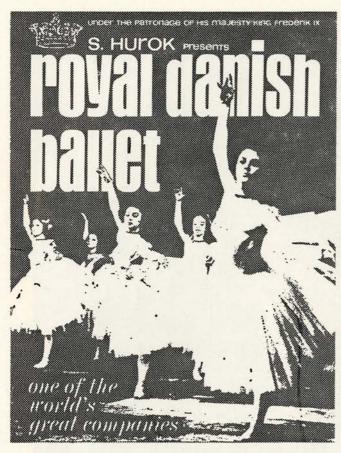


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Sona Cervena	Pilar Lorengar	**Toni Blankenheim	Raymond Manton
Marie Collier	Jolanda Meneguzzer	*Franco Corelli	Pietro Menci
Mary Costa	Leontyne Price	*Adib Fazah	*Thomas O'Leary
Gwen Curatilo	Renata Tebaldi	Andrew Foldi	Thomas Stewart
Reri Grist	Claramae Turner	*Richard Fredricks	Brian Sullivan
Hildegard Hillebrecht	Helen Vanni	Howard Fried	Jess Thomas
*Lucille Kailer	Claudia White	David Giosso	*Ugo Trama
		Robert Glover	Richard Tucker
		Colin Harvey	Ramon Vinay
ACTORS:		Joshua Hecht	John West
*Marguerite Ray *Scott Beach	*Jules Landry Sam Resnick	**Heinz Imdahl	*William Whitesides
SOLO DANCERS:  Lynda Meyer David Anderson	Thatcher Clark	**Andre Jobin	Raymond Wolansky
Dynda Meyer David Anderson	Thateher Clark	Sandor Konya	*Alexander Young
	*San Francisco O	Opera debut **American debut	Roster subject to revision

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On Election Day, November 2, the people of San Francisco will be given the opportunity to decide their city's cultural future by approving Proposition B, the War Memorial Center Bond Issue.

The War Memorial Opera House is a source of pride to the citizens of this community, for it houses those institutions which have made this city one of America's great cultural centers. But facilities of the Opera House are obsolete and hardly in keeping with today's requirements for a great opera company. Rehearsal space is limited to a point where additional space must be rented, at great expense and often in inconvenient locations; facilities for scenic construction and storage are inadequate; office space is so restricted that much of the staff must work in converted closets; stage equipment is outmoded. In short, the present-day needs of the San Francisco Opera, as well as of the Symphony and Ballet, have far outgrown the possibilities of the existing plant.

Added facilities — in the form of a new musical arts building — and extensive renovation of existing facilities are requisites for the maintenance of the Opera's high standards. Expansion is a necessity, not only to satisfy the increasing demands of this city's population, but as well for successful competition with other cities, whose artistic and economic growth have been impressively accelerated in the past decade by the construction of new Centers to house their cultural institutions.

If San Francisco does not continue to grow as a cultural center, then it must regress. Approval of the War Memorial Cultural Center Bond Issue is an investment in tomorrow, a promise of continued cultural leadership.

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Chorus Director: VINCENZO GIANNINI

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GEORGE POSELL, DAVID SHAPIRO\*, MARTIN SMITH

Boys' Chorus Director: MADI BACON

Stage Directors: HENRY BUTLER\*, MATTHEW FARRUGGIO, PAUL HAGER, LOTFI MANSOURI

Assistant Stage Directors : DALE DUFFY, GHITA HAGER

Choreographer: ZACHARY SOLOV

Production Designers: LENI BAUER-ECSY, LLOYD BURLINGAME\*, THOMAS L. COLANGELO, JR.

GEORGE JENKINS, LEO KERZ, ALFRED SIERCKE

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#### Chorus

Josephine Barbáno **Emogene Below** Walda Bradley **Beverley Cole** Louise Corsale Peggy Covington Carol Denyer Luana DeVol Giovanna Di Tano Eloise Farrell Ingeborg France Linda Fulton Ann Graber Katherine Hancock Lorie Walsh Kutsko Anne Lagier Jeanine Liagre

Margaret Magoon Ferne Misner Ann Moore Pepi Nenova Sheila Newcombe Neysa Null Pauline Pappas Deborah Raboy Rosalyn Repholz Phyllis Ricklefs \*Dolores San Miguel Trudy Sheer Sally Sherrill Sharon Talbot Margaret Wehle Sally Winnington Arlene Woodburn

Mario J. Alioto \*Winther Andersen George Argyres Daniel Armistead George C. Bland, Jr. Mario Barrientos William Booth Jan Budzinski Joseph Ciampi Harry M. de Lange Robert W. Eggert \* James Eitze Willis Frost John J. Gomez Valdes Gudrais \*Colin Harvey Charles Hilder Rudy Jungberg **Eugene Lawrence** Eric Lysell

Kenneth R. MacLaren Sebastian Martorano Hugo Mayer Henry Metlenko Thomas Miller Charles L. Pascoe Al Rodwell Robert Romanovsky Allen Schmidling John Segale +Rico Serbo Delbert Silva James C. Stith \*Richard Styles John Sweeny, Jr. György A. Szèkely Francis Szymkun John Talbot \* James Wagner Max Wilkinson

Auxiliary Chorus for die meistersinger von nuernburg Members of the Loring Club, Eugene Fulton, director.

#### Ballet

Lesandre Bailey
Allyson Crockett
Uta Enders
Illana de Heurtanmont
\*Penelope Lagios
\*Ann Marie Longtin
Diana Marks
Christie Sharp
\*Salicia Smith

\*Bill Breedlove
Robert Bruce
Richard Cash
Vincenzo Figlia
Henry Kersh
Kenneth Lipitz
Frank Ordway
Jud Stoddard
S. von Warmbrodt

#### Auxiliary Ballet

Suzanne Barber Leanne Benson Barbara Buell Patricia Haake Karen Hornschuch Mimi Janislawski Phoebe Meyers Patricia Werner Laurie White

Eugene Gash, accompanist

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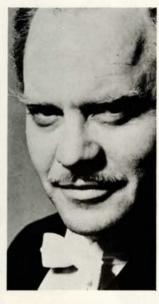


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#### DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NUERNBERG

(in German)

opera in three acts by: RICHARD WAGNER

conductor: LEOPOLD LUDWIG

stage director: PAUL HAGER

Walther von Stolzing, a Franconian knight	JESS THOMAS
Eva, Pogner's daughter	PILAR LORENGAR
Magdalene, Eva's companion	CLARAMAE TURNER
David, apprentice to Hans Sachs	
Veit Pogner, goldsmith	THOMAS O'LEARY
Sixtus Beckmesser, town clerk	TONI BLANKENHEIM
Hans Sachs, cobbler	HEINZ IMDAHL
Kunz Vogelgesang, furrier	WILLIAM WHITESIDES
Konrad Nachtigall, buckle-maker	RICHARD FREDRICKS
Fritz Kothner, baker	CHESTER LUDGIN
Hermann Ortel, soap-maker Mastersinge	ADIB FAZAH
Balthasar Zorn, pewterer	ROBERT GLOVER
Augustin Moser, tailor	HOWARD FRIED
Ulrich Eisslinger, grocer	RAYMOND MANTON
Hans Foltz, coppersmith	JOHN WEST
Hans Schwarz, stocking-weaver	JOSHUA HECHT
An Apprentice	DOLORES SAN MIGUEL
Night Watchman	

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costumers: GOLDSTEIN & CO.

place and time: Nuernberg; middle of the sixteenth century

I: Interior of St. Katherine's Church Act

Act II: Outside the homes of Sachs and Pogner

Act III: Scene 1: Hans Sachs' workshop

Scene 2: An open meadow near the Pegnitz River

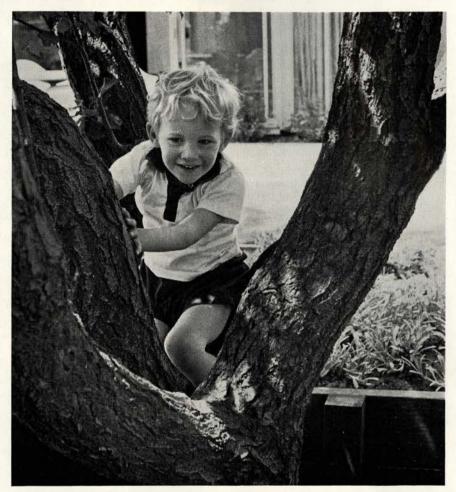
Next regular subscription performance: September 21, at 8:30 LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST (Puccini) in Italian

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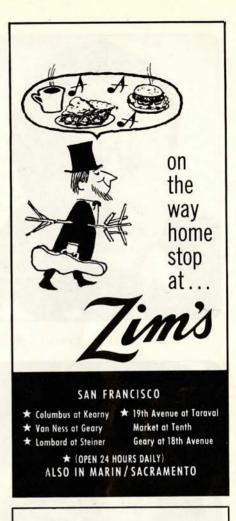
#### The Story of "DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NUERNBERG"

ACT 1: A young knight, Walther von Stolzing, attracts the attention of Eva Pogner, who is in company with her nurse, Magdalene, during services at St. Katherine's Church. Eva informs him that her hand in marriage will be the prize given to the victor in a song contest to be held the following day by the Mastersingers' Guild. David, Hans Sachs' apprentice, simultaneously flirts with Magdalene. A preliminary trial is to be held that morning in the Church and David explains to Walther the complex rules of the contest. The Mastersingers enter and Walther asks permission of Pogner, Eva's father, to enter the contest. Beckmesser, the town clerk and another contestant, is thoroughly offended by this request from a young upstart who is not even a member of the Guild. Hans Sachs feels that Eva's husband should be chosen with her consent and Pogner agrees to alter the rules somewhat, i.e., that Eva must marry a Mastersinger, although not necessarily the winner of the contest. Walther sings his trial song, with Beckmesser gleefully noting Walther's stylistic errors on a blackboard. The assembled Mastersingers join in Beckmesser's disapproval and Walther angrily leaves.

ACT II: It is Midsummer's Eve and the apprentices prepare to go home after a day's work. David tells Magdalene of Walther's humiliation. Hans Sachs enters and seats himself in front of his shop. Eva discloses to him her love for Walther, and Sachs, although himself in love with the girl, decides to help his much younger rival. Beckmesser serenades Eva beneath her window, accompanied—much to Beckmesser's irritation—by the hammer-blows of Sachs, beating time to the music. The neighbors are awakened by the noise. David, thinking that Beckmesser is serenading Magdalene, begins a fight with him. The townsfolk pour out of their homes and a general melee ensues, with Eva and Walther attempting to elope amid the confusion. But they are stopped by Sachs, who sends Eva home and brings Walther into his own house.

ACT III: Walther tells Sachs that he has dreamed of a wonderful song. He sings it and, at Sachs' request, jots the words down. Beckmesser, coming in after Sachs and Walther have left, finds the paper with the words of the song on it and is caught in the act of stealing it. Sachs tells him that he can keep the poem. When Eva enters, Walther sings her a bit of his song. Soon Sachs announces that preparations must be made for the contest, and the scene changes to the banks of the Pegnitz River, with the townspeople watching the procession of the Mastersingers to the platform. Sachs calls on Beckmesser to sing, and the latter makes a horrendous botch of his song, attempting unsuccessfully to fit Walther's words to his own music. He is laughed off the platform and replaced by Walther, whose singing wins the laurel wreath as well as Eva's hand in marriage.

A warning gong will be sounded in the foyer six minutes before the end of each intermission. A buzzer will signal the end of the intermission.





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New Production Revival

#### **DIE FLEDERMAUS**

(in English)

opera in three acts by JOHANN STRAUSS

Lyrics and dialogue based on the English translation by RUTH AND THOMAS MARTIN

By arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc.

conductor: LEOPOLD LUDWIG

production: PAUL HAGER

designer: OLIVER SMITH

Solo Dancers: Lynda Meyer, David Anderson, Thatcher Clark, Penelope Lagios, Ann Marie Longtin, Salicia Smith

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#### Corps de Ballet

chorus director: VINCENZO GIANNINI

choreographer: ZACHARY SOLOV

lighting: GHITA HAGER

costumes: ANN ROTH

executed by: GOLDSTEIN & CO.

place and time: New Year's Eve in a small town

Act I: Eisenstein's house

Act II: Prince Orlofsky's palace

Act III: The prison

Next Saturday Series performance: September 25, at 8:00 LULU (Berg) in English

Latecomers will not be seated while the performance is in progress



#### The Story of "DIE FLEDERMAUS"

Some time prior to the action of this opera, a dastardly trick was played on Dr. Falke by his friend, Eisenstein. While returning home from a masquerade with his friend, Falke, who was in the costume of a bat (Fledermaus) and asleep after a good deal of the juice of the grape, was left in a public square by Eisenstein. Awakening to the mocking laughter of a large crowd, Falke was promptly and permanently dubbed "Dr. Fledermaus." The story of this opera is the story of Falke's revenge on Eisenstein.

ACT I: The voice of Alfred, a latter-day minstrel (tenor variety), floats through the windows of the Eisenstein villa. Alfred is a former suitor of Rosalinda, Mrs. Eisenstein now. The chambermaid, Adele, is reading a letter from her sister inviting her to a masked ball that night at the home of the wealthy Prince Orlofsky. Rosalinda enters, thinking that Alfred is there. Adele asks for the evening off, but her mistress rejects her tearful plea. Exit Adele; enter Alfred. Rosalinda resists his wooing, but melts at the sound of his high A, with a promise that he can return later. Alfred leaves as Eisenstein enters with his bumbling lawyer, Dr. Blind. Eisenstein is to be imprisoned for a short spell that very night for committing a minor offense; but the sentence has been increased through Blind's incompetence. Blind is fired on the spot and Falke enters, enticing Eisenstein with an invitation to a masked ball that night. Falke succeeds by promising his friend that this would be the perfect pre-prison entertainment. Eisenstein leaves for "prison." Rosalinda gives Adele the evening off, and Alfred enters. Their little rendezvous is interrupted by prison warden Frank, who has come to escort Eisenstein to his confinement. With some nudging from Rosalinda, Alfred poses as Eisenstein and is led off.

ACT II: A crowd of richly attired guests, including the disguised Adele and her sister, Ida, are assembled at Orlofsky's house. The young and very jaded host enters. Falke announces to the Prince a delightful comedy he has planned for the evening called "The Bat's Revenge"; but the Prince remains royally bored. Eisenstein thinks he recognizes a certain young lady (Adele, wearing one of Rosalinda's most opulent gowns) as his chambermaid. She laughs him off. Rosalinda, who has also been invited by Frank, appears as a Hungarian countess. Eisenstein, already deeply immersed in his cups, woos the mysterious lady, who pilfers his watch to keep as a "memento" of the evening's activities. To the accompaniment of cascades of champagne entering the throats of the guests, the clock strikes six and Eisenstein is escorted out by the hardly more sober Frank, neither knowing the other's true identity.

ACT III: Frosch, the drunken jailer, is unsuccessfully trying to placate his wards, who have been kept from their beauty sleep by Alfred's unceasing operatic recital. Frank reels in, and after him Adele, whom he promised a great theatrical career, and Ida. Hearing a knock at the door, Frank hides the girls in a cell. The latest visitor is Eisenstein, prepared to fulfill his obligation. He is led to his cell, but finds it occupied by a man claiming to be Eisenstein, and who was reported to have been dining with Rosalinda. Eisenstein grabs a robe and wig from Dr. Blind, who has also appeared on the scene, to extract an explanation from Alfred. Rosalinda now enters to secure Alfred's release and begin divorce proceedings against Eisenstein. She tells the story of her little byplay with Alfred to the lawyer (Eisenstein in disguise), who reveals his true identity and rages against his wife, accusing her of gross immorality. At this Rosalinda produces the watch taken from Eisenstein by the "Hungarian countess," and he sheepishly ceases his protestations. Soon the assemblage is joined by Adele, Ida, the Prince and his guests. The jail is filled with a happy company, rejoicing at the reconciliation of Eisenstein and Rosalinda and toasting Dr. Fledermaus and King Champagne, the heroes of our little farce.

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#### LA BOHEME

(in Italian)

opera in four acts by GIACOMO PUCCINI

text by

LUIGI ILLICA and GIUSEPPE GIACOSA

conductor:

PIERO BELLUGI\*

stage director:

LOTFI MANSOURI

designer:

GEORGE JENKINS

Rodolfo, a poet......SANDOR KONYA Marcello, a painter......RAYMOND WOLANSKY Schaunard, a musician......RICHARD FREDRICKS Benoit, their landlord ...... ANDREW FOLDI Parpignol, a toy vendor......JAMES EITZE A boy ......ROBERT DENEBEIM Musetta, a coquette......JOLANDA MENEGUZZER Alcindoro, her admirer ...... HOWARD FRIED 

> Students, soldiers, citizens, vendors, shopkeepers, waiters San Francisco Boys' Chorus, Madi Bacon, Director

chorus director: VINCENZO GIANNINI

\*San Francisco Opera debut

costumers: GOLDSTEIN & CO.

place and time: Paris; about 1830

Garret of the bohemians

Act II: A square in the Latin Quarter

Act III: A city gate

Act IV: Garret of the bohemians

The production of "La Boheme" was donated to the San Francisco Opera Association by the San Francisco Opera Guild in 1958.

Next Sunday Series performance: September 26, at 2:00 LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST (Puccini) in Italian

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#### The Story of "LA BOHEME"

ACT I—In their dismal, unheated garret, the poet Rodolfo and the painter Marcello are attempting to keep warm. They have no logs, so Rodolfo sacrifices the pages of his play to start a fire. They are soon joined by Colline and Schaunard, who bring fuel, food, wine and a bit of money. Their festivities are interrupted by the landlord, Benoit, demanding payment of the long overdue rent. The four friends ply him with wine and then, feigning shock at his tales of indiscretion, push him from the room. When the others depart for the cafe, Rodolfo remains to work, but is interrupted by a knock at the door. It is Mimi, requesting a light for her candle. She is suddenly overcome by a fit of coughing, and drops her candle and key. Marcello finds the key, and impressed by Mimi's beauty, pockets it to prolong her stay. They then confide in each other. Rodolfo's friends are heard calling for him, and at Mimi's suggestion, they leave together for the cafe.

ACT II—Rodolfo and Mimi join their friends at the Cafe Momus. Here Marcello's fickle sweetheart, Musetta, in spite of the presence of her rich and elderly admirer, Alcindoro, tries to regain Marcello's affections. He promptly succumbs, and when a parade passes by the cafe, he and the other bohemians fall in behind it, bearing Musetta aloft and leaving their bill to be settled by Alcindoro.

Act III—At dawn on a wintry morning, Mimi comes to the tavern to get help from Marcello who is living there with Musetta. Mimi confesses to him that she wishes to leave Rodolfo because of his jealousy. She then hides as Rodolfo appears to tell Marcello that he fears for Mimi's health. Mimi overhears and is reassured of her lover's affection. Aware that she has but a short time to live, she tries to say goodbye, but instead they are temporarily reconciled. Musetta runs from the tavern quarreling with Marcello.

ACT IV—Rodolfo and Marcello, again having separated from their mistresses, are back in their garret. They try to work, but both are lonely and sad. At the entrance of Schaunard and Colline bringing a scant supply of food, their mood brightens. As the four rejoice, Musetta interrupts with the news that the ailing Mimi is outside. The friends help her into the room and leave to buy medicine for her. She and Rodolfo tenderly reaffirm their love. The others return too late, for Mimi, after a fit of coughing, dies, leaving Rodolfo heartbroken.

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#### LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST

(in Italian)

opera in three acts by GIACOMO PUCCINI

text by GUELFO CIVININI and CARLO ZANGARINI

based on the drama by DAVID BELASCO

By arrangement with Franco Colombo, Inc., Publishers

conductor: FRANCESCO MOLINARI-PRADELLI

stage director: LOTFI MANSOURI

Jack Rance, sheriff	CHESTER LUDGIN
Nick, bartender of the Polka Saloon	HOWARD FRIED
Larkens	ADIB FAZAH
Joe	ROBERT GLOVER
Harry	WILLIAM WHITESIDES
Handsome	WINTHER ANDERSEN
Happy miners	DAVID GIOSSO
Sid	COLIN HARVEY
Sonora	RICHARD FREDRICKS
Trin	RAYMOND MANTON
Jake Wallace, minstrel of the camp	JOHN WEST
Ashby, Wells-Fargo agent	JOSHUA HECHT
Minnie, owner of the Polka Saloon	MARIE COLLIER
A Postillion	JAMES EITZE
Dick Johnson, alias Ramerrez, an outlaw	GIOVANNI GIBIN*
Jose Castro, one of Ramerrez' gang	PIETRO MENCI
Wowkle, Billy's squaw	CLAUDIA WHITE
Billy Jackrabbit, an Indian	ANDREW FOLDI
	*San Francisco Opera debut

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costumers: GOLDSTEIN & CO.

place and time: A mining camp in California during the 1849 Gold Rush

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Act II: Interior of Minnie's cabin

Act III: Foot of Cloudy Mountain at dawn

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#### Puccini's Golden West

by S. DALE HARRIS\*

The days when a popular composer like Rossini or Donizetti could blithely turn out five or six new stage pieces a year came to an end around the middle of the nineteenth century. A growing fastidiousness on the part of the operatic audience meant that increasing care had to be taken in the preparation and presentation of new works. These were expected to be more carefully-wrought, more substantial, more durable than in the earlier part of the century; ephemerality was no longer taken for granted, and as a result greater emphasis was placed upon soundness of dramatic construction. To compare the *Otello* of Rossini (1816) with the *Otello* of Verdi (1887), the one psychologically incoherent and melodramatic (though often beautiful, for all that), the other faultlessly-shaped tragedy, is to see, among other things, the difference in artistic ambitiousness brought about by the passing of seventy years. Rossini and his audiences simply did not place as much value upon aesthetic integrity as did Verdi and his audiences. In the seventy years between *Otellos* opera writing became an altogether more formidable and conscientious business.

This was true especially in respect to the libretto. Indeed, from Verdi onwards the choice of libretto assumed tremendous importance in the creation of new operas. No longer was the composer satisfied with a mere sequence of thrilling incidents; there now had to be some genuine relationship between them, and some overall verisimilitude, or at least consistency. In other words, the composer now needed a convincing drama to bring to musical life. The happy-go-lucky conditions in which Rossinian opera seria had been hatched; and, after it, the opportunistic sensationalism that bred the spectacles of Scribe and Meyerbeer—these gave way to sterner views about opera, with the result that the stories became, if not more edifying, then at least more sophisticated. Henceforth the action was less likely to be interrupted by such things as the ice-skating ballet that finds its way into the Scribe-Meyerbeer Le Prophète, a work that deals with John of Leyden and the Anabaptist uprising in sixteenth-century Holland.

In this changed atmosphere the process of discovering a suitable text often became painfully difficult. For someone as sensitive to dramatic psychology as Puccini the search could become agonizing. The problem in any case was magnified for him by his interest in local color. Puccini needed to be stimulated by an imaginative fictional environment as well as by a plausible and moving tale. From the beginning his inclinations led him to plots that featured not merely individuality of character, but also particularity of setting. His operas do not often take place in the vague timeless world of heroic action; and even when, like Turandot, they do, their drama is shaped by the atmosphere of location and time: the courtyard before the Imperial Palace in ancient Peking, the troubled night, the rising of the moon. The conception of opera that enabled Donizetti to write a Lucia di Lammermoor without a trace of Scottish color, or the young Verdi an Ernani without more than a hint of the drama's Spanish background was utterly alien to Puccini. His operas are always imbued with the spirit of place; the presence of the actual world is always felt in them, even at their most romanticized and exotic. Thus in La Bohème (1896) he creates not merely the pathetic, consumptive Mimì, but also the bustling nights and sad, chilly mornings of Paris in the 1830s. In Tosca (1900) we have not merely the volatile Tosca, proud and vulnerable, but also Rome in June 1800 with its starlit dawns and distant sheep-bells. In Madama Butterfly (1904) we have both the geisha and the cherry blossoms of Nagasaki.

The satisfaction of Puccini's literary requirements caused him many delays. He needed a strong but convincing tale, preferably centering on an embattled heroine and taking place in surroundings remote from ordinary daily life. He could make no progress until he had been inspired by a plot of this kind and then had seen it fashioned into a properly-finished libretto, exciting, swift in action, full of strong feeling, and direct in appeal. All of which was a lengthy, hard, and sometimes acrimonious process. And as soon as one opera was completed he immediately began the same wearisome business all over again. Thus, though the average gap between his operas was four years, even that period was dependent upon his luck in hitting upon the right subject, and after that the right librettists (there were usually two of these to an opera). Once he actually began composing, Puccini generally made steady progress: his agonies tended to precede the actual creation of the music. In the case of La Fanciulla del West, however, the agonies were, even for Puccini, unnaturally protracted, and, as it turned out, nearly seven years separated this work from its predecessor, Madama Butterfly.

For one thing Puccini needed a change of pace. He had become weary (temporarily, as it turned out later) of doomed, gentle heroines. He had his sights set on stronger stuff, a more elemental subject, something to be played out amid violent

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## LA BOHEME

(in Italian)

opera in four acts by GIACOMO PUCCINI

text by LUIGI ILLICA and

GIUSEPPE GIACOSA

conductor: PIERO BELLUGI

stage director: LOTFI MANSOURI

designer: GEORGE JENKINS

Rodolfo, a poet......SANDOR KONYA Marcello, a painter......RAYMOND WOLANSKY Colline, a philosopher......JOSHUA HECHT Benoit, their landlord .......ANDREW FOLDI Mimi, a seamstress ...... RENATA TEBALDI Parpignol, a toy vendor......JAMES EITZE A boy ......ROBERT DENEBEIM Alcindoro, her admirer ...... HOWARD FRIED Customs-house sergeant .......WINTHER ANDERSEN

> Students, soldiers, citizens, vendors, shopkeepers, waiters San Francisco Boys' Chorus, Madi Bacon, Director

chorus director: VINCENZO GIANNINI

costumers: GOLDSTEIN & CO.

place and time: Paris; about 1830

Act I: Garret of the bohemians

Act II: A square in the Latin Quarter

Act III: A city gate

Act IV: Garret of the bohemians

The production of "La Boheme" was donated to the San Francisco Opera Association by the San Francisco Opera Guild in 1958.

Next Thursday Series performance: September 30, at 8:00 DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss) in English

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#### Puccini's Golden West

(Continued from page 33)

and dangerous passions. To that end he read novels, stories, poems, synopses, scenarios; he went to the theater; he badgered his friends for ideas. At the suggestion of one of them, an Englishwoman, he considered in turn Kipling's *The Light that Failed*, Tennyson's *Enoch Arden*, Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, Bulwer-Lytton's *The Last Days of Pompeii*, and two tragic plays in verse by Oscar Wilde. None of these appealed to him.

It was not until two years had passed that he found his new subject. When visiting New York in 1907 at the invitation of the Metropolitan Opera Puccini went as often as he could to the theater, looking for operatic possibilities in everything he saw. After his success with David Belasco's Madam Butterfly he naturally made a point of attending the three plays that Belasco had running in New York at that time. These were The Music Master, which unfortunately did not impress him at all, The Rose of Rancho, to which he had the same reaction, and, finally The Girl of the Golden West. This, the revival of an earlier Belasco success, happened to star Blanche Bates, the author's favorite actress and the first Butterfly—though because Puccini had caught up with the play only during its London production he had never seen her on stage before. He was immediately attracted by her Minnie, a heroine both naive and resourceful, sentimental and shrewd, willing to stake her happiness on cunning and strength of purpose.

Belasco's Minnie was as romantically Western as his Butterfly had been Eastern. She is in fact a type familiar in the mythology of the West: the tough girl with a heart of gold, the pistol-packing saloon-keeper who mothers all the miners, looks after their money, and teaches them their lessons. She is the pure maiden who tames the wild and lawless. When she falls in love with the bandit Ramerrez she reforms him at the same time. Yet she is no mere sentimental sweetheart. She has the pioneer's instinct for survival, even if it means sacrificing a few of her principles to do so. When the Sheriff (who also loves her) discovers the wounded Ramerrez hiding out in her cabin loft, she is prepared to play a game of cards for his freedom—and also to pull an ace out of her stocking as soon as the Sheriff's back is turned. And when Ramerrez is captured anyway she has no hesitation in pleading for his release on the grounds that the miners are beholden to her. It was this mixture of hoyden and angel personified by Blanche Bates that Puccini found so attractive and so "American."

Actually Puccini had been thinking vaguely of an American subject for some time. A long-standing interest in Negro songs led him to the musical comedy Twiddle-Twaddle during the same New York visit, but he found nothing there of any significance. In The Girl of the Golden West, however, Puccini was delighted not only by the setting, but also by the "authentic California minstrels" with which Belasco replaced the regular theater orchestra. He was especially delighted by the scenes at the Polka Saloon, where Belasco made extensive use of old songs—Coal Oil Tommy, Rosalie and Prairie Flower, among them—accompanied by concertina, banjo and xylophone. In fact, it was at a point in the first act when an old minstrel stepped forward to sing The Old Dog Tray that, according to Belasco, Puccini sat up in his seat and exclaimed, "Ah, there is my theme at last!" True or not, Puccini did incorporate both minstrel and song into his opera.

However, by the time that composer and librettists had finished their labors with the text there was a lot less Belasco than this detail suggests there might have been. For one thing, the opera's final act was quite new. It was entirely Puccini's idea. Set, as he described it, "in the great California forest, with some colossal trees," it replaced the last two acts of Belasco's original drama: one act at the Polka Saloon in which Johnson, Minnie's outlaw lover, is tried by the miners; and the other, a long, quite wordless tableau in which the pair are seen setting out on their way to a happy new life. But even though he dispensed with this act it made a great impression on him nevertheless. And it is hardly surprising that Puccini should have found himself attracted by a play in which dumb-show and music play so large a role. The same was true for the original Madam Butterfly, where the heroine's night-long vigil was simulated by a silent scene, fourteen minutes in length, during which the dusk turned first to night and at last to a bird-filled dawn. But, then, Puccini hardly knew enough English to follow a word of either play. The action of each was perfectly clear to him without that. What he was looking for in The Girl of the Golden West was something independent of a precise understanding of the characters' lines: a straightforward narrative, a striking dramatic conflict, a love story, and an exotic background. In the more than four years that were to elapse before La Fanciulla del West made its appearance on stage Puccini was to have his doubts about Belasco's work, but never about the qualities which, after two years of searching, had set his creative powers to work once more.

\*Professor Harris is a member of the faculty of English at Stanford University. He is regularly heard in discussions of opera on Radio Station KPFA.



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## Debuts of the Week



#### PIERO BELLUGI

Although he will be making his San Francisco Opera debut this season as conductor of La Bohème, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, and Tosca, Piero Bellugi is no stranger to the Bay Area, having been conductor of the Oakland Symphony during the 1950s. The young Italian maestro was educated at the Conservatory of Music in his native Florence, at the Chigi Academy in Siena, and at the Salzburg Mozarteum. He completed his studies in the United States with Rafael Kubelik and Leonard Bernstein.

Following his activities in Oakland, Maestro Bellugi became conductor of the Portland (Oregon) Symphony, which position he resigned in 1961 to fulfill a mounting number of European engagements. He has since conducted operatic performances at La Scala, the Teatro San Carlo of Naples, La Fenice (Venice), the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and the Monte Carlo Opera. Also active as a symphonic conductor, Maestro Bellugi has led many of Europe's leading orchestras, including the Vienna Symphony, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Santa Cecilia (Rome), and Radio-Télévision Française. For the past two summers he has been a leading conductor at the Aixen-Provence Festival.



#### **GIOVANNI GIBIN**

Tenor Giovanni Gibin, who makes his San Francisco Opera debut as Dick Johnson in La Fanciulla del West, studied in his native Brazil and in Vienna. He made his first stage appearances at the Vienna Staatsoper in 1958 and subsequently sang such roles as Dick Johnson, Calaf in Turandot, Rhadames in Aida, Pollione in Norma and Manrico in Il Trovatore at La Scala, Covent Garden, the Netherlands Opera, and the New York City Opera, where he made his United States debut in 1962. He has sung Dick Johnson at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires under the baton of Francesco Molinari-Pradelli and has also recorded the role for Angel Records.



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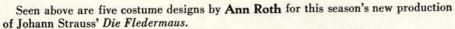


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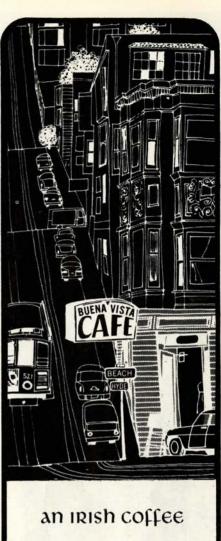
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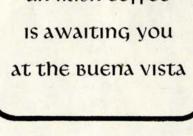
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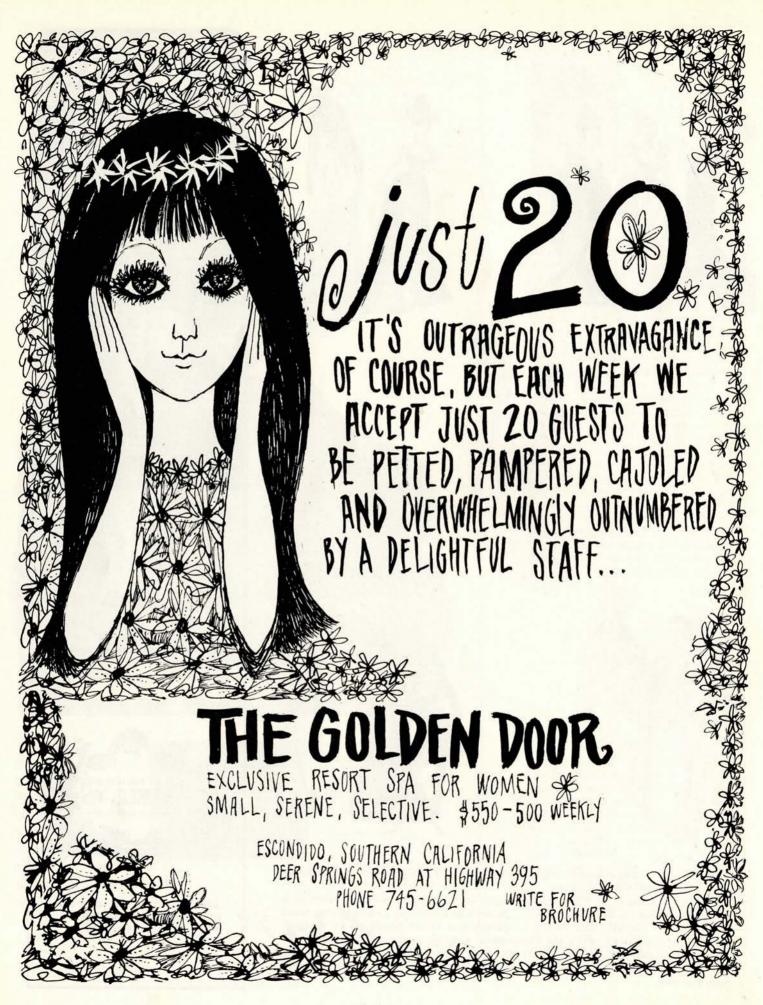
Miss Roth, a native of Hanover, Pa., began her association with the opera as a scenic painter for the Pittsburgh Opera. She went to Hollywood as assistant to noted designer Irene Sharaff. Miss Roth subsequently met Oliver Smith, scenic designer for the San Francisco Opera's Die Fledermaus, with whom she collaborated on the films of Oklahoma and Guys and Dolls. She has designed costumes for thirty Broadway shows, and is currently creating costumes for the film A Fine Madness, with Sean Connery.







1630 Powell Street San Francisco SU 1-9643



## Special Events

### Opera Previews

Presented by The Junior League of San Francisco, Inc.

Friday, September 10
DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss)
Speaker: Anthony Boucher

Thursday, September 23 L U L U (Berg) Speaker: Dr. Walter Ducloux

Monday, October 18 UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi) Speaker: R. Barret Mineah

Wednesday, October 27
PELLEAS ET MELISANDE (Debussy)
Speaker: Alexander Fried

Hotel Mark Hopkins, Peacock Court, at 11:00 a.m.

Public invited free of charge

## Opera Ball and Fol-de-Rol Follies

Presented by the San Francisco Opera Guild Wednesday, October 20, at 9:30 p.m. CIVIC AUDITORIUM

## Opera Exhibit

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY Larkin and Fulton Streets September 13 — November 1

A display of books and information on the opera season, with special features on the operas Lulu and Pelleas et Melisande, including stage design sketches and other pictorial material.

Recordings and scores of all the season's operas are available in the Arts Department.

## Opera Discussions on Radio KPFA

Tuesday, September 21, at 7:45 p.m.
Broadcast of The Junior League Opera
Preview of DIE FLEDERMAUS.

Monday, September 27, at 2:15 p.m.
Broadcast of The Junior League Opera
Preview of LULU.

Friday, September 24, at 7:30 p.m.
PREVIEW OF LULU
Interview with stage director
Paul Hager.

Saturday, September 25, at 3:30 p.m.
DISCUSSION OF LULU
by George Perle, composer and
musicologist.

A panel of KPFA critics will review performances of the San Francisco Opera Season.

(continued on page 44)



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These years have added lustre to the San Francisco Opera's reputation and its position in the first rank of great opera companies of the world. It has come through effort and hard work. The financial burdens of opera, even under the most stringent business practices, are heavy. New assistance must constantly be sought. Those who have never given are asked to donate this year toward our \$175,000 Opera Fund Drive goal.

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Continued

## Special Events

San Francisco Opera Touring Calendar

BERKELEY PERFORMANCE

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LOHENGRIN Wagner (in German)

Sunday, October 17, 2:00 p.m.

THE HEARST GREEK THEATER

SACRAMENTO PERFORMANCE
presented by the Sacramento Opera Guild
LOHENGRIN Wagner (in German)
Monday, November 1, 8:00 p.m.
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presented by the San Diego Opera Guild

3 Performances

November 10, 17, and 24 First Season in

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE

## Repertoire / 1965 Season

Friday evening, September 10, at 8:30 - first performance this season

ANDREA CHENIER (Giordano)

Tebaldi, Bessel, Cervena, Turner; Tucker, Bastianini, Fredricks, Hecht, Fried, Whitesides, West, Fazah, Giosso, Menci, Andersen

CONDUCTOR: Molinari-Pradelli

STAGE DIRECTOR: Mansouri

CHOREOGRAPHER: Solov

Saturday evening, September 11, at 7:30 — first performance this season

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NUERNBERG (Wagner)

Lorengar, Turner; Thomas, Imdahl, O'Leary, Blankenheim, Young, Ludgin, Foldi, Whitesides, Glover, Manton, Fried, Fredricks, Fazah, Hecht, West CONDUCTOR: Ludwig STAGE DIRECTOR: Hager

Tuesday evening, September 14, at 8:00 - first performance this season

†DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss)

Costa, Grist, Cervena, Ray; Lewis, Sullivan, Stewart, Wolansky, Beach, Foldi, Menci conductor: Ludwig production: Hager designer: Smith costume designer: Roth choreographer: Solov

Thursday evening, September 16, at 8:00

ANDREA CHENIER (Giordano)

Same cast as September 10

Friday evening, September 17, at 7:30

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NUERNBERG (Wagner)

Same cast as September 11

Saturday evening, September 18, at 8:00

†DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss)

Same cast as September 14

Sunday afternoon, September 19, at 2:00 — first performance this season

LA BOHEME (Puccini)

Tebaldi, Meneguzzer; Konya, Wolansky, Fredricks, Hecht, Foldi, Fried, Harvey, Andersen, Eitze, Denebeim CONDUCTOR: Bellugi STAGE DIRECTOR: Mansouri DESIGNER: Jenkins

Tuesday evening, September 21, at 8:30 - first performance this season

LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST (Puccini)

Collier, White; Corelli, Ludgin, Fried, Hecht, Fredricks, Foldi, West, Whitesides, Manton, Harvey, Glover, Fazah, Menci, Giosso, Andersen, Eitze CONDUCTOR: Molinari-Pradelli STAGE DIRECTOR: Mansouri

Thursday evening, September 23, at 8:00

LA BOHEME (Puccini)

Tebaldi, Collier; Konya, Wolansky, Fredricks, Hecht, Foldi, Fried, Harvey, Andersen, Eitze, Denebeim conductor: Bellugi stage director: Mansouri designer: Jenkins

Friday evening, September 24, at 8:00

†DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss)

Same cast as September 14

Saturday evening, September 25, at 8:00 - West Coast premiere

†LULU (Berg)

Lear, Cervena, Bessel, White; Vinay, Lewis, Sullivan, Ludgin, Foldi, O'Leary, Fried, Giosso, Resnick, Beach, Landry CONDUCTOR: Ludwig PRODUCTION: Hager DESIGNERS: Bauer-Ecsy/D. West

Sunday afternoon, September 26, at 2:00 - last performance this season

LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST (Puccini)

Same cast as September 21

Tuesday evening, September 28, at 8:00 — first performance this season

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO (Verdi)

Price, Bessel, White; Konya, Wolansky, Trama, Blankenburg, Hecht, Fried, West, Fazah conductor: Molinari-Pradelli production: Hager designers: Bauer-Ecsy/Colangelo choreographer: Solov

Wednesday evening, September 29, at 8:00 — last performance this season

LA BOHEME (Puccini)

Tebaldi, Collier; Corelli, Wolansky, Fredricks, Hecht, Foldi, Fried, Harvey, Andersen, Eitze, Denebeim conductor: Bellugi stage director: Mansouri designer: Jenkins

Thursday evening, September 30, at 8:00

†DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss)

Same cast as September 14

Friday evening, October 1, at 8:30 — last performance this season

†LULU (Berg)

Same cast as September 25

Saturday evening, October 2, at 8:00 - last performance this season

ANDREA CHENIER (Giordano)

Same cast as September 10

continued



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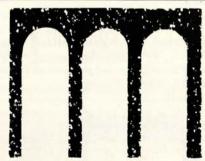
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continued

## Repertoire / 1965 Season

Sunday afternoon, October 3, at 1:30 — last performance this season

#### DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NUERNBERG (Wagner)

Amara, Turner, San Miguel; Thomas, Imdahl, O'Leary, Blankenheim, Young, Ludgin, Foldi, Whitesides, Glover, Manton, Fried, Fredricks, Fazah, Hecht, West CONDUCTOR: Ludwig STAGE DIRECTOR: Hager

Tuesday evening, October 5, at 8:00

#### LA FORZA DEL DESTINO (Verdi)

Same cast as September 28

Thursday evening, October 7, at 8:00 — first performance this season

#### IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (Rossini)

Grist, Cervena; Fredricks, Young, Vinay, Trama, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner, Styles
CONDUCTOR: Bellugi PRODUCTION: Rennert STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio DESIGNERS: Siercke/Colangelo

Friday evening, October 8, at 8:00 — first performance this season

#### LOHENGRIN (Wagner)

Hillebrecht, Bessel; Thomas, Ludgin, O'Leary, Fredricks CONDUCTOR: Stein STAGE DIRECTOR: Butler DESIGNER: Ker.

Saturday evening, October 9, at 8:00 — last performance this season

#### LA FORZA DEL DESTINO (Verdi)

Same cast as September 28

Sunday afternoon, October 10, at 2:00 — last performance this season

#### †DIE FLEDERMAUS (J. Strauss)

Same cast as September 14 CONDUCTOR: Stein

Tuesday evening, October 12, at 8:30

#### IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (Rossini)

Grist, Cervena; Blankenburg, Young, Vinay, Trama, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner, Styles CONDUCTOR: Bellugi PRODUCTION: Rennert STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio DESIGNERS: Siercke/Colangelo

Thursday evening, October 14, at 8:00 — last performance this season

#### LOHENGRIN (Wagner)

Same cast as October 8

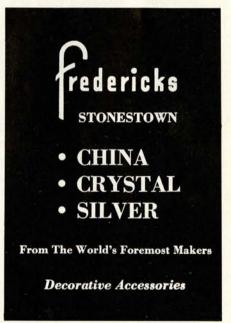
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Continued

## Repertoire / 1965 Season

Friday evening, October 15, at 8:00 — first performance this season

†DON GIOVANNI (Mozart)

Price, Amara, Meneguzzer; Stewart, Lewis, Trama, O'Leary, West

COSTUME DESIGNER: Skalicki DESIGNER: Smith CONDUCTOR: Molinari-Pradelli PRODUCTION: Hager

Saturday evening, October 16, at 8:00 - first performance this season

TOSCA (Puccini)

Collier; Konya, Vinay, Hecht, Foldi, Fried, Fazah, Giosso, di Francesco

STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio CONDUCTOR: Bellugi

Tuesday evening, October 19, at 8:30 - first performance this season

†UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi)

Price, Meneguzzer, Turner; Konya, Wolansky, Hecht, Foldi, Fredricks, Whitesides, Fazah

CHOREOGRAPHER: Solov CONDUCTOR: Molinari-Pradelli PRODUCTION: Butler DESIGNER: Burlingame

Thursday evening, October 21, at 8:00

TOSCA (Puccini)

Collier; Thomas, Vinay, Hecht, Foldi, Fried, Fazah, Giosso, di Francesco

CONDUCTOR: Bellugi STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio

Friday evening, October 22, at 8:00

†DON GIOVANNI (Mozart)

Same cast as October 15

Saturday evening, October 23, at 8:00 - first performance this season

ARIADNE AUF NAXOS (R. Strauss)

Hillebrecht, Grist, Vanni, Meneguzzer, Curatilo, Bessel; Thomas, Fredricks, Ludgin, Young, Manton, West,

Whitesides, Fried, Beach, Giosso, Eitze

CONDUCTOR: Stein STAGE DIRECTOR: Hager DESIGNER: Jenkins

Sunday afternoon, October 24, at 2:00 - last performance this season

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (Rossini)

Meneguzzer, Turner; Blankenburg, Young, Vinay, Trama, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner, Styles STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio DESIGNERS: Siercke/Colangelo

PRODUCTION: Rennert CONDUCTOR: Bellugi

Tuesday evening, October 26, at 8:30 - last performance this season ARIADNE AUF NAXOS (R. Strauss)

Same cast as October 23

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Excerpts from Samson et Dalila, Otello, Carmen, Aida

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N. Y. Times - Recordings Sunday, August 22, 1965





James McCracken sings Florestan in London's superb "Fidelio" with Birgit Nilsson in the title role. Mr. McCracken's first solo recital will be released this season. It features arias from: Il Trovatore, Faust, La Forza del Destino, Die Meistersinger, La Fanciulla del West, Der Freischütz, Pagliacci, Tannhäuser and Otello.

## Repertoire / 1965 Season

Thursday evening, October 28, at 8:00

†UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi)

Same cast as October 19

Friday evening, October 29, at 8:30 - first performance this season

†PELLEAS ET MELISANDE (Debussy)

Lorengar, Kailer, Turner; Jobin, Stewart, O'Leary, West, Fazah

CONDUCTOR: Martinon PRODUCTION: Hager DESIGNERS: Skalicki/D. West

Saturday evening, October 30, at 8:00 - last performance this season

†DON GIOVANNI (Mozart)

Lorengar, Amara, Meneguzzer; Stewart, Lewis, Blankenburg, O'Leary, West

CONDUCTOR: Molinari-Pradelli

PRODUCTION: Hager DESIGNER: Smith

COSTUME DESIGNER: Skalicki

Sunday afternoon, October 31, at 2:00 - last performance this season

†UN BALLO IN MASCHERA (Verdi)

Price, Grist, Turner; Konya, Wolansky, Hecht, Foldi, Fredricks, Whitesides, Fazah

CONDUCTOR: Molinari-Pradelli

PRODUCTION: Butler D

DESIGNER: Burlingame

CHOREOGRAPHER: Solov

Tuesday evening, November 2, at 8:00 - last performance this season

TOSCA (Puccini)

Kirsten; Corelli, Vinay, Hecht, Foldi, Fried, Fazah, Giosso, di Francesco

CONDUCTOR: Bellugi STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio

Wednesday evening, November 3, at 8:00 - last performance this season

†PELLEAS ET MELISANDE (Debussy)

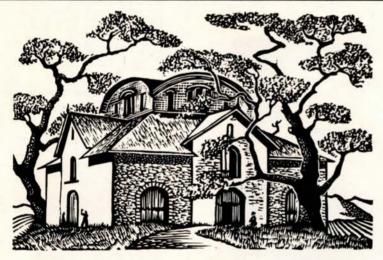
Same cast as October 29

tnew production

Dates, casts and operas subject to change.

TICKETS — Opera Box Offices: Lobby, War Memorial Opera House / 861-4008 Sherman Clay & Co. / 397-0717

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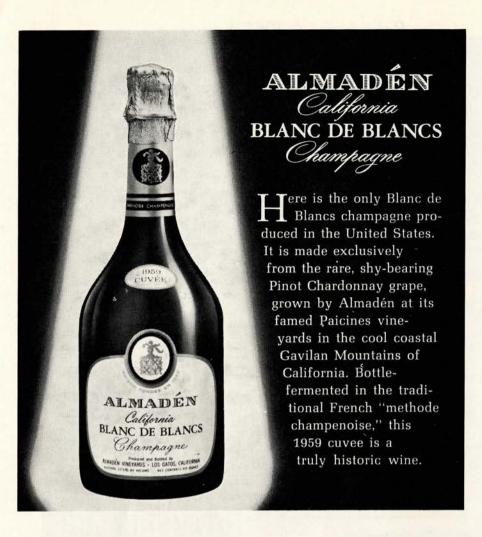
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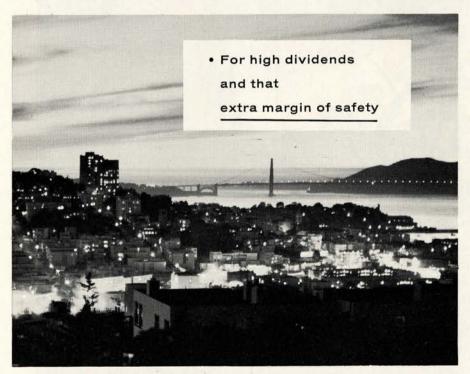
Hilarious, brilliantly so, it's been compared with "Beyond the Fringe" and "The Establishment" but the comparison may be dropped. It is now better than either. Herb Caen

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Wednesday, October 20, at 9:30 p.m.

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## Opera Guild Student Matinees

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA (Rossini)

CONDUCTOR: Bellugi PRODUCTION: Rennert

DESIGNERS: Siercke/Colangelo

STAGE DIRECTOR: Farruggio

Wednesday afternoon, October 6, at 1:30

Grist, Cervena; Fredricks, Young, Vinay, Hecht, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner, Styles

Thursday afternoon, October 7, at 1:30

Meneguzzer, Turner; Blankenburg, Young, Foldi, Hecht, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner, Styles

Monday afternoon, October 11, at 1:30

Meneguzzer, Cervena; Fredricks, Young, Foldi, Hecht, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner,

Styles

Monday afternoon, October 25, at 1:30 Grist, Turner; Blankenburg, Young, Foldi, Hecht, Fazah, Glover, Harvey, Wagner, Styles



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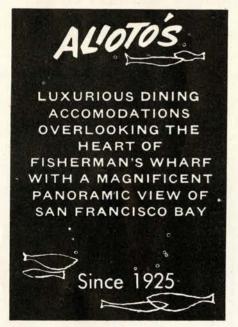
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## LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST

(in Italian)

opera in three acts by GIACOMO PUCCINI

text by GUELFO CIVININI and

CARLO ZANGARINI

based on the drama by DAVID BELASCO

By arrangement with Franco Colombo, Inc., Publishers

conductor: FRANCESCO MOLINARI-PRADELLI

stage director: LOTFI MANSOURI

Jack Rance, sheriff	CHESTER LUDGIN
Nick, bartender of the Polka Saloon	HOWARD FRIED
Larkens	(ADIB FAZAH
Joe	ROBERT GLOVER
Harry	WILLIAM WHITESIDES
Handsome	WINTHER ANDERSEN
Happy miners	DAVID GIOSSO
Sid	COLIN HARVEY
Sonora	RICHARD FREDRICKS
Trin	RAYMOND MANTON
Jake Wallace, minstrel of the camp	JOHN WEST
Ashby, Wells-Fargo agent	JOSHUA HECHT
Minnie, owner of the Polka Saloon	MARIE COLLIER
A Postillion	JAMES EITZE
Dick Johnson, alias Ramerrez, an outlaw	GIOVANNI GIBIN
Jose Castro, one of Ramerrez' gang	PIETRO MENCI
Wowkle, Billy's squaw	CLAUDIA WHITE
Billy Jackrabbit, an Indian	ANDREW FOLDI

#### Miners, gamblers, hangers-on, Indians

chorus director: VINCENZO GIANNINI

costumers: GOLDSTEIN & CO.

place and time: A mining camp in California during the 1849 Gold Rush

Act I: The Polka Saloon

Act II: Interior of Minnie's cabin

Act III: Foot of Cloudy Mountain at dawn

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

Next Sunday Series performance: October 3, at 1:30 die meistersinger von nuernberg (Wagner) in German

Latecomers will not be seated while the performance is in progress

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