Vec Makropulos (The Makropulos Case)

1976

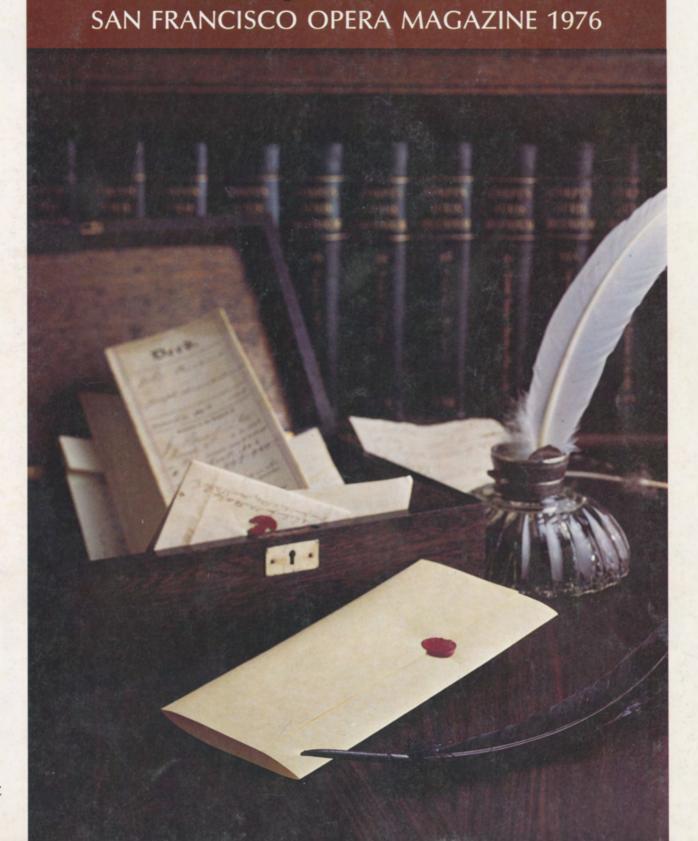
Wednesday, October 20, 1976 8:00 PM Saturday, October 23, 1976 8:00 PM Tuesday, October 26, 1976 8:00 PM Friday, October 29, 1976 8:00 PM (Broadcast) Sunday, October 31, 1976 2:00 PM

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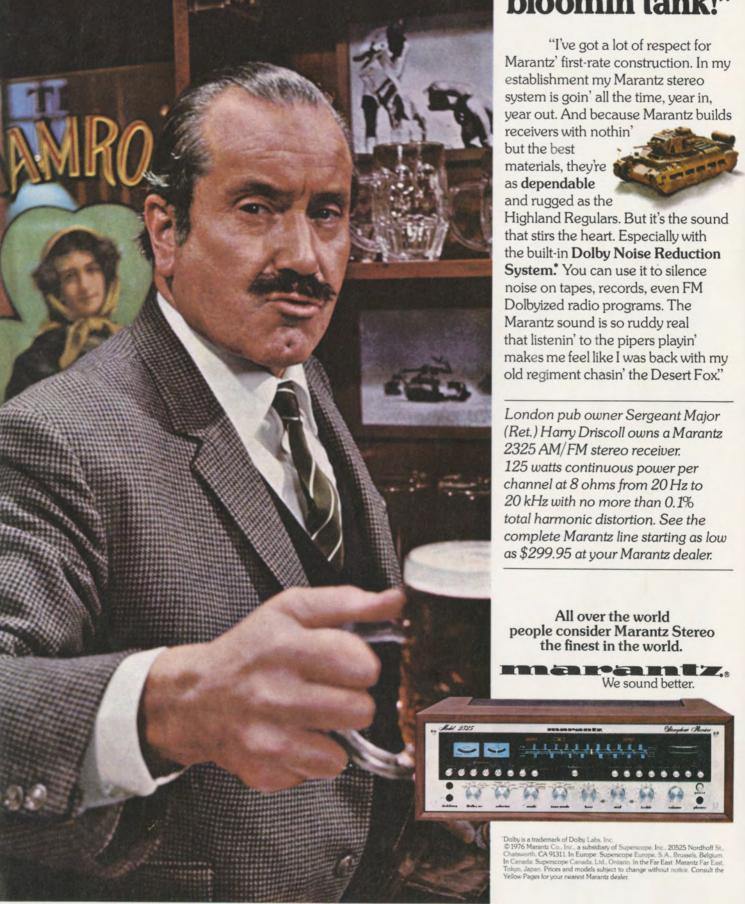
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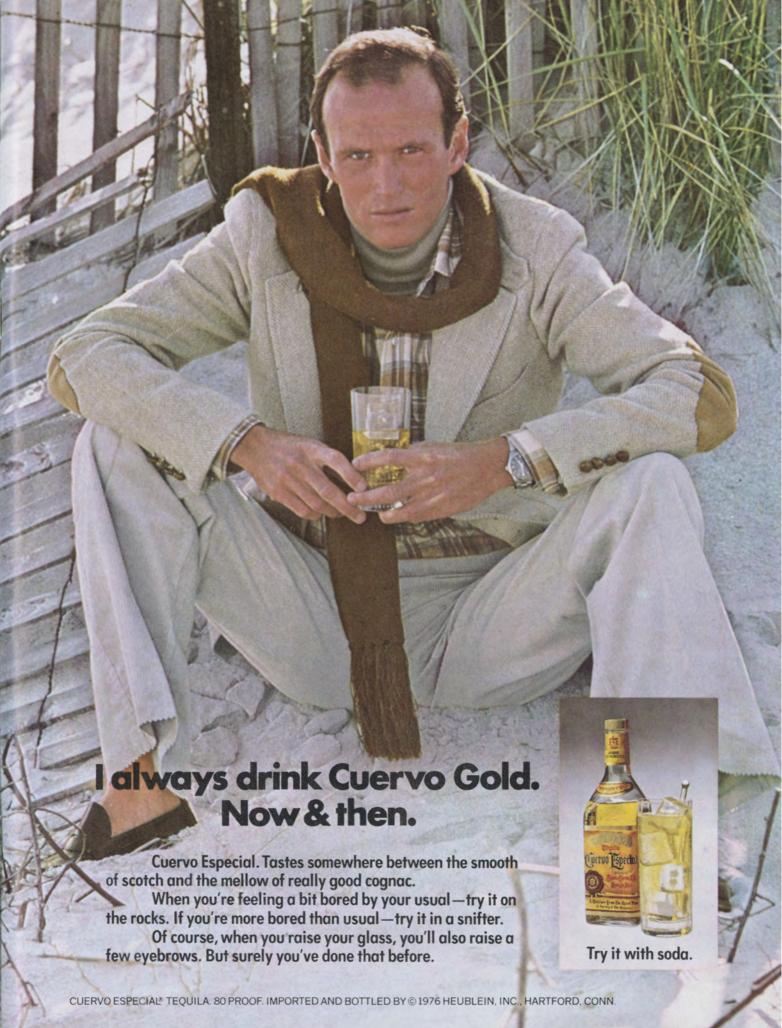
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The Makropulos Case



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The Makropulos Case

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA MAGAZINE 1976



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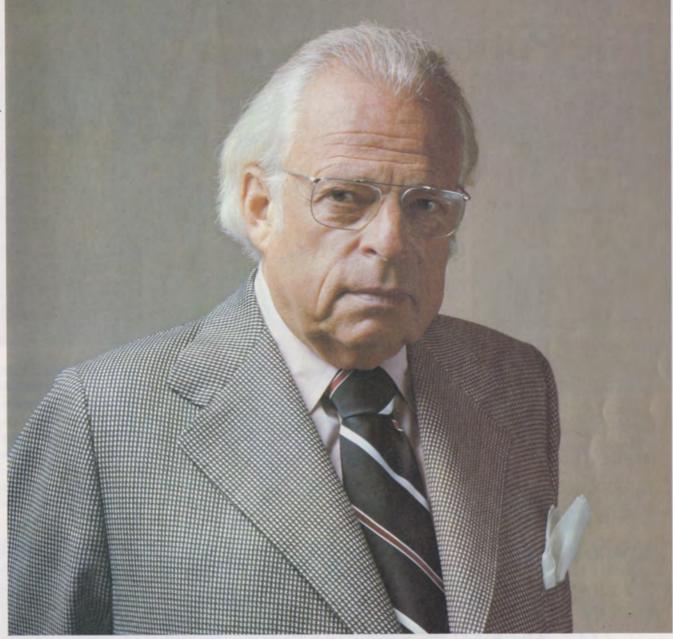
Calendar for the 54th Season

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Cover Photo: Ron Scherl

Close your eyes and imagine an island in the South Pacific.





Welcome to San Francisco Opera's 1976 season.

As you wait for the curtain to rise, we would like to point out to you several improvements: many seats have been reupholstered, a new floor covers a large part of the stage, and all our productions will benefit from a new and sophisticated light board. The foregoing is a clear indication that physical restoration and updating of the Opera House has begun. Furthermore, the Opera has concluded its part in the planning of the new Performing Arts Center. Provided that the financial means can be found and the proper decisions made, we dare to hope that construction of the backstage addition to the opera house may start in the very near future.

For the first time, we are using the pit extension, an original feature of our building; you will now hear operas performed with their original orchestration.

Our 54th season will be remembered for many notable events; preeminent among them will be a meeting in early November of the International Association of Opera Directors. Many of my distinguished colleagues, representing the leading opera houses of the world, will meet in our city to attend the world premiere of *Angle of Repose;* they will be joined by representatives of OPERA America, our own country's association of opera managers, and by heads of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Opera Institute.

The hundreds who perform on stage, backstage, in the pit, in the offices, opera professionals from many nations are ready to give the best of their talent to our '76 season. Let me thank them warmly for their sincere dedication and may you, our audience, enjoy and support their efforts.



In Recital

The hold of Leontyne Price, the great American soprano, on San Francisco Opera audiences is uncontestable and unique. Ever since her first season here in 1957 when she sang in The Dialogues of the Carmelites and Aida, San Franciscans have taken Miss Price to their hearts and basked in all her subsequent performances in Don Giovanni, Il Trovatore, Il Tabarro, La Forza del Destino, Un Ballo in Maschera, Turandot, Madama Butterfly and Ernani.

This season, on November 21, San Francisco Opera will again present Miss Price, but in her other guise, as a recitalist, for which she has also won the highest possible acclaim.

Last year Miss Price gave a concert at the Salzburg Festival which prompted the critic from the Frankfurter Allgemeine to say in his review that "La Price can do everything which her will wants her to express. A program like this one shows her as a phenomenon of expressivity and changing, transitional moods . . . what incredible variety of colors she draws from her voice."

The Vienna Kurier's critic Karl Löbl chimed in "the voice of Leontyne Price is more beautiful than ever. She gives the impression of a valuable instrument on which she plays like a virtuoso. The voice . . . under complete control with infallible instinct for color values. Singing can be the most human of all music-making: Leontyne Price once more demonstrated it."

After her San Francisco recital of last year Heuwell Tircuit of The Chronicle also claimed that "the singing, the voice and the intellect of La Price are at their zenith. (her) Schubert was superlative. (her) Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff were memorable."

Tickets for the upcoming November 21 recital are available now at the Opera Box Office, 431-1210. Prices range from \$5 to \$15, with a few box seats available at \$18.

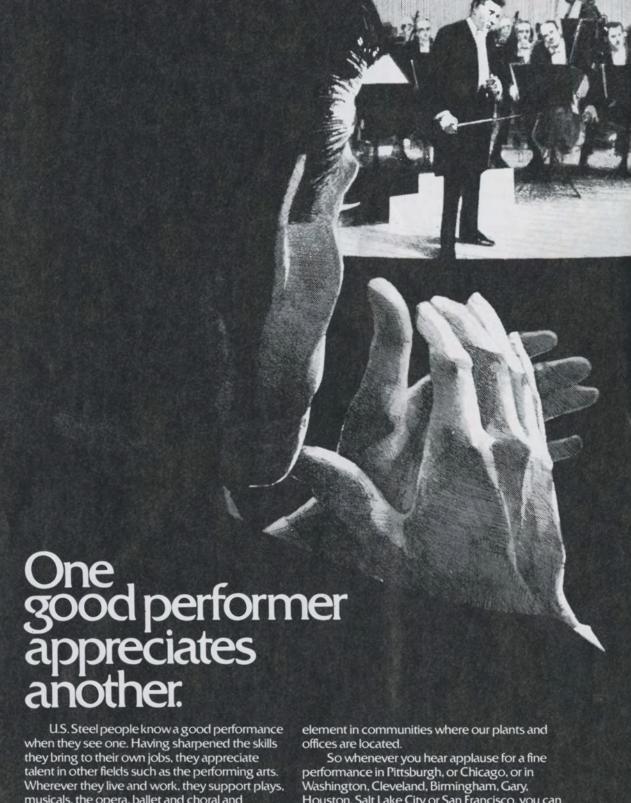


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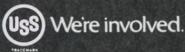
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Janáček's Psychological Drama

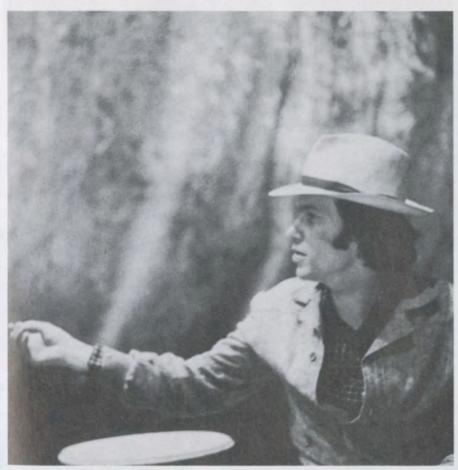
by Paul Chaplin

Taking a break from technical rehearsals, stage director David Pountney commented upon his approach to staging *The Makropulos Case*, as well as reflecting upon other operatic works of Janáček.

"I'd rate Janácek as one of the major composers of this century, operatically at least," says Pountney. "All of his six major works—Jenufa, The Makropulos Case, Katya Kabanova, The Cunning Little Vixen, From the House of the Dead and The Excursions of Mr. Brouček—deserve a regular place in any operatic repertoire."

Although Pountney is not alone in his high esteem of Janáček, the composer's operas are not well known in this country. Despite recent productions of Jenufa at the Metropolitan and San Francisco Opera, The Cunning Little Vixen at Santa Fe Opera, and The Makropulos Case, premiered in this country by San Francisco Opera, and also presented this season by New York City Opera, Janáček and his canon of operas are less familiar to the opera-going public than works by Puccini, Strauss, Britten, Berg, Menot-

continued on p. 12



Director David Pountney wears a hat "for luck" when working. Photo: Caroline Crawford





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ti, or even Ginastera and Henze, to name only a few 20th century operatic composers.

Pountney has his own beliefs concerning Janáček's lack of recognition. "One of the reasons for his relative obscurity has been his choice of subjects. He avoided completely the grand historical operatic tradition, and

concentrated instead on intense, compact psychological dramas. Only Jenufa and Katya Kabanova are immediately operatic.

"The Makropulos Case, together with The Excursions of Mr. Brouček, belongs with the strong tradition of whimsey, fantasy and the surreal in Czech culture. There are good reasons

Production Coordinator Gabriele Ecsy and Director David Pountney sharpen their pencils on "The Makropulos Case." Photo: Caroline Crawford.



for this: Czechoslovakians spent 300 years under Austrian rule, so the tradition of fantasy was developed as a means of expression that was at once native, Czech and outside the censor's control.

"With The Makropulos Case, for instance, you must look behind the plot structure to find out what is really going on. The metaphysical and magical elements, together with the absurd legal case involved, are only the Kafka-esque surroundings for what always remains Janáček's main concern as a composer: his compassion for his fellow human beings.

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Getting Ready



Photo: Caroline Crawford



San Francisco Opera general director Kurt Herbert Adler (right front) heads the team which is creating the world premiere of *Angle of Repose*, to be presented for five performances next month in honor of the Nation's and San Francisco's Bicentennial celebrations. From left are cast members Chester Ludgin and Wayne Turnage, composer Andrew Imbrie, conductor John Mauceri, and cast members Susan Marsee, Dale Duesing, Nancy Shade and William Lewis.

Other creative talents involved will be stage director Gerald Freedman, scenic designer Douglas W. Schmidt, costume designer Lawrence Casey and choreographer John McFall. The world premiere performance on November 6 is sold-out but some tickets remain at the Opera box-office for the other performances.

In attendance on November 6, in addition to press members from all over the world, will be the heads of most of the famous opera houses of Europe who will be in San Francisco for a meeting of the International Association of Opera Directors. OPERA America members, representing this country's leading houses, will also be here for what is expected to be a gala highlight of the season.



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continued from p. 13

"This humanistic compassion is the mainspring of all Janáček's operas. In Jenufa he shows his understanding of a foster-mother driven to a terrible crime by the mores of a peasant community; in Katya Kabanova he depicts the tragedy of a passionate young woman stiffled by her bourgeois surroundings; and in From the House of the Dead, perhaps his greatest work, he entered the lives of convicts in Siberia. When asked why he had chosen such a subject, Janáček replied: 'There is a spark of God in every creature.'"

Pountney's staging will avoid emphasizing the fantastic elements of the opera, and will instead treat the opera "as a fascinating psychological drama."

"Take the image of Emilia Marty herself," Pountney says quickly. "She is a riveting, captivating, dominating, successful woman. She is an opera 'star,' a diva, but at the same time she is cold, lonely, completely hollow inside. I feel it doesn't make any difference if you're tired of life at age 53 or 342. Marty expresses the arrogance, self-pity, bitchiness, world-weariness and despair that have almost become the cliches of 'stardom.' For me, that is the moving element in the opera, rather than the fantasy idea of someone living for 340 odd years.

"The opera is partly about the fate of this particular woman, but also her effect as a catalyst on other characters in the opera who are embroiled in a ludicrous legal affair. This legal case with its absurd bureaucratic details and baffling complications dominates the lives of the other characters. The personality of Marty cuts like a knife into this obscure world, and changes the people in it.

"Gregor, for example, is a frivolous playboy, but he is swept off his feet by Marty, and experiences serious feelings for the first time in his life. The ruthless, immensely respectable, authoritarian Baron Prus meets Marty, reads her old love letters, and is im-





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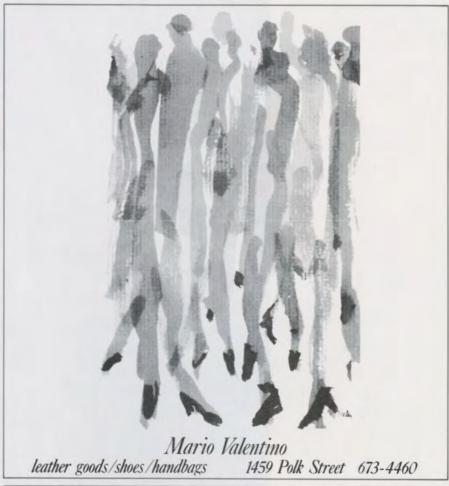
Del Monte Lodge at Pebble Beach (California 93953) mediately gripped by a vicious sexual desire. In the process, Prus fails to notice that his rather nervous but passionate son Janek has also fallen in love with Marty. When he is brutally pushed aside by his father, Janek is driven to suicide. Only Christa, who is engaged to Janek, and herself a singer, comes out of the experience with anything positive. Even the lawyers have all their assurances shattered by the experience. With a psychological drama of this nature, who needs a lot of metaphysical hocus-pocus as well?"

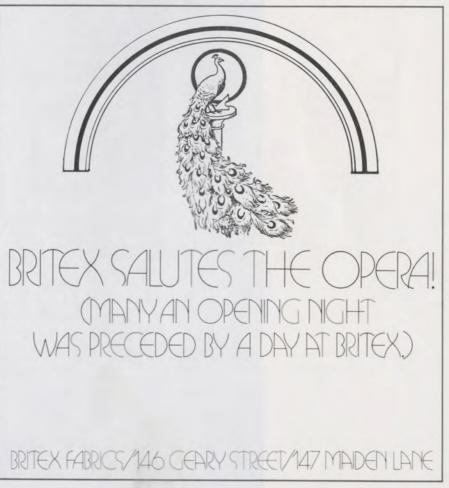
Pountney has staged Janáček's works in both the original language and in English. "I am in favor of opera in translation. It is absolutely obvious for an unknown work in an unknown language. But even the idea of presenting *Die Meistersinger* in German to an English audience is really silly. Some Italian operas should be left in the original language because the meaning is sufficiently generalized to be contained in the lyrical form of the music.

"The translation we're using for our production of *The Makropulos Case* is by Norman Tucker. He translated the work for Sadler's Wells, now English National Opera, and in the 1950's was a pioneer in producing Janáček's works in England."

Pountney has issued one word of advice to the audience attending performances of *The Makropulos Case*: "Don't exhaust yourself trying to understand all the details of the legal maneuvering in the plot. Watch the characters and their emotions and how they deal with one another. As every one knows, opera is at its best when dealing with emotions and *The Makropulos Case* ultimately grasps a wonderful whirlpool of individual emotions. Janáček is able by the end of the opera to show us the pity and the glory of the death of a 'star.'"

Paul Chaplin is the staff writer for San Francisco Opera.



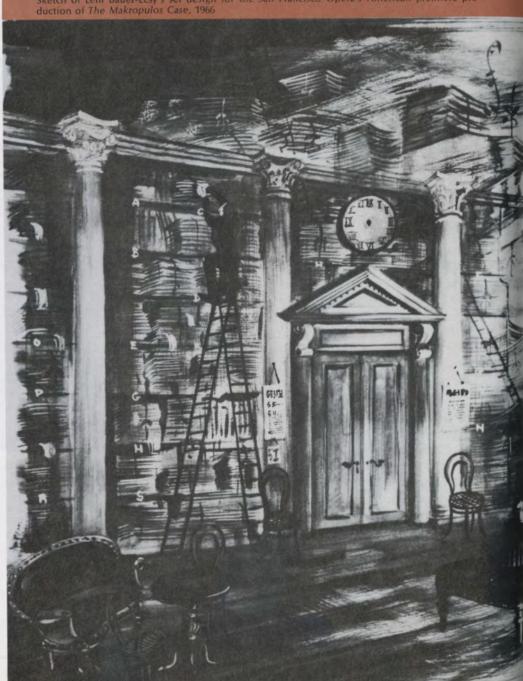


The Makropulos Case: The Mature Work of a Late Blooming Genius

by Larry Snyder

Leos Janáček completed The Makropulos Case just two years before his death in 1928. The opera is but one product of a tremendous outpouring of creative energy expended in the last four years of his life by this highly-charged individual genius.

Sketch of Leni Bauer-Ecsy's set design for the San Francisco Opera's American premiere production of The Makropulos Case, 1966



Between 1924 and 1928, when he was in his seventies, Janáček completed his *Glagolitic Mass, String Quartets One and Two*, the *Sinfonietta* and the *Danube* symphonic poem, the *Concertino* and *Capriccio* for piano and orchestra, numerous songs, choruses and pieces for chamber ensembles and three operas: *The Cunning Little Vixen* (1924), *The Makropulos Case* (1926) and *The House of the Dead* (1928). Inspired by the passionate, fulfilling love he felt for Kamilla Stoesslova, a woman thirty-four years his junior, driven by his own creative needs and interests, and stimulated by travel and contacts with other composers through the International Society for Contemporary Music, Janáček became a creative dynamo in his last years. Death by pneumonia came suddenly at age seventy-four when the composer was enjoying a summer idyl with Kamilla in Hukvaldy, the town of his birth near the

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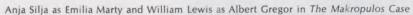
Moravian border. One is reminded of Verdi, whose late-life productivity is well known (Otello at age seventy-three, Falstaff at eighty), and who also returned to his native village, St. Agatha, for his final days.

But Verdi achieved his first operatic success at the age of twenty-six and managed to support himself through the writing of opera the rest of his life, while Janáček did not begin to concentrate on composition exclusively until he was already fifty years old -after the completion of his first operatic masterpiece, Jenufa, in 1903. Although the success of his compositions was by no means assured then, the death of his beloved daughter Olga at the age of twenty-one-he had lost a son also thirteen years before-coupled with the deteriorating relationship with his wife Zdenka, produced a crisis in the composer's life and led him to submit his resignation to the Teacher's Training College at Brno, in his native Moravia. He soon received another blow when the Prague Czech National Theatre rejected Jenufa. The opera was premiered by the Czech Theatre in Brno where it was a triumphant successthough only of provincial standingbut fame outside his local area was to elude Janáček until Jenufa was at last performed at Prague in 1916. The

work was received with unprecedented enthusiasm and Janáček was proclaimed Smetana's successor, the new master of Czech music.

After the reunification and formation of the new Czech state following World War I, Western interest in Czech music was at its zenith and Jenufa received performances in Vienna and Berlin. By 1926 when Janáček visited London Jenufa had played in about seventy different opera houses including the New York Metropolitan (in 1924). Since that time, however, the Metropolitan Opera has never again presented a Janáček opera until it did Jenufa again in 1974 and none of his operas were played in England until the 1950's. In fact, although Janáček's operas have been presented continuously in Czechoslovakia and Germany, it is only in the last decade that they have begun to receive attention in England and the United States. Thanks primarily to Sadler's Wells Opera Company, English audiences in the last ten years or so have heard The Makropulos Case, The Cunning Little Vixen, and Katya Kabanová in addition to Covent Garden's Jenufa. In the United States, the San Francisco Opera has taken the lead, presenting The Makropulos Case in 1966 and 1976 and Jenufa

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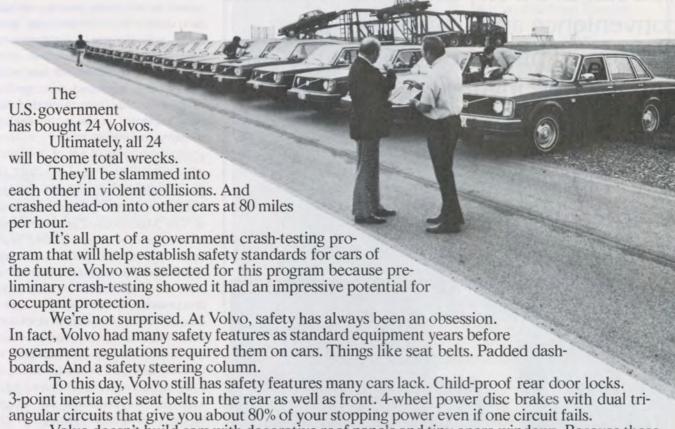
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continued from p. 20

in 1969. The Makropulos Case received its New York premiere in con-

cert version in 1967 and was given again in a fully staged production by

the New York City Opera in 1970. Fame eluded Janáček until late in his

life and the posthumous recognition he deserves has been accorded him

only recently, at least in English-

Surveying Janáček's career, one is

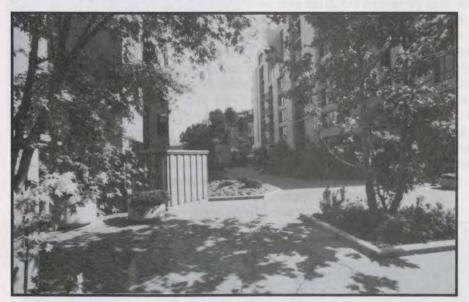
struck immediately by the composer's great vitality and intellectual curiosity. Unlike Emilia Marty, the protagonist

of The Makropulos Case who, fated to live for over three hundred years,

becomes resigned, jaded and bitter in her last years, Janáček seemed to grow more youthful in outlook as his life progressed. Born in 1854 into a musical family of peasant stock-his father was the village schoolmaster and choir director in Hukvaldy -Janáček took part in music-making as a child, but was an indifferent pupil otherwise. His childhood was marred by the poverty of his family and the death of his father when he was twelve. He was sent to Brno as a boarding student when he was eleven to study at the St. Augustin Abbey where he concentrated on music. Later, he graduated from the Brno Junior Secondary School and thereafter studied at the Brno State Teach-

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er's Training College where he received his teaching degree in 1872. Not music, but teaching was to be his life's vocation.

Church music, which he participated in as organist and choir director, held a central place in his life up to this time. His first step into the outside world was a sojourn at Prague, the more cosmopolitan capital of Bohemia, where he studied in the Organ School, becoming acquainted with the music of Wagner as well as the discipline of strict counterpoint. Later, in 1879 when he was twenty-five, he



traveled to Germany to continue his education at the Leipzig Conservatory. There he realized for the first time that composition, not teaching, must be his ultimate goal. But he quit Leipzig before the year was out to return to Brno. The following year he enrolled briefly at the Vienna Conservatory where he joined the more conservative Brahms-Hanslick camp in opposition to the Wagner modernists. But when the Conservatory authorities rejected one of his compositions as too academic, he left school, returning again to Brno, impatient to begin his own career.

Typically, Janáček threw himself completely into the musical life of Brno, teaching at the Teacher's Training College, conducting two choirs and later, in 1882, founding a Brno music school—seeking at all times to raise the standards of musical life in the provincial capital.

lanáček first met his future wife, Zdenka Schültz, in 1872. She was from a patrician family of German sympathies-a background quite in contrast with his own-but Janáček was greatly attracted to her and her world nevertheless. Indeed, it was largely through the influence of her refined and cultured family that he decided to go to Germany to study in the first place. He married Zdenka in 1881 and remained her husband for the rest of his life, although differences in temperament and background soon caused a rift between the two.

By the 1880's several shaping forces had become apparent in Janáček's developing musical style and personal philosophy: The music and faith of the Church; his Russophilism (he knew Russian and was a great admirer of Russian culture in general); a passionate patriotism for Moravia



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The Makropulos Case

and the developing Czech nation; and, above all, an intense interest in the folk song and language of his country. As the eighties progressed, Janácek moved more and more away from his conservative German educational background and his interest in church music declined steadily. He turned toward a liberalism which embraced nationalism, a concentration on folk song, and a developing sensitivity to the musico-expressive possibilities in speech patterns of the Czech language. This led him at the

same time to his first estrangement from his wife, Zdenka, whose German origin and urban, bourgeois background symbolized the former life he now wanted to leave.

Janáček began to collect folk songs from his native region and in 1885, alomst twenty years before Bartok, called attention to the exotic modalities and modulations and the rhythmic and harmonic richness of Moravian, Silesian and Slovakian folk song. He

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Maestro Christoph von Dohnanyi checks a detail of the Makropulos Case score on the set prior to a rehearsal

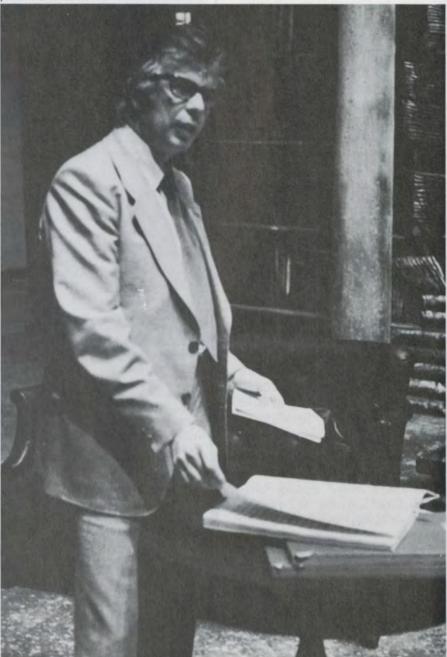


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The Makropulos Case

worked with the well-known Moravian folklorist Frantisek Bartos, and later edited with him a monumental collection of Moravian folk song material that was published in Prague in 1901.

But folksong has its roots in language and, characteristically delving ever deeper into his subject, Janáček began to notate and study inflections of speech. His keen ear enabled him to record ever finer pitch gradations and intonations in human speech and, later, animals and other sounds

from nature. He developed a vast collection of notebooks filled with speech patterns and adapted these to musical notation to use in many of his later works including The Makropulos Case. These speech melodies are typically short melodic fragments which are incorporated into the vocal and orchestral texture much in the manner of Wagner's leitmotives.

With his interest in folksong and language and what was to prove a keen dramatic sense, it was inevitable that

continued on p. 28

Wig artist Paul Alba helps soprano Anja Silja prepare for her role as Emilia Marty in The Makropulos Case

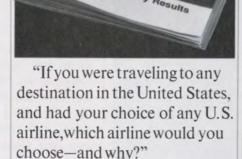


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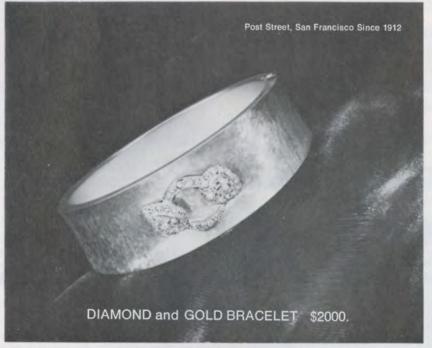
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Show Topper.



The Makropulos Case

continued from p. 26

Janáček should turn to the writing of opera-yet he was thirty years old before he did so. In the one act The Beginning of a Romance (1894), his only completed opera prior to Jenufa, he made extensive use of folk song material. Later, he completely repudiated this work and eschewed the literal use of folk song in his compositions. He once wrote, "Every composer has a claim to the spirit of folk song; but he has no claim to the work of another . . . The fact that the composer is not named does not give anyone the right to appropriate it." In Jenufa Janáček adapts and recreates his folk material. Still later, it is sublimated entirely and his method of composing with speech melodies assumes preeminence.

The texts for Janáček's operas are drawn from a great variety of themes and sources. Two of his libretti are from Russian literature-Katya Kabanová, based on Ostrovsky's play The Storm, and The House of the Dead, from the Dostoevsky novel. Human tragedy and Czech peasant life are portrayed in Jenufa, based on a play by the Bohemian author Gabriella Priessova. Another Czech poet, Svatopluk Cech, wrote the "moon novel" which is the basis for The Excursions of Mr. Brouček, while The Cunning Little Vixen-a kind of Czech midsummer night's dream-has a libretto assembled largely by Janáček himself.

Janáček's eclecticism in regard to his choice of opera texts is perhaps nowhere more apparent than in *The Makropulos* Case. It is based on the utopian play of the same name written by the prolific Czech author Karel Capek in 1922. The story of the opera is the story of the play, for the libretto is only a shortened ver-



sion of the play. Capek offered to write a libretto, but Janáček was so anxious to begin that he did his own, shortening the play but altering it little except to add a few connecting lines of dialogue here and there. The opera marks the composer's most literal use of a textual source and is in theme the least nationalistic of his operas - a work closely aligned in style to the international idiom of the twenties.

Capek's drama, first presented in Prague in November, 1922, is the author's response to a theme earlier explored by George Bernard Shaw in the play Back to Methuselah in 1921. In his drama, Shaw argues the need for a three hundred year life span, postulating that men need a life of sufficient length to develop the maturity and wisdom requisite for building a better society. "People will live three hundred years, not because they would like to, but because the soul deep down in them will know that they must, if the world is to be saved," Shaw has one character sav.

Capek, who knew of Shaw's play, seemingly adopts a more pessimistic atitude: That three hundred years is too long for man to live with himself and that ennui and loss of spirit will be the result of an extended life span rather than the wisdom and enlightenment Shaw hypothesized. Capek, who calls his play a "comedy", offers these comments: "Whether I am called an optimist or a pessimist will make me neither happier nor sadder. Yet . . . in this comedy I have striven to present something delightful and optimistic . . . If we say that, at some future time, there will be no disease, misery or poverty—that is continued on page 63

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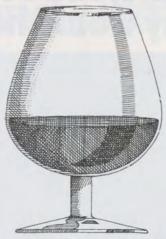
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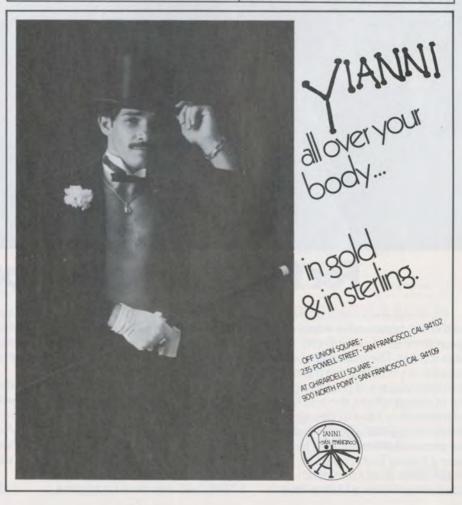
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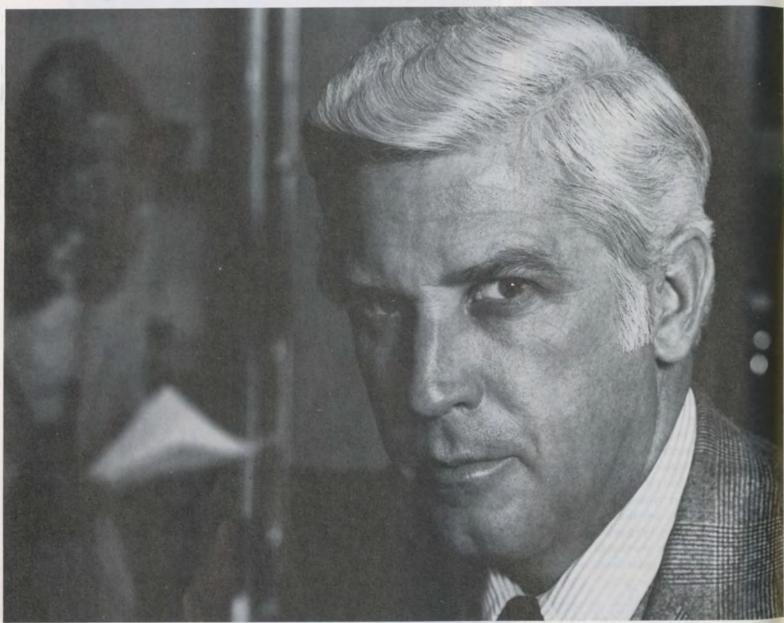
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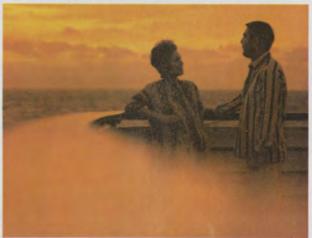
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As Kurt Herbert Adler wrote in his introduction to this year's brochure, "San Francisco Opera takes pride in celebrating the Twin Bicentennial of the City of San Francisco and the nation by presenting a wide-ranging repertoire which strongly emphasizes artistic accomplishments of the 20th century." Each year, our fall season seems to surpass in excellence those which have gone before and 1976, our 54th consecutive year, will, I am confident, reach new heights. We open with the San Francisco premiere of Massenet's "Thais"; the title role will be sung by the glamorous and exciting Beverly Sills.

Our contribution to the Bicentennial will be the world premiere of "Angle of Repose". This opera is based on Wallace Stegner's Pulitzer Prize winning novel and was commissioned by the San Francisco Opera Association. Composer Andrew Imbrie and librettist Oakley Hall have adapted the novel to grand opera which will be sung by an all-American cast. Nine other operas, some old favorites, some of modern vintage, complete this wellbalanced season. Our brilliant general director, Maestro Adler, with his splendid staff and well organized company, will again demonstrate that San Francisco Opera continues to be included among the few great opera companies in the world. Advance ticket sales indicate that the community recognizes this and that we will continue the nearly 100% capacity attendance which we have enjoyed in recent years.

In addition to "Thais" and "Angle of Repose", we will have new productions of four operas. The wear and tear on sets and costumes is fantastic and it is also exciting to see old favorites in new clothes. However, new productions are terribly expensive and we must depend on substantial gifts by interested donors to make them possible. We are indebted to Cyril Magnin, a long-time friend of San Francisco Opera, for a generous gift making possible the new "Thais". "Angle of Repose" has been financed

by substantial gifts from San Francisco Foundation, City and County of San Francisco, National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions by a number of arts patrons. For part of the new production of "La Forza del Destino" we are grateful to a number of arts patrons and the William H. Noble Estate. "Die Frau ohne Schatten" was made possible by the generosity of arts patron Cynthia Wood. Our vice president and treasurer, James D. Robertson, for the sixth consecutive year, has financed part of a new production-this year "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "I Pagliacci."

To all of these patrons go our special thanks.

Opera in San Francisco is not just the International Fall season which we are now enjoying, but is a year around program, all under the general direction of Mr. Adler and his staff. These activities include Spring Opera Theater, Western Opera Theater, Merola Opera Program, Brown Bag Opera and San Francisco Opera Auditions. Our total program is unique; no other opera company in the country can boast of such scope.

Opera is probably the most expensive performing art form. This can be readily understood when one considers the hundreds of people necessary to stage a production of the quality for which we are renowned. Our costs for 1976 are estimated at \$5,700,000. Ticket revenues cover just over 60% of these costs, a ratio which is probably higher than any major opera company in the world. To put this in perspective, if we were to depend solely on ticket revenues to cover our costs, our prices would have to range from about \$11.00 to \$41.50 per seat instead of our actual range of \$6.00 to \$25.00. You may have read recently that the portion of annual costs of the Paris Opera which are subsidized by the French Government have reached 17 million dollars, a figure almost three times our total costs. And vet, on a visit there a few months ago, my ticket cost me the equivalent of \$30.00!

How have we raised the remaining 40% of our costs? From generous patrons who finance new productions, from guarantors, grants from local and federal governments, income from our endowment funds, donations from the Opera Guild, and from contributions by corporations, foundations and individuals to our annual Operating Fund campaign. But costs continue to rise because of inflation and we must in-

crease the number of contributors significantly if we are to avoid substantial deficits. Thousands of loyal opera lovers help each year, but thousands more are needed. If you are not presently a contributor to our annual fund drive, won't you please join now? Your tax deductible contributions should be sent to San Francisco Opera Association, War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, 94102. Opera's future depends on you. Don't let us become a candidate for the list of endangered species.

We continue to be grateful for the financial support from various organizations, without whose help we would find it almost impossible to continue—National Endowment for the Arts, National Opera Institute, Mayor George Moscone, Chief Administrative Officer Thomas J. Mellon, the City and County of San Francisco, and the War Memorial Board of Trustees. We are also indebted to Opera ACTION which continues to render all kinds of help to San Francisco Opera, not only reducing our costs but spreading the word of opera throughout our community.

For many years, each opera has been broadcast once over KKHI AM/FM in San Francisco and KFAC AM/FM in Los Angeles. This year, broadcasts will be extended to audiences in Sacramento, Fresno, San Diego, Portland and Seattle. These broadcasts are made possible by grants from Standard Oil Company of California and the L. J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation of Oakland, California, for which we are most grateful. The quality of the broadcasts is exceptional and you owe it to yourself to listen.

San Francisco Opera Guild finances five student matinees of one of the operas in the series. This year, thousands of young people will enjoy "The Barber of Seville." For many this will be their first exposure to grand opera. From their enthusiastic response over the years, opera is assured of audiences in the future.

Each year, San Francisco Opera brings the joys of this wonderful performing art alive to tens of thousands of opera lovers and, through the magic of radio, to countless others. Our goal is always to bring to you performances of the highest quality and, with your help, we will continue to achieve that goal.

Walter M. Baid

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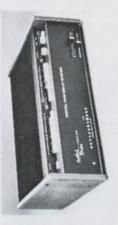
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The sold-out houses and critical acclaim for "When you comin' back Red Ryder?" has given the impetus for the local community production to turn professional—the first time this has happened in San Francisco in many a year. This change in production will be marked by a move from the Eureka Theatre, where it premiered locally, to the Little Fox Theatre for an open-ended run. This award-winning study in psychological terrorism won Mark Medoff the Obie Award for Distinguished Playwriting in 1973-4 in its off-Broadway New York premiere. Matthew Locricchio, who performed at the Little Fox for 2 years in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," is the producer.

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Bobbed hair and spats probably won't make a big comeback but the tea dances of yesteryear are returning! This ancient and once-sacred rite will be revived October 1 at the Hyatt Regency with Al White's 15 piece orchestra playing big band tunes. Dances will be held every Friday in October. Admission free.



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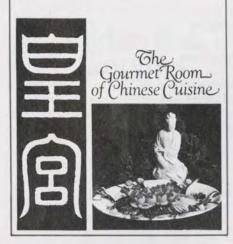
Perrie Dodson

*San Francisco Opera debut **American opera debut †National Opera Institute Apprentice

The Knabe is the official piano of San Francisco Opera

The 1976 San Francisco Opera season is supported by a much-appreciated grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a Federal Agency, and by a generous grant from the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.





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Claes H. Ahnsjö** Lorenzo Alvary Giacomo Aragall Walter Berry* Garbis Boyagian** John Brecknock* Renato Bruson Samuel Byrd* Renato Capecchi Paul Crook* John Davies Placido Domingo Dale Duesing* John Duykers Brent Ellis* Geraint Evans Joseph Frank

Raina Kabaivanska Roberta Knie* Susanne Marsee* Janis Martin Linn Maxwell* Sheila Nadler Donna Petersen Linda Roark Noelle Rogers* Leonie Rysanek

Paul Geiger* Peter Glossop Clifford Grant Hakan Hagegard** Colin Harvey Ioshua Hecht James Hoback* Robert Ilosfalvy Wassili Janulako lames Johnson* Matti Kastu** Kolos Kovats** William Lewis Juan Lloveras Chester Ludgin Alexander Malta** Raymond Manton

Ursula Schroeder-Feinen*
Nancy Shade*
Sharon Sherrard*
Anja Silja
Beverly Sills
Pamela South
Anna Tomowa-Sintow
Tatiana Troyanos
Frederica Von Stade

Sherrill Milnes
Barry Morell
Paul Plishka*
Bruno Prevedi*
Neil Rosenshein*
Hans Sotin*
Peter Strummer
Giorgio Tozzi
Domenico Trimarchi*
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Jon Vickers
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*San Francisco Opera debut

**American opera debut

CHORUS

Women Janice Aaland Peggy Ahrens Kathy Anderson Candida Arias-Duazo Doris Baltzo Roberta Bowman Norma Bruzzone Louise Corsale Patricia Diggs Beverly Finn Lisa Louise Hill Cecilia MacLaren Tamaki McCracken Sharon McKibbin Elaine Messer Irene Moreci Penelope Rains Anna Marie Riesgo Ramona Spiropoulos Rose Parker Bonnie Jean Shapiro

Claudia Siefer Lola Lazzari Simi Linda Millerd Smeage Claudine Spindt Alma Wells Sally Winnington Arlene Woodburn Garifalia Zeissig

Men
Winther Andersen
Daniel Becker
Robert Bjoernfeldt
David M. Cherveny
Thomas Clark
Robert Clyde
Neil Cooper
Robert Delany
John Del Carlo
John L. Glenister
Ross Halper
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Gerald Johnson Robert Klang Conrad Knipfel Eugene Lawrence Kenneth MacLaren Kenneth Malucelli Jim Meyer Thomas Miller Kent Nagano Eugene Naham Charles Pascoe Kenneth Rafanan Thomas Reed Robert Romanovsky John Segale Francis Szymkun James Tarantino D. Livingstone Tigner William Chastaine Tredway John K. Walters R. Lee Woodriff

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Women Elizabeth Anker Anne Buelteman Suzanne Compton Cynthia Cook Judith F. Hansen Margaret Hamilton

Gloria Holmby Jean Ostrander Patricia Schuman

Judith Harris

Men Gennadi Badasov Michael Bloch Dale Emde Thomas Hart Matthew Miksak Karl Saarni Lorenz Schultz James Tipton

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1ST VIOLIN

Jacob Krachmalnick
Concertmaster
William E. Pynchon
Ferdinand M. Claudio
Bruce Freifeld
Silvio Claudio
Ezequiel Amador
Mafalda Guaraldi
George Nagata
Ernest Michaelian
Jeanne Marvin
Michael Sand
Celia Rosenberger

2ND VIOLIN

Felix Khuner Principal Herbert Holtman Virginia Roden Barbara Riccardi Robert Galbraith Gail Schwarzbart Carol Winters Eva Karasik William Rusconi

VIOLA

Rolf Persinger Principal
Detlev Olshausen
Lucien Mitchell
Tom Elliott
Kenneth Harrison
Jonna Hervig
Ellen Smith

CELLO

David Kadarauch Principal Rolf Storseth Judiyaba Sally Kell Tadeusz Kadzielawa Helen Stross BASS

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PICCOLO Lloyd Gowen Gary Gray

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ENGLISH HORN Raymond Duste

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BASSOON Walter Green Principal Jerry Dagg Robin Elliott

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Martin Kovach
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Edith Modie
Louise Russo
Ellen Sanchez
Shelley Seitz
Laurie Thompson

Men Jesse Alexander Steve Bauman Thomas Carlisle Ronald Cavin

Rudolph Cook **Burton Covel** Donald Crawford Everett E. Evans, Jr. Herbert Harvey Martin Izquierdo Kenneth Jakobs Janusz Julius Karoblis Rodney McCoy Gregorio Mendoza Lawrence Millner Paul Newman James Preovolos Noble Edward Reynolds Paul Ricks Raymond Salazar Thomas Simrock Jonathan Spieler

Kent Spiers

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Michelle Brown
Lilo Campeau
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1976 Season Repertoire

New Production made possible by a generous gift from Cyril Magnin

San Francisco Opera Premiere

THAÏS Massenet IN FRENCH

Sills, Jones, Cummings, South, Harned*/Milnes, Ahnsjö**, Malta**

Conductor: Pritchard Production: Capobianco Designer: Toms Choreographer: Falco*

Chorus Director: Jones

Friday Sept 10 8PM Gala Opening Night Wednesday Sept 15 8

Wednesday Sept 15 8PM Sunday Sept 19 2PM Saturday Sept 25 8PM Tuesday Sept 28 8PM Friday Oct 1 8PM

DIE WALKÜRE Wagner IN GERMAN

Knie*, Rysanek (Sept. 11, 14, 17)// Martin (Sept. 22, 26, Oct. 2), Hesse*, Goreniuc*, Roark, Sherrard*, Garabedian, Jones, Harned, Petersen, Nadler/Vickers, Sotin*, Grant

Conductor: Suitner Stage Director: G. Hager Designer: Skalicki

Saturday Sept 11 7:30PM Tuesday Sept 14 7:30PM Friday Sept 17 7:30PM Wednesday Sept 22 7:30PM Sunday Sept 26 1:30PM Saturday Oct 2 1PM

New Production made possible, in part, by generous gifts from a number of arts patrons and the William H. Noble Estate

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

Verdi IN ITALIAN

Tomowa-Sintow, Marsee*, Jones/ Morell (Sept. 18, 21, 24)//Prevedi* (Sept. 29, Oct. 3), Bruson, Plishka*, Davies

Conductor: Adler Production: Fassini* Designer: Samaritani* Choreographer: Guidi* Chorus Director: Jones

Saturday Sept 18 8PM Tuesday Sept 21 8PM Friday Sept 24 8PM Wednesday Sept 29 8PM Sunday Oct 3 2PM Kabaivanska, Marsee, Jones/Ilosfalvy, Boyagian**, Kovats**, Trimarchi, Malta, Frank, Geiger, Davies

Conductor: Adler Production: Fassini Stage Director: Farruggio Designer: Samaritani Choreographer: Guidi Chorus Director: Jones

Sunday Nov 7 2PM Saturday Nov 13 1:30PM Friday Nov 19 8PM

TOSCA Puccini IN ITALIAN

Rysanek (Oct. 2, 5)//Martin (Oct. 8, 10, 16, 23)/Aragall, Wixell, Trimarchi, Johnson*, Frank, Strummer, Davies

Conductor: Peloso Production: Ponnelle Stage Director: Prohaska** Designer: Ponnelle Chorus Director: Jones

Saturday Oct 2 8PM Tuesday Oct 5 8PM Friday Oct 8 8PM Sunday Oct 10 2PM Saturday Oct 16 8PM Saturday Oct 23 1:30PM

PETER GRIMES

Britten IN ENGLISH

Harper, Nadler, Petersen, Cummings, South/Vickers, Evans, Malta, Turnage*, Crook*, Geiger, Frank, Duykers

Conductor: Pritchard Production: Evans Designer: Toms Chorus Director: Jones

Wednesday Oct 6 8PM Saturday Oct 9 8PM Wednesday Oct 13 8PM Sunday Oct 17 2PM Friday Oct 22 8PM

New Production made possible by a generous gift from Cynthia Wood

DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN R. Strauss IN GERMAN

Rysanek, Schröder-Feinen*, Hesse, Cummings, South, Roark, Jones, Harned, Petersen/Kastu**, Berry*, Johnson, Alvary, Hecht, Duykers, Hoback*, Turnage, Geiger, Byrd*

Conductor: Böhm* Production: Lehnhoff Designer: Zimmermann** Chorus Director: Iones

Friday Oct 15 8PM Tuesday Oct 19 8PM Sunday Oct 24 1:30PM Saturday Oct 30 8PM Tuesday Nov 2 8PM



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Repertoire

continued

THE MAKROPULOS CASE Janáček IN ENGLISH

Silja, South, Jones, Harned/Lewis, Evans, Crook, Hecht, Manton, Rosenshein*, Davies

Conductor: Von Dohnanyi Stage Director: Pountney* Designer: Bauer-Ecsy Production Coordinator: Ecsy* Chorus Director: Jones

Wednesday Oct 20 8PM Saturday Oct 23 8PM Tuesday Oct 26 8PM Friday Oct 29 8PM Sunday Oct 31 2PM

New Productions made possible, in part, by a generous gift from James D. Robertson

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA Mascagni IN ITALIAN

Troyanos (first 5 perfs.)//Crespin (Nov. 16, 21, 24, 27), Esham*, Petersen/Domingo (first 6 perfs.)//Lloveras (Nov. 21, 24, 27), Janulako

and

I PAGLIACCI Leoncavallo IN ITALIAN

Rogers* (first 6 perfs.)//Kabaivanska (Nov. 21, 24, 27)/Domingo (first 6 perfs.)//Prevedi (Nov. 21, 24, 27), Wixell (first 6 perfs.)//Glossop (Nov. 21, 24, 27), Ellis*, Frank, Hoback, Davies

Conductor: Schermerhorn Production: Ponnelle Designer: Ponnelle Chorus Director: Jones

Wednesday Oct 27 8PM Saturday Oct 30 1:30PM Friday Nov 5 8PM Wednesday Nov 10 8PM Saturday Nov 13 8PM Tuesday Nov 16 8PM Sunday Nov 21 2PM Wednesday Nov 24 8PM Saturday Nov 27 8PM World Premiere made possible by generous gifts from the National Endowment for the Arts, City of San Francisco, San Francisco Foundation and a number of arts patrons

In celebration of the Twin Bicentennial of the U.S.A. and the City of San Francisco

ANGLE OF REPOSE

Imbrie IN ENGLISH

Shade *, Marsee, Garabedian/Ludgin, Lewis, Duesing**, Hecht, Johnson, Byrd, Turnage, Davies, Hoback

Conductor: Mauceri* Production: Freedman* Set Designer: Schmidt* Costume Designer: Casey* Choreographer: McFall* Chorus Director: Jones

Saturday Nov 6 8PM Tuesday Nov 9 8PM Sunday Nov 14 2PM Thursday Nov 18 8PM (Tuesday evening prices) Friday Nov 26 8PM

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA Rossini IN ITALIAN

Von Stade, Hinson/Hagegard**, Brecknock*, Capecchi, Tozzi, Turnage, Duykers, Harvey

Conductor: Varviso Stage Director: G. Hager Designer: Siercke Chorus Director: Jones

Friday Nov 12 8PM Wednesday Nov 17 8PM Saturday Nov 20 8PM Tuesday Nov 23 8PM Thursday Nov 25 8PM† Sunday Nov 28 2PM

†Special Thanksgiving Night non-subscription performance, Friday evening prices

*San Francisco Opera debut **American opera debut

REPERTOIRE, CASTS AND DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Special Events

OPERA ACTION PREVIEWS

MARIN

Previews held at Del Mar School, 105 Avenida Mira Flores, Tiburon. Lectures begin at 8:30 PM. Series registration is \$8.50; single tickets are \$2 (\$1.50 for students and senior citizens). For information, please call (415) 435-0191.

September 16 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Ramona Rockway and Singers

October 14
DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN
Dr. Jan Popper

October 21
THE MAKROPULOS CASE
Dr. Dale Harris

November 4 ANGLE OF REPOSE Robert Commanday

A Gala "Overture to the Previews" performance by San Francisco Opera's Brown Bag Opera singers will be held on September 23, 2 PM, at the Sausalito Women's Club, 120 Central Avenue. A donation of \$3.00 is requested. For reservations, please call (415) 332-3922.

SOUTH PENINSULA

Previews held at the Palo Alto Community Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Road, at 7:30 PM. Series registration is \$10; single tickets are \$2.50 (\$1.25 for students with I.D.). For information, please call (415) 321-9875, or 941-3890.

September 12 THAÏS Dr. Dale Harris

September 19 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Ramona Rockway

October 10
DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN
Dr. Jan Popper

October 24 THF MAKROPULOS CASE Dr. Dale Harris

October 31 ANGLE OF REPOSE Robert Commanday

Bus Service to San Francisco Opera Performances: Weekend bus service is available from Stanford Shopping Center. For information, please contact: Palo Alto (415) 493-8636 South Peninsula (408) 295-0073 or (415) 326-0856

JUNIOR LEAGUE OPERA PREVIEWS

All Junior League opera previews will be held at the Curran Theatre with the exception of Nov. 2, indicated below. Previews begin at 11 AM. For information, please call (415) 567-8600. October 1
PETER GRIMES
Dr. Jan Popper

October 11 DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN Michael Barclay

October 20 THE MAKROPULOS CASE Dr. Dale Harris

November 2
ANGLE OF REPOSE
Robert Commanday
(First Unitarian Church)

SAN JOSE OPERA GUILD PREVIEWS

Two series are offered: Daytime Series, presented in cooperation with West Valley College Community Services and Inter-Disciplinary Enrichment Seminars, at Saratoga Community Theater, Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, California. Previews held from 10 AM-12 noon. For ½ unit of college credit, please contact LS-90 Series Office, West Valley College, (408) 867-2200, extensions 407 or 363. For other information, please call Mrs. Jerrine Jeffery, (415) 984-3636 or Artie Nicholson, (415) 967-3590.

September 10 THAÏS Dr. Đale Harris

September 24 TOSCA James H. Schwabacher, Jr.

October 7
PETER GRIMES
Dr. Jan Popper

October 22
THE MAKROPULOS CASE
Dr. Dale Harris

Evening Series, presented in cooperation with De Anza College as part of their Seminar Lecture Series-90. Previews held from 8-10 PM at De Anza College Campus, 21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino, California. There is a \$2 advance registration fee which permits entrance to one or all previews. For a ½ unit of college credit, please contact SLS-90, De Anza College, (408) 257-5550. For other information, please call (415) 984-3636 or (415) 967-3590.

September 17 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Dr. Jan Popper

October 1
DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN
Dr. Arthur Regan

October 15 CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/I PAGLIACCI James H. Schwabacher, Jr.

October 29
ANGLE OF REPOSE (The Novel)
Dr. Wallace Stegner, Author

November 5 ANGLE OF REPOSE (The Opera) Robert Commanday San Francisco Opera presents internationally renowned

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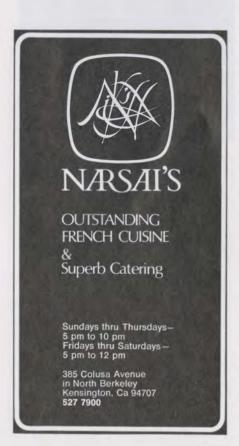
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UC-BERKELEY EXTENSION LECTURE SERIES

DR. JAN POPPER LECTURES will be given at 2 locations:
San Francisco Series, Monday evenings at 7:30 PM at UC Extension Center,
55 Laguna. Series registration is \$40; single tickets are \$5, on a space available basis, payable at the door. For further information (on either the San Francisco or Berkeley series), please call (415) 861-6833, or 642-4111.

September 13 THAÏS

September 20 DIE WALKÜRE

September 27 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

October 4 TOSCA

October 11
PETER GRIMES

October 18
DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN

November 1
THE MAKROPULOS CASE

November 8
CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/I PAGLIACCI

November 15 ANGLE OF REPOSE

November 22 IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

Berkeley Series, Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM at 125 Morrison Hall on the Berkeley Campus. Series registration is \$20; single tickets are 5, on a space available basis, payable at the door.

September 21 DIE WALKÜRE

September 28 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

October 5 TOSCA

October 12
PETER GRIMES

October 19 ANGLE OF REPOSE

NAPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES

For the fourth year Napa Community College is offering a ten-week course called ADVENTURES IN OPERA. The course, which introduces the Sunday Series at San Francisco Opera, will be held in the Library of Ridgeview Junior High School, 2447 Old Sonoma Road, Napa, California, on Wednesday nights from 7-9 p.m. Registration for the entire series is \$7.00. Ernest A. Fly will again teach the course, using his collection of complete opera recordings, Metropolitan Opera filmstrips, and also introducing guest speakers and vocal artists. For further information, please call Mr. Fly at (707) 224-6162.

September 15 THAÏS

September 22 DIE WALKÜRE

September 29 TOSCA

October 6
PETER GRIMES

October 13 DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN

October 20 THE MAKROPULOS CASE

October 27 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

November 3 ANGLE OF REPOSE

November 10 CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/I PAGLIACCI

November 17 IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

YWCA LECTURE SERIES

For the fifth year, the Downtown Center of the YWCA is offering an eight-week course called OPERA SPECTRUMS. The course, held on Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m., at 620 Sutter Street, includes the use of recordings, rare films, slides, live vocal and musical demonstrations, and group discussions of performances attended. Music critic, William Aguiar, Jr., will be the lecturer. Series registration is \$30; single tickets are \$4, on a space available basis, payable at the door. For further information, please call (415) 775-6500.

September 20 THAÏS

September 27 DIE WALKÜRE

October 4 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

October 11
TOSCA and THE MAKROPULOS CASE

October 18
DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN
and PETER GRIMES

October 25 CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/I PAGLIACCI

November 1 ANGLE OF REPOSE and a Survey of contemporary American opera

November 8 IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

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> Friday, September 10 THAIS DIE WALKÜRE Friday, September 17 Friday, September 24 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Friday, October 8 TOSCA Friday, October 15 DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN Friday, October 22 PETER GRIMES Friday, October 29 THE MAKROPULOS CASE Friday, November 5 CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA/ I PAGLIACCI IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA Friday, November 12 Friday, November 26 ANGLE OF REPOSE

All broadcasts will begin at 7:50 p.m. with the exception of DIE WALKÜRE, which will begin at 7:20 p.m.

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Gene Parrish interviews artists of the 1976 San Francisco Opera season during intermission. 11 a.m. every Sunday.

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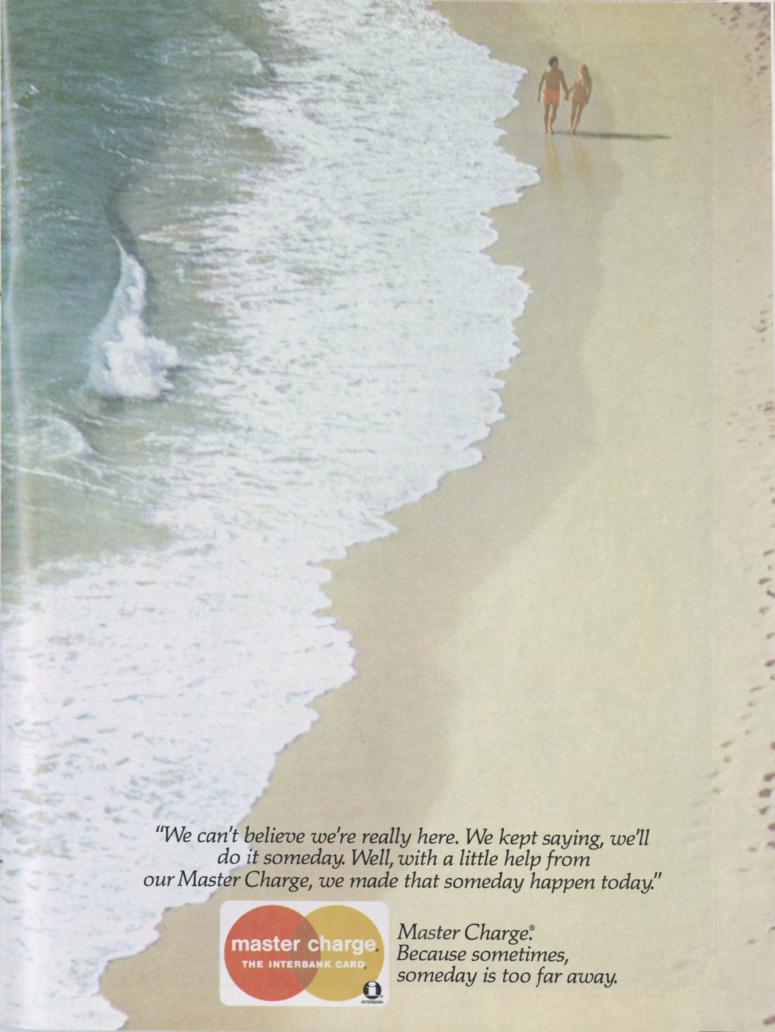
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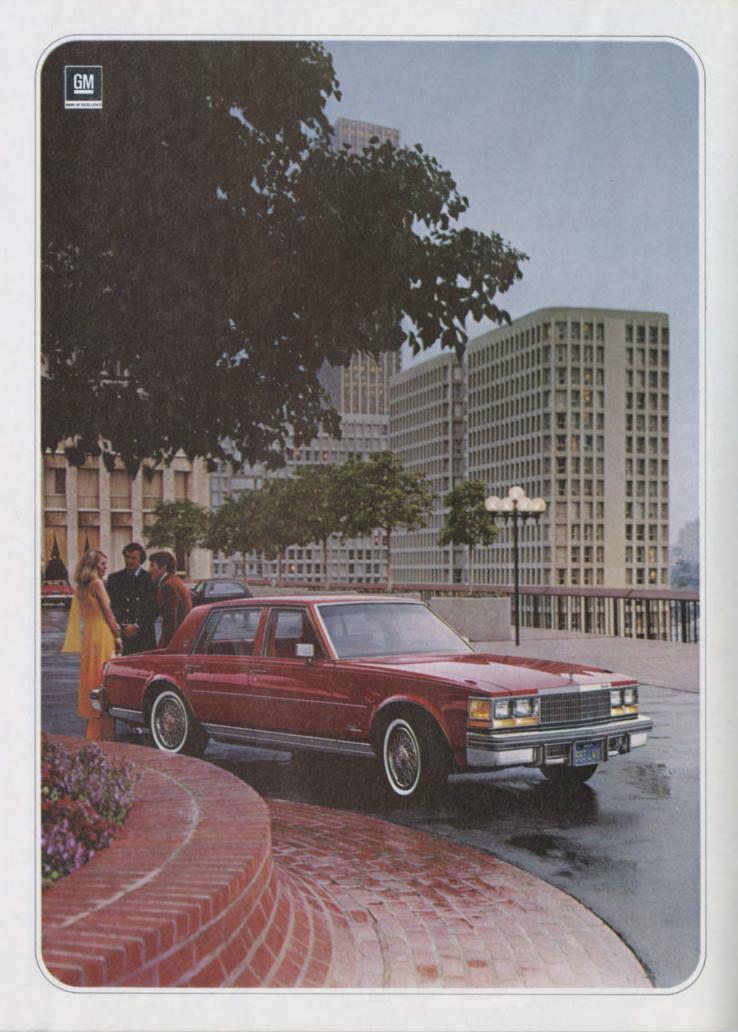
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Makropulos Case

(IN ENGLISH)

Opera in three acts by LEOS JANAČEK Based on the play by KAREL CAPEK English Translation by NORMAN TUCKER By arrangement with Theodore Presser, agent for Universal Edition, publisher and copyright owner

Conductor Christoph Von Dohnanyi

> Stage Director David Pountney*

Designer Leni Bauer-Ecsy

Chorus Director Robert Jones

Lighting Designer Thomas Munn

Production Coordinator Gabriele Ecsy**

> Musical Preparation Thomas Fulton

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Vitek Raymond Manton Albert Gregor William Lewis Christa Pamela South Dr. Kolenaty Joshua Hecht Emilia Marty Anja Silja Jaroslav Prus Geraint Evans

Charwoman Gwendolyn Jones

Stagehand John Davies

Janek Neil Rosenshein*

Hauk Paul Crook

Chambermaid Shirley Lee Harned

** American opera debut *San Francisco Opera debut

TIME AND PLACE:

EARLY IN THE PRESENT CENTURY; PRAGUE

ACT I The office of Dr. Kolenaty

ACT II The stage of a theatre

ACT III Emilia Marty's hotel room

First Performance: Brno, January 21, 1904

First San Francisco Opera Performance (American Premiere):

Please do not interrupt the music with applause

Latecomers will not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed in order not to disturb patrons who have arrived on time

The use of cameras and any kind of recording equipment is strictly forbidden

The performance will last approximately two hours and forty-five minutes

November 19, 1966

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20, 1976 AT 8:00 SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 23, 1976 AT 8:00 TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 26, 1976 AT 8:00 FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 29, 1976 AT 8:00 (Broadcast) SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 31, 1976 AT 2:00

SYNOPSIS/THE MAKROPULOS CASE

Three hundred years ago an alchemist by the name of Makropulos, employed by the Hapsburg Emperor, discovered the elixir of life and was forced by the Emperor to administer it to his own daughter, Elina.

During the three hundred years that she has lived, she has had many identities, many names (always with the initials E.M.) and many affairs. One of her more passionate affairs was with Baron Josef Ferdinand Prus by whom she had a son. She also gave the Baron the formula for the elixir, but the potion killed him and on his deathbed he left his estate to their illegitimate son.

Those in attendance around the deathbed, however, misunderstood the name he spoke, and unable to find such an heir, the estate went to a distant branch of the family. The illegitimate branch has contested this for nearly a century.

ACT 1: In the office of his lawyer Dr. Kolenaty, Albert Gregor, the latest descendant of the illegitimate line of the Prus family, learns from the clerk Vitek that the case is to be settled that very day, once and for all. In debt and despondent at the thought of losing the estate, Gregor is desperate. Vitek's daughter, Christa, a young singer, enters exclaiming the glories of Emilia Marty, a beautiful opera singer. Dr. Kolenaty returns from court when suddenly Emilia Marty appears in the office, and inquires about the case of Gregor versus Prus. She displays, in the course of the conversation, an uncanny knowledge of the people and circumstances involved. She tells them of a written will left by the Baron which will provide them with the evidence they need to win the case. She also tells them exactly where to find the will. The lawyer, highly skeptical and suspicious, is forced by his client to look for the document. Gregor, dazzled by this famous beauty who has miraculously appeared to rescue him, falls madly in love and when left alone with her proclaims his devotion. She coldly repulses him. Interested in the case only because she needs the elixir's formula to give her another 300 years of life, Emilia Marty asks Gregor for it, but he denies all knowledge of its existence. The lawyer soon returns with the document in hand, overwhelmed by its existence and her knowledge of it. He still must have proof, however, that the illegitimate son was indeed fathered by the Baron. Emilia Marty promises to deliver the proof the very next day.

ACT II: At the theatre after the evening's performance, Christa, starry-eyed over Emilia Marty, tells her fiancee Janek, Baron Prus' son, that she thinks she will devote her life to the theatre, sacrificing all else. Having so decided she then succumbs to his attentions. Gregor and Prus come looking for Emilia Marty. They are interrupted by an elderly gentleman by the name of Hauk, one of Emilia Marty's lovers many years ago. Caught by the memory of their previous blissful relationship, they are transported into the past. Hauk then happily departs with his dreams of yesteryear. Emilia Marty sends Gregor away and tries to find out if Prus has the elixir's formula. Gregor returns proclaiming his love for her though in his tempestuousness he threatens to kill her for her indifference. Janek returns and Marty urges him to steal the document she seeks from his father. Unseen, Prus has come back and overhears the conversation. He admits possession of the document and agrees to give it to her but only on the condition that she spend the night with him.

ACT III: Prus, though disappointed because he has found Emilia Marty cold and unfeeling in love, stands by his bargain and hands over the document. He suddenly learns that Janek has killed himself for love of the beautiful singer Emilia Marty. She, however, is quite unaffected by the news. The others are soon shown into her hotel room, and charge her with fraud. They demand an explanation of her part in these affairs. Breaking down at last, Emilia Marty unfolds the fantastic tale of her 300 years of life and her many different lives and names. They realize at last that she is telling the truth, and stand by in awe as her life drains away before their eyes. She, realizing at last the meaning of a life bounded by death, welcomes her end, and offers the formula to Christa, promising her fame and fortune. Christa refuses and burns the document as Marty dies.

Janáček and The Makropulos Case

The Czech-born Leos Janáček, [1854-1928] was a prolific composer. Although his compositions include works for the piano, organ, chamber ensembles and full symphony orchestra, it was the human voice in all its aspects that most attracted him. His writing for the voice ranged from arrangements of Moravian folk songs to church music, from cantatas to full-scale operas, from song cycles to choral works for male and/or female chorus. He studied deeply Czech folk-song and speech patterns, and this greatly influenced his musical idiom.

For many years Janáček's operas, with the exception of Jenufa and Káťa Kabanová, were rarely, if ever, performed outside Czechoslovakia. Unlike his compatriots Smetana and Dvorák, whose works possess an immediate and universal appeal, Janáček's operas were, and indeed still are, essentially Slavonic in style—and, based as they are on Moravian rather than Bohemian culture, take a great deal of understanding by Western audiences. Once we remember, however, Janáček's love of nature, his love and understanding of the human being, and his amazing sensitivity to speech sounds and rhythms, we are well on the road to an understanding of his music.

Unlike most of his contemporaries, Janáček eschewed the Wagnerian approach to opera; indeed his music has been called "non-developmental." Its power lies in its almost hypnotic and varied repetitions, and in the appearance, cheek by jowl, of sharply contrasted musical ideas, which rarely knit together in the traditional musical style. What results in his operas are a series of fast-moving and contrasted scenes, with little or no padding, and which often leave the listener breathless.

Janáček's first two stage-works, Sárka [1887-8, but not completed until 1924 and produced in Brno the following year] and his one-act The Beginnings of a Romance [1891, produced 1894], were his only truly romantic and conventional operas. With Jenufa [1894- 1903, produced 1904, and subsequently much revised], The Excursions of Mr. Brouček [1908-17, produced 1920] and Káťa Kabanová [1919-21, produced 1921], Janácek established himself as an individualist, musically and dramatically.

Káťa was followed by The Cunning Little Vixen, that wonderfully sympathetic study of man's relationship and attitude towards nature and the animal world; a work in which, to quote Wilfred Mellers, "Janáček deliberately gave nature priority over man, admitting that we must 'go back' in part surrendering consciousness if we are to learn to live with it." In The Makropulos Case, Janáček attempts

to deal with this same theme from the opposite angle.

Janáček had already shown his fascination in the fantastic in both *Mr. Brouček* and *The Cunning Little Vixen*. In *The Makropulos Case*, based on Čapek's play about the 300-year old Elina Makropulos, who continues to survive because she had drunk the *elixir vitae* discovered by her father, court physician and alchemist at the court of Emperor Rudolf II [1552-1612], Janáček had a fascinating subject.

The Czech title of the opera, Věc Makropulos, is literally, "The Makropulos Thing" [in German it is "Die Sache Makropulos"]. The word "Case" suggests a law-suit; and indeed the opera does deal with a lawsuit that has been dragging on its weary length for nearly a hundred years—the case of Gregor vs. Prus—the name Makropulos does not come up until the second act. The usual English translation of the title of Čapek's play is The Makropulos Secret, which might be a far better title of the opera; for the "secret" or the "thing" is the longlost piece of paper on which is written the prescription of the elixir.

Čapek termed his play a comedy; its theme, was that Man's fulfillment of life is far more important than the length of life; and by depicting the heroine, Emilia Marty, as a hard, cynical but beautiful creature, he shows us the spiritual and moral disintegration of a human being. Capek had a great admiration for Janáček as a composer, and readily agreed to his request that he be permitted to turn the play into an opera. It is true he had the usual fear of all writers that the composer would distort the meaning of the play; but, except for a few unimportant cuts, Janáček uses the play almost word for word as his libretto. He lets his heroine die at the end of the opera-indeed, the listener probably feels more sympathy for Emilia Marty at the end of the opera than at the end of the play.

Karel Čapek [1890-1938] was possibly the first writer to put a robot on the stage, but he was not the first playwright to be intrigued with the subject of longevity, [It was his play *R.U.R.* that gave the word robot to the English language]. Indeed, while he was busy writing his play, *The Makropulos Secret*, George Bernard Shaw was busy writing his *Back to Methuselah*.

Janáček read Čapek's play while he was on a mountain holiday and was immediately fascinated by the subject. What attracted him above everything else was the character of the heroine, the magnetic and irresistible Elina Makropulos: a creature as cold as ice, like Turandot, but doomed to

live so long that she became lonely, cynical and horrifying, yet a figure that arouses pity. "A beauty 300 years old and eternally young, but with all feeling burned out of her! Brr-r' Cold as ice! I'm going to write an opera about such a woman," so wrote Janáček, after reading the play to Max Brod, who had translated a number of his operas for the German stage. During the period of his composition of the opera, Janáček wrote on several occasions to Kamila Stosslová, the wife of a Moravian merchant, who had become his inspiration, and with whom he had formed a deep emotional relationship in 1917 -a relationship that was to last the rest of his life. She was one of his images for Emilia Marty: "I am already making Miss Brr-r. But I am making her warmer, so that people can have sympathy with her. I'll fall in love with her yet" he wrote in a letter to her. Then, on a later occasion: "But what about my 300-year old! They all call her a liar, a fake, a hysterical woman-and, in fact, she's so unhappy! I wanted people to like her. With me it's no good without love. . . . They called her dreadful names, they wanted to throttle her, and what was her fault? —that she lived too long. I felt dreadfully sorry for her!" These statements show just how involved personally Janáček became in this opera. The more one reads about the play and the opera, the more opportunities that arise to hear and see Janáček's work on the stage, the more fascinating becomes this character of Elina Makropulos.

Čapek linked his play with Czech history by starting his story in 16th-century Prague, at the time of the Hapsburg Emperor Rudolph II, who employed astrologers and alchemists from all over Europe to discover the Philosopher's Stone, produce gold and the elixir of life. One of these alchemists was recreated by Čapek as Hieronymus Makropulos, who succeeded in discovering the elixir of life. The Emperor made him try it out on his 16-year-old daughter, Elina. She has been alive for 300 years—in fact, until the beginning of this century, the period in which both play and opera take place. Elina became a famous opera singer, appearing in opera houses all over the world, often changing her name, but always retaining the same initials—E.M.

In the early 19th century (when she had been alive for 200 years) she was a star of the Vienna Opera, where she sang as Ellian MacGregor, a singer of Scottish origin. Later she turned up as Eugenia Montez, whose fascinating gypsylike character ensnared one Baron Hauk, a character who appears in the opera in his dotage. She has also been a Greek soprano, Ekateri Myshkin; a German soprano, Elsa Müller; and finally, in the opera, the Czech singer, Emilia Marty.

During her Vienna period as Ellian MacGregor, she had an affair with one Baron Pepi Prus; and an illegitimate son, Ferdinant, resulted from their union. The boy was known as Ferdinand Gregor Mach (a ruse employed to protect the name of his mother), though the birth was actually entered in the parish register as Ferdinant Makropulos. Ellian gave Pepi the formula for prolonging life, but instead of so doing, it poisoned him. On his deathbed the Baron bequeathed the last estates of the Prus family to his illegitimate son; but as there was no written will, and as there was no record of a Gregor Mach, the estates went to a more distant, but legitimate, branch of the Prus family.

The illegitimate branch of the family, however (i.e. the descendants of Ferdinand Gregor), contested this, and there has been continuous litigation going on between the two branches of the family for nearly a century. Such is the situation at the beginning of the opera.

The score that Janáček has provided to illuminate this strange yet fascinating opera is virtually a free fantasia on one theme, the theme of E.M., which takes on varying shapes and sounds as it refers to the various people who have been joined together through their contact with E.M. There are some forty or more transformations of the heroine's initial motive during the course of the opera.

Janáček's working method is that of continual variation, a mode of working that has appealed to many 20th-century composers. "Long melodies don't come to me as they did to Mozart. But what I do understand is how to turn a theme, paraphrase it, extract from it everything inside it, and I think today nobody can rival me at this" could well have been Janáček's text—it was in fact what Richard Strauss wrote in a letter to Stefan Zweig when they were working together on *Die schweigsame Frau*.

But there is more to Janáček's music than that; as I pointed out earlier, it was his treatment of speech rhythms that are so unique. He uses the high register of the male voice to suggest the weakness of Albert Gregor's character; the high tessitura of Prus' music suggests his scheming, nervous character; the music of the lawyer Kolenaty, is repetitive, fussy, conventional. But it is to E.M.'s music that we finally return. Here Janáček's style finds its final consummation—Janáček's speech rhythms are transformed into something more. E.M.'s final monologue, with her death wish, becomes, to quote Wilfred Mellers, "a passionate affirmation of humanism—an inversion of Isolde's "Liebestod."

The wonderful orchestral prelude to the opera, with its off-stage fanfares for brass and kettledrums, suggests the weird court of Rudolph II. These fanfares contrast strangely with the lyrical passages which reflect the tragedy of Elina Makropulos and her series of love affairs throughout the centuries. The fanfare is heard again during the last act of the opera, when the whole story is finally narrated, and it accompanies E.M.'s death during the opera's closing moments.

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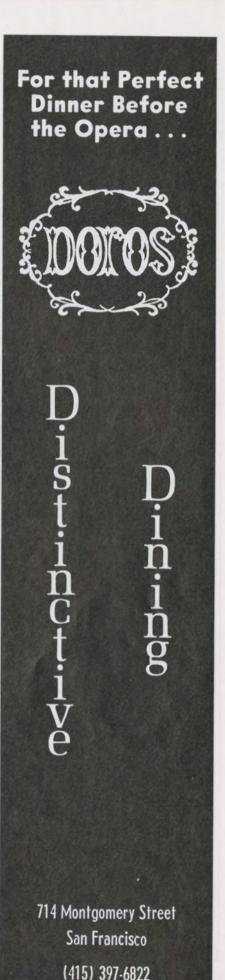
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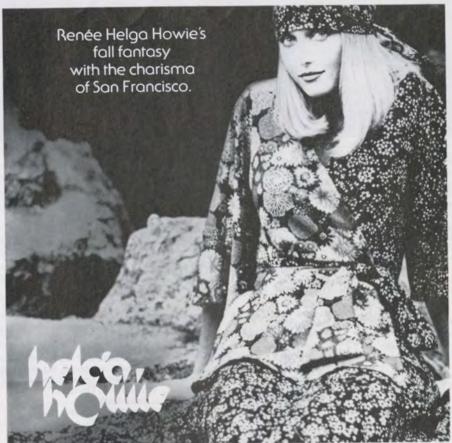
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Opera Museum

The 1976 exhibit in the opera museum, prepared in its entirety by the Archives for the Performing Arts, represents a detailed historical profile of the beginnings of opera in the city of San Francisco, tracing our art form up through the founding of San Francisco Opera.

Archives for the Performing Arts, which serves as a repository for invaluable collections pertaining to opera, dance, music and theater, is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation, with headquarters in the San Francisco Public Library, Presidio Branch. The museum display represents countless hours of research and preparation of visuals by Archives' director, Russell Hartley, and Judith Solomon, his assistant, with Lim M. Lai serving as overall consultant on the project.

The specific purpose for which Archives for the Performing Arts was formed was to collect, preserve, classify and exhibit all types of memorabilia pertaining to all the performing arts and to make the educational and historical material accessible to the general public on a continuing basis.

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The Makropulos Case

continued from p. 29

certainly optimism. If we say that this daily life of ours, full of deprivation and sorrow, is not really so unreconcilable, but has in it something of increased value—is that pessimism? I think not."

Janácek's operatic version of Capek's play, while nearly literal, adds one important new emphasis. In the words of Hans Hollander, "While Capek in his drama dealt with the problems of physical immortality and its dreadful psychological and social consequences, Janácek gave profundity to the action by a new motive - the heroine's yearning for redemption from her hopeless semi-eternal existence, and the compassion for her aroused in us." The theme of redemption became, in fact, a main concern for Janácek in his last years, and further exploration of the redemption motive is evident in the composer's next and last opera. The House of the Dead.

The composition of *The Makropulos* Case occupied Janácek from 11 November, 1923 until December, 1925. The opera had its premiere at Brno on 18 December, 1926 and was given at Prague on 1 March, 1928. The first German performance of the work was at Frankfurt in February, 1929. And today, *The Makropulos Case* is increasingly assuming its rightful position in the repertoires of leading opera houses throughout the world.

Mr. Snyder is Professor of Music at Sonoma State College.

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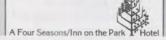
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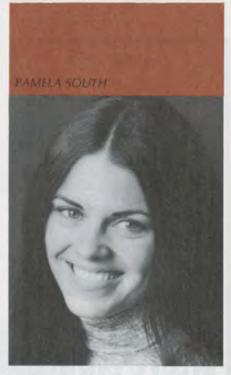




Profiles



The exciting soprano Anja Silja returns to San Francisco Opera to sing Emilia Marty in The Makropulos Case. Miss Silja was last heard here as the temptress Lulu during the 1971 season, and is well-remembered for her searing performances as Salome in 1970 and 1968, the year in which she made her American debut with this company. Born in Berlin, she began studying voice at age seven, had her first recital three years later, and made her operatic debut at age fifteen, as Rosina in Il Barbiere di Siviglia. During her prodigy years she performed as a guest artist with opera companies in Stuttgart, Vienna, Aix-en-Provence, Frankfurt, Berlin, Hamburg, Brussels and Bologna. The turning point in her career came in 1960 when Wieland Wagner chose her for the role of Senta in his staging of Der Fliegende Holländer at Bayreuth. With the guidance of Wieland Wagner, she included additional Wagnerian roles in her repertoire, such as Eva in Die Meistersinger, Isolde, Elsa in Lohengrin, Brünnhilde in Die Walküre and Siegfried, as well as the non-Wagnerian roles of Desdemona in Otello, Elektra, Leonora in Fidelio, Turandot, and her interpretation of Salome, which is legendary. Her reputation as a compelling singing actress is enhanced by the scope of her performing repertoire, which includes such contemporary roles as Marie in Wozzeck, the woman in Schoenberg's Erwartung, Janácek's Katya Kabanova, Jenny in Kurt Weill's Mahagonny, in addition to Tosca, Cassandra in Les Troyens, and the four soprano parts in Les Contes d'Hoffmann.



For her second season with San Francisco Opera, Pamela South sings Crobyle in Thais, the Second Niece in Peter Grimes, a child and a servant in Die Frau ohne Schatten and Christa in The Makropulos Case. In her 1975 debut season, the pert and vivacious soprano was Giannetta in L'Elisir d'Amore, Mascha in Pique Dame, the First Lover in Il Tabarro, Nella in Gianni Schicchi and Papagena in The Magic Flute. A participant in the 1974 Merola Opera Program, she sang Pamina that year in the special Merola Fund Benefit performance of The Magic Flute, performed at the Paul Masson Mountain Winery. Recently she completed her second season with Western Opera Theater, including a month-long residency in Alaska, interpreting alternately Susanna and Barbarina in The Marriage of Figaro and Gabriela in The Portuguese Inn. Recipient of a Martha Baird Rockefeller grant, the soprano was a winner of the San Francisco and Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions. Miss South made her operatic debut in 1973 at Seattle Opera in Rigoletto, singing the role of Countess Ceprano. In both 1975 and 1976, she was a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony Pops Concerts, conducted by Arthur Fiedler. After her performances at San Francisco Opera, Miss South will perform as a soloist with the Anchorage Symphony.

GWENDOLYN JONES



Gwendolyn Jones returns to San Francisco Opera as Albine in Thaïs, Siegrune in Die Walküre, Curra in La Forza del Destino, a child and a solo voice in Die Frau ohne Schatten, and a charwoman in The Makropulos Case. The mezzo was last heard here in 1974 in productions of Manon Lescaut, Parsifal, Madama Butterfly and Luisa Miller. Miss Jones is a four-year veteran of Spring Opera Theater, having sung in The Saint Matthew Passion (1976). L'Ormindo (1974), Orfeo (1972) and Titus (1971). She was a finalist in the 1970 San Francisco Opera Auditions. receiving the Merola Opera Program's Gropper Memorial Award that year, Miss lones has won numerous vocal competitions, including the 1968 Metropolitan Opera National Auditions Finals and the 1971 Philadelphia Lyric Opera Final Auditions. She received early performing experience at Santa Fe Opera in productions of Der Rosenkavalier, The Elixir of Love, The Magic Flute and Henze's The Bassarids. Married to John Miller, a baritone with the San Francisco Opera family, Miss Jones is scheduled to sing Thisbe in Rossini's La Cenerentola for the opera companies of Seattle and Portland in March, 1977, and two months later will assume the title role in La Cenerentola in an English production at Tucson Opera, where she is an Affiliate Artist.





In her debut season with San Francisco Opera, Shirley Lee Harned portrays Myrtale in Thaïs, Rossweisse in Die Walküre, and also a solo voice in Die Frau ohne Schatten and a chambermaid in The Makropulos Case. The mezzo, a winner of the 1971 San Francisco Opera Regional Auditions, joined the Merola Opera Program that year, singing Mrs. Trapes in The Beggar's Opera at the Paul Masson Mountain Winery, and Mamma Lucia in Cavalleria Rusticana and the Monitor in Suor Angelica at Sigmund Stern Grove. A regular member of Seattle Opera, she was a winner of that company's 1973 Cecilia Schultz Auditions. Among her Seattle Opera roles have been Alisia in Lucia di Lammermoor, Annina in La Traviata, lavotte in Manon, La Ciesca in Gianni Schicchi, as well as Marianne in Der Rosenkavalier, Madame Larina in Eugene Onegin and Pauline in Thomas Pasatieri's The Seagull. In the summer of 1975, Miss Harned interpreted three roles in both the German and English Der Ring des Nibelungen for the Pacific Northwest Festival, repeating her performance in this year's festival. A featured soloist with several Northwest symphonic orchestras, she has performed in Händel's Judas Maccabeas, the Bach B Minor Mass, Rossini's Stabat Mater and the Verdi Requiem.



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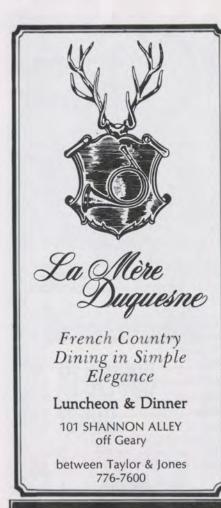
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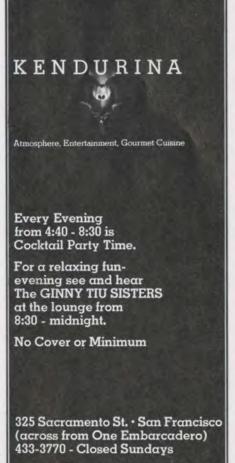
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William Lewis returns to San Francisco Opera as Albert Gregor in The Makropulos Case and Frank Sargent in Angle of Repose. In his debut season last year, the tenor was hailed for his dual interpretation of the Steersman and Erik in the unorthodox Jean Pierre Ponnelle staging of Der Fliegende Holländer. Born in Oklahoma, Lewis studied at the University of Colorado, Texas Christian University and New York University. He was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions and made his debut as Narraboth in Salome in 1958, being the youngest tenor to debut in a major role with the company. Lewis is an invaluable member of the Metropolitan, and has frequently been called upon to perform Don Jose in Carmen, Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, Aeneas in Les Troyens, the Drum Major in Wozzeck, Don Alvaro in La Forza del Destino, Arrigo in I Vespri Siciliani, and Steva in Jenufa, naming only a few of the seventy roles he has sung with the New York company. He has also appeared with every major musical organization in New York City, and has sung in the American premieres of Stravinsky's Threni, and Carl Orff's Antigone and Prometheus. In February, 1976, he participated in the world premiere of Be Glad then, America at Pennsylvania state university, under the musical direction of Sarah Caldwell. In May, he performed with Miss Caldwell's Opera Company of Boston in Puccini's La Fanciulla del West. Prior to joining San Francisco Opera this year, Lewis, who resides in Palm Springs, travelled to Santa Fe Opera for productions of La Traviata and Virgil Thomson's The Mother of Us All.

SIR GERAINT EVANS



A favorite of San Francisco Opera audiences, baritone Sir Geraint Evans sings Captain Balstrode and directs Peter Grimes here this season, as well as portraying Jaroslav Prus in The Makropulos Case. He made his American operatic debut with the company in 1959, as Beckmesser in Die Meistersinger, and was last heard here in the 1973 productions of Peter Grimes, which he also directed, and Così fan tutte, as Don Alfonso. Sir Geraint began his operatic career in 1948 when he was engaged to sing the Night-Watchman in Die Meistersinger at London's Royal Opera. In his second season with that company, he received excellent notices for his Figaro in Le Nozze di Figaro, a role he subsequently performed to popular and critical acclaim throughout the world. Sir Geraint is also famous for his Bartolo in Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Papageno in The Magic Flute, Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the title roles in Wozzeck and Falstaff. He has performed at La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Paris Opéra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and the Glyndebourne Festival, frequently serving as both singer and stage director for productions. In 1969 he was knighted for his services to music at the Investiture of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. Before arriving in San Francisco this year, Sir Geraint staged and sang in the Edinburgh Festival production of Le Nozze di Figaro, and recorded the work with conductor Daniel Barenboim. Upon completing his assignments with San Francisco Opera, the baritone returns to Royal Opera to recreate his successful Dr. Dulcamara in L'Elisir d'Amore.

PAUL CROOK



During his debut season with San Francisco Opera, British tenor Paul Crook sings Bob Boles in Peter Grimes and Hauk in The Makropulos Case. His operatic career began when he left his job as a coal miner and traveled to London, where he was accepted into the chorus of Sadler's Wells Opera (now English National Opera), although he had no musical training or experience. He became a student of the late Herbert Graf and trained with him at the Grand Theatre in Geneva. Crook's characterizations have earned him critical praise throughout Europe and England, where he has performed regularly with the English National Opera and the Royal Opera. His recent successes on London's operatic stages have included the roles of Valzacchi in Der Rosenkavalier, Monostatos in The Magic Flute, Beppe in I Pagliacci, Mime in Das Rheingold and Siegfried, Anatol in War and Peace, and Pedrillo in The Abduction from the Seraglio. The singer made his American debut in Seattle in 1975, as Mime in both the German and English stagings of Das Rheingold and Siegfried for the Pacific Northwest Festival's Der Ring des Nibelungen.

JOSHUA HECHT



Returning to San Francisco Opera after an eleven-year absence, Joshua Hecht performs the One-Eved Man in Die Frau ohne Schatten, Doctor Kolenaty in The Makropulos Case and Dahl in Angle of Repose. He debuted with this company in 1961, singing bass roles in nine productions, including the world premiere of Norman Dello Joio's Blood Moon, as well as Boris Godunov, Madama Butterfly, Nabucco, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Rigoletto. In 1964 he was engaged by Seattle Opera to sing Scarpia in that company's first staging of Tosca, an event which initiated his transition from bass to baritone roles. Later that same year with San Francisco Opera, he was Escamillo in Carmen. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1965 in the title role of Der Fliegende Holländer. Hecht moved to Italy to continue exploring the baritone repertoire, adding demanding Verdian roles to his performance schedule. In 1975, he was Rigoletto at the Teatro Verdi in Pisa, Germont in La Traviata at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo, and performed in Fidelio, Tosca and Der Fliegende Holländer for the Graz Festival. He recently interpreted lago in Otello for the Opera Society of Washington. Hecht, a frequent oratorio and concert performer, is also comfortable in roles from classic works of the American musical theater.

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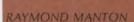
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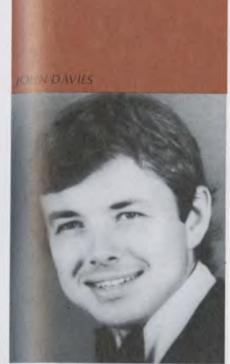


San Francisco resident Raymond Manton embarks upon his twenty-second season with San Francisco Opera by adding the role of Vitek in The Makropulos Case to his extensive repertoire. Last season with the company the tenor was heard as Schmidt in Werther and Tinca in Il Tabarro, His impressive list of characterizations here also includes the Simpleton in Boris Godunov, Don Curzio in Le Nozze di Figaro, Remendado in Carmen, Pang in Turandot, Bardolph in Falstaff, and the tenor in Der Rosenkavalier, his debut role in 1955. Manton scored a great critical and popular success in the 1975 Spring Opera Theater season, as Guglielmo Antolstoinolonoff, the offkey Russo-Italian tenor in Donizetti's opera spoof, Viva la Mamma. He portraved Baron Puck in Spring Opera Theater's 1973 and 1974 stagings of The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein, and Almaviva in The Barber of Seville and Alfredo in La Traviata in 1962. In addition to his San Francisco Opera appearances, Manton has performed with the opera companies of Houston, Seattle, San Diego, Los Angeles, Portland and Boston, and has been a frequent soloist with the San Francisco Symphony and other major West Coast orchestras.

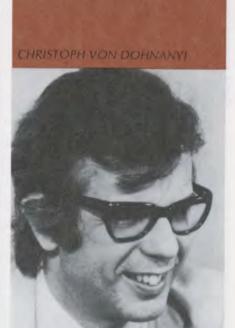
NEIL ROSENSHEIN



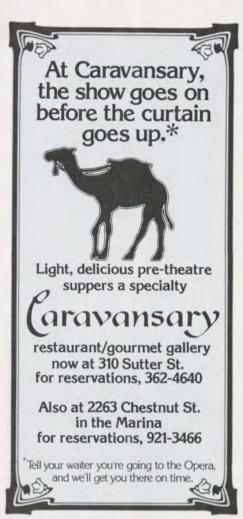
Debuting artist Neil Rosenshein is Janek in The Makropulos Case and Count Almaviva in the student matinee performances of The Barber of Seville during the current San Francisco Opera season. The New York tenor was first heard on the West Coast as Fritz in Spring Opera Theater's 1974 production of The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. That same year Rosenshein performed in War and Peace and Pasatieri's Calvary at Wolf Trap Farm Park near Washington, D.C. A 1975 winner of a Sullivan Foundation Award, Rosenshein appeared that year with the Opera Company of Boston in The Barber of Seville and the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Ravel's L'Enfant et les Sortileges, conducted by Seiji Ozawa. He interpreted the title role in L'Ormindo at New York's Caramoor Festival in 1975 and also performed as vocal soloist for the New York City Ballet's production of Pulcinella. In 1976 he has sung the role of Paquillo in Spring Opera Theater's La Perichole, Alfredo in the Syracuse Opera production of La Traviata, and Lysander in Wolf Trap's staging of A Midsummer Night's Dream. In 1977 he is scheduled to join Omaha Opera for performances of The Merry Widow.



During his second season with San Francisco Opera, John Davies sings a Surgeon in La Forza del Destino, the Jailer in Tosca, a Stagehand in The Makropulos Case, the Second Farmer in I Pagliacci and the First Miner in Angle of Repose. In his 1975 debut season, the bass baritone displayed his special singing and acting talents in productions of Il Trovatore, L'Incoronazione di Poppea, Werther and Andrea Chenier. A two-year veteran o, .vestern Opera Theater, he performed in the 1976 production of The Barber of Seville as Bartolo, The Marriage of Figaro alternating as Figaro and Antonio. and The Portuguese Inn as Roselbo. A native of Boston, Davies toured with Opera New England in 1974, singing the Bonze in Madama Butterfly and the Crapshooter in Lukas Foss' The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County. In October, 1974, he performed the title role in the coronation scene of Boris Godunov with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the Worcester Music Festival. A graduate of the Boston University of Fine and Applied Arts, Davies sang in the New Opera Company of Boston production of The Marriage of Figaro and the Opera Company of Boston's staging of War and Peace. This past summer, Davies made his second appearance as a soloist during the San Francisco Symphony Pops Concerts, conducted by Arthur Fiedler.



One of the most prominent members of the younger generation of European conductors, Christoph von Dohnanyi is maestro for San Francisco Opera's revival of The Makropulos Case, having debuted here with Lulu in 1971. Berlin-born Dohnanyi intended to become a lawyer but after two years of study, decided to pursue music under the guidance of his grandfather, famous Hungarian composer and pianist Ernest von Dohnanyi. He won Munich's Richard Strauss Prize for Composition and Conducting in 1951, and came to this country as a conducting apprentice at Tanglewood under the tutelage of Leonard Bernstein. Returning to Europe he was engaged by Sir Georg Solti as coach and ballet conductor for Frankfurt Opera. He then became general music director at Lübeck in 1957 and was appointed to a similar position with the state theater in Kassel in 1964, the year he became chief conductor of the West German Radio Symphony Orchestra in Cologne. During these years he also guest conducted at the premier opera centers of Europe, as well as leading the continent's major symphonic orchestras. He was on the podium for the world premieres of Henze's Der Junge Lord at Berlin, and The Bassarids at the Salzburg Festival. Presently director of the Frankfurt Opera and the famous Museum Orchestra, Dohnanyi has conducted with Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Metropolitan Opera. This past year at Frankfurt he led performances of Fidelio and Das Rheingold. In December he conducts another world premiere, von Einem's Kabale und Liebe for the Vienna State Opera. During the 1977-78 season he becomes Intendant and general music director of the Hamburg State Opera.





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DAVID POUNTNEY



David Pountney, director of productions for Scottish Opera, stages The Makropulos Case for his debut with San Francisco Opera. Born in Oxford, Pountney was educated at Radley College and Cambridge University. In 1968 he was appointed administrator of productions for the Cambridge University Opera Society, directing six productions and conducting three others. During the 1969-70 season he assisted John Cox with the Music Theatre Ensemble and was a stage manager at the Wexford Festival Opera, which led to the post of deputy director of productions at Scottish Opera. His stagings with that organization include The Magic Flute, Die Fledermaus, Cog d'Or and Jenufa, jointly produced with Welsh National Opera. His production of The Rake's Progress won great acclaim and was mounted for the Netherlands Opera in 1972. His directing talents became internationally known through his production of Janácek's Katya Kabanova at the 1972 Wexford Festival, which resulted in his return in 1973 to stage Prokofiev's The Gambler. He made his American debut in 1973, directing Macbeth for Houston Grand Opera, and recently staged that company's world premiere of Bilby's Doll by Carlisle Floyd. This past summer he assisted Hans Werner Henze in the preparation of the world premiere of the composer's We Come to the River for Covent Garden, and also directed Macbeth for the Edinburgh Festival. After his work with San Francisco Opera, Pountney will produce Die Meistersinger for Scottish Opera.

LENI BAUER-ECSY



One of Europe's most sought-after designers, Leni Bauer-Ecsy is responsible for the settings and costumes in the San Francisco Opera revival of The Makropulos Case, given its American premiere by this company in 1966. Bauer-Ecsy studied design at the Hamburg Academy of the Arts and started her career with the Deutsches Schausspielhaus in Hamburg when she was twenty years old. Her skills and reputation led to commissions from all the principal German opera houses, including those of Berlin, Munich and Stuttgart, as well as the festivals at Salzburg, Edinburgh, Paris and Vienna. She has been involved in several German premieres, most notably the Stuttgart Opera's presentation of Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress. She debuted with San Francisco Opera in 1960 with the highly regarded production of Wozzeck. In subsequent years her scenic and costuming ideas were represented by productions of Lucia di Lammermoor and Le Nozze di Figaro in 1961, La Forza del Destino and Capriccio in 1963, Der Rosenkavalier in 1964, and the West Coast premiere of Lulu in 1965. Miss Bauer-Ecsy's designs were seen at the recent Stuttgart production of Offenbach's Orphée aux Enfers and the Munich Festival stagings of Janácek's From the House of the Dead and Verdi's Falstaff, both directed by Gunther Rennert.





Gabriele Ecsy debuts with San Francisco Opera this season as production coordinator for The Makropulos Case. Born in Munich, Miss Ecsy studied scenic and costume design under Gerd Richter and Jurgen Rose at the Academy for Stage Design and Costumes in Stuttgart. In her spare time, she was a volunteer worker for the scenic design staff of the Stuttgart State Opera. For many years she served as an assistant to her mother, internationally respected designer Leni Bauer-Ecsy. Her own production designs have been seen at the Stuttgart State Opera in performances of Milhaud's Opera Minutes, Cimarosa's Il Matrimonio Segreto, Stravinsky's Le Renard and Maderna's Satyricon; she created costumes for productions of Die Frau ohne Schatten, Elektra, Die Kluge, Oedipus Rex and Don Carlo. In June of this year her costume creations for Das Rheingold were seen at Brussels Opéra National.

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NeverToo Old

by Maralyn Edid

Almost thirty-one years passed before Leos Janáček's first opera, Sarka, had its première performance. The day after Sarka's 1925 opening in the Czech composer's hometown of Brno, Janáček (1854-1928) finished The Makropulos Case. This time, though, he waited only one year until his eighth opera made its première.

For this seventy-one year old composer, teacher, choirmaster, music theoretician, folklorist and nationalist from the hills of Moravia, the treatment accorded *The Makropulos Case* was a significant and long overdue improvement. Public recognition and modest critical acclaim came to Janácek late in life. Although he composed as a young man, his name was relatively unknown outside of Brno until he was more than sixty years old.

For many years Janáček contented himself by composing for local cultural events, all the while storing his ample output in a large wooden chest painted with peasant designs. Then, with the 1916 Prague production of his third opera, Jenufa, (twelve years after the Brno première) Janáček was introduced to the international music world.

This anonymity was not owing to an unfecund mind, but rather to his curious music theories and unfamiliar musical motifs, and incidentally to a long-standing personal grudge held by the director of Prague's prestigious National Theater towards the provincial composer. Add to this the fact that his best works were written after he turned forty (he wrote four of his nine operas during the last ten years

of his life), and the slow career development is explained.

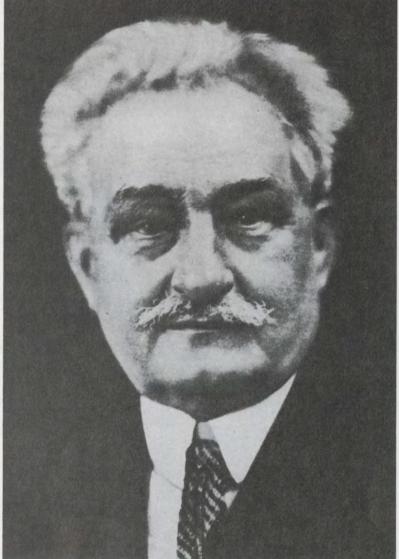
Yet even before Janáček established his reputation as a serious composer, he was known as a scholar of national folk music. He published several volumes of Moravian folk songs and organized the Moravian section at the 1895 Ethnographic Exhibition in Prague and the folklore section at the Pan-Slav Exhibition in St. Petersburgh in 1903.

The years before the completion of Jenufa in 1904 were spent studying, cataloguing and arranging folk tunes, often with famed ethnographer Frantisek Bartos. Together they would make forays into local villages in quest of the songs and dances they wanted to preserve for posterity. About one such trip, the composer wrote in sublime melodrama: "Like an intruder I penetrate, searching for folk songs I escape over the Karlovico Pass, the Hungarian police close on my heels." Sometimes he brought his wife and daughter along so they could learn the peasant dances and prod his memory with a repeat performance when he later arranged the folk tunes.

Jenufa, one of the first operas written entirely in folk dialect, was the culmination of Janáček's folklore period. While he did not incorporate folk tunes directly into his later works, this early research left an indelible imprint on his music and led to his theories on the symbiosis of music and speech.

At a time when melody was still in vogue, Janáček was a musical pariah. He believed that speech patterns were





the foundation of music and developed an abstruse theory known as "melodic curves of speech" which explains his intensely personal, dramatic and robust music. In complete accord with this theory, his music is abbreviated and disjointed just like his native dialect, and takes on a distinct national character.

Janácek was convinced that the "tonal modulations" of human speech and the sounds of nature had their analogue in music notation. Notes, he said, can "form the motif of any given word" and "encompass the whole of everyday life or the greatest tragedy."

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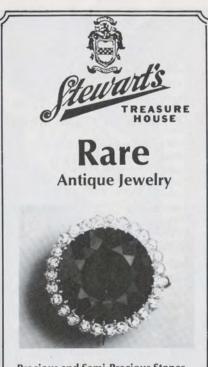


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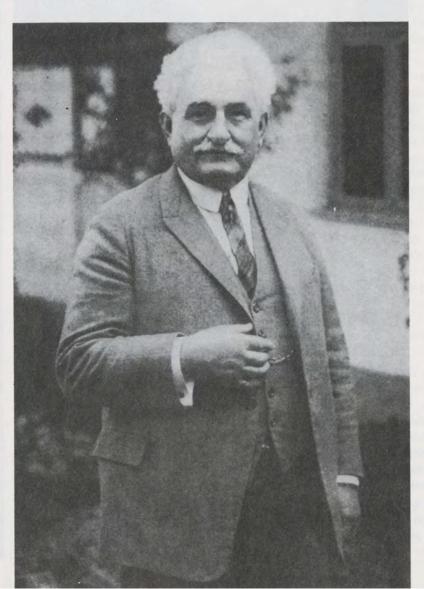
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To prove his point, he used to walk around with a notebook and pencil, carefully noting down the cadences and rhythms of people speaking, dogs barking, and streams gurgling. At one time he reportedly recorded twenty ways of saying the word "yes." Entries such as "a former student greets his professor in a breezy, friendly way" are accompanied by a series of four notes and the words "dobry ve-cer!" (good evening). This is followed by two more note patterns for the same expression, one explained as the greeting of a young man flirting with a girl who carries a pail of water.

Another time, he was overheard in a park cajoling the birds to ". . . talk to me. Speak to me. I must hear your music, I must have it." But in a more academic vein, the composer (who was very fond of animals and felt a kinship with nature), wrote:

"I listen to the birds singing. I marvel at the manifestations of rhythm in its million different forms in the world of light, color, and shapes, and my music remains young through contact with the eternally young rhythms of nature."





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Banquet Facilities Validated Parking He then wove these sounds into his music, generally indifferent to the extreme difficulty of executing his iconoclastic compositions or the ability of copyists to read his illegible scribblings. He wrote on paper with hand-drawn staves and usually did not bother including key or time signature. He was inattentive to such trifles and left the finishing touches on a piece to the discretion of the conductor.

A prolific writer as well as composer, he was eager to explain his theories and expound on the state of the arts. Unfortunately, his writings are difficult to penetrate because of his private vocabulary and cryptic prose style. In characteristic doublespeak, he wrote:

"The study I have made of the musical aspects of the spoken language has led me to the conviction that all of the melodic and rhythmic mysteries of music can be explained in reference to the melody of rhythm of the musical motives of the spoken language."

Enlightenment is further complicated by his refusal to use commonly accepted technical language, substituting particularistic Czech phrases instead. He frequently presented his ideas in jumbled, disorganized fashion, stated conclusions without sufficient evidence, and included footnotes that did not always relate to the body of the text.

Perhaps the root of Janáček's arduous investigations into the folk culture and his unconventional music theory was his staunch patriotism and fervent desire to raise the national consciousness of his fellow citizens. He disliked the German and Austrian cultural and political dominance of Czechoslovakia and until independence was granted in 1918, Janáček would not attend the German theater in Brno. His convictions even affected his personal life—he maintained an uneasy accord with

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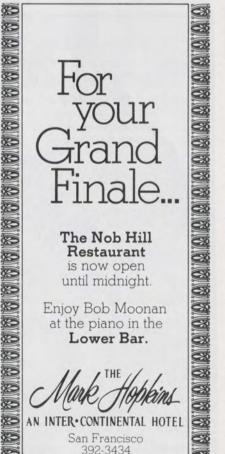




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On the Staff



Margaret K. Norton, San Francisco Opera Ticket Sales Manager

Photo: Caroline Crawford

In the north corridor of the War Memorial Opera House, a sign innocently indicates "Check Room 2," yet behind the plain wooden door is the season ticket sales office, staffed with the people responsible for assuring many of you the seat you're occupying right now. Large diagrams of the entire opera house are on the walls, and in the midst of the room is the smiling figure of Margaret Norton, San Francisco Opera's ticket sales manager.

Margaret's debut in the world of opera administration was a year spent in the press department of the Metropolitan Opera National Company, frequently working with the main company as well. She was additionally Sarah Caldwell's assistant for the Opera Company of Boston for one season. In August 1966, Margaret came to San Francisco

Opera and during the next five years was a familiar and highly regarded member of this company's press department. In 1971, she moved back to her native New York and was public relations director for the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. She came back to the West Coast in 1972, and was asked to rejoin San Francisco Opera as ticket sales manager, for both the International fall season and Spring Opera Theater.

The responsibilities of the ticket sales manager include overseeing the handling of season ticket orders from subscribers and the selling of single tickets. The former requires an enormous amount of planning and skilled office management to insure that all orders are filled carefully and correctly. Selling tickets at the box office window



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Margaret and her associates come through with excellent marks. "I think the box office and the ticket personnel are the prime contact San Francisco Opera has with the public," Margaret explains. "During a sold-out performance situation, working in this office is a little like a juggling act, making as many people as happy as possible."

The overwhelming majority of San Francisco Opera audiences are season subscribers, approximately 10,000 in number, included in 16 different subscription series. "It's a six month job handling the renewals and new subscription seat assignments. If a long-time patron fails to renew, I personally will call to verify they are not subscribing again. Just the mechanics of getting the tickets into the mail is quite a job."

Assisting Margaret and her staff is San Francisco Opera's IBM System 3 Model 6 computer, affectionately known as "Wotan" for, as Margaret explains, "despite his godlike qualities he does have an element of humanity." The computer is used principally in handling the enormous volume of paper work that flows in and out of the box office, as well as printing address labels for the public relations department's press mailing list. In the future, "Wotan" will also record information regarding the Opera fund drive. Contrary to some subscribers' fears, "Wotan" does not assign seat locations. "I check and assign every subscription order myself," Margaret emphasizes, "The computer was never designed to make that type of decision, because I don't think anybody but a human can assess each individual situation."

"I might add that the computer has been very successful for us; it was created pretty much from the ground up. We designed the system and IBM and our programmer made it work." In addition to San Francisco Opera func-

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DE

RIO

continued from p. 77

tions the computer and ticket office staff handle the San Francisco Ballet season subscription sales. The Lyric Opera of Chicago and Seattle Repertory Theater have both sent representatives to San Francisco Opera to study "Wotan" and are considering adopting our system for their own organizations.

A new problem Margaret faced this year for the first time was the removal of two rows of seats to accommodate the expanded orchestra pit for *Die Walküre* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*.

"I spent a few sleepless nights last spring worrying how we were going to handle that," Margaret laughs. The solution was to re-letter the rows in the orchestra. "The way we've done it seems to be working very well! We haven't had any problems and every body's been seated by the time the curtain goes up."

One additional problem for the ticket office staff is the cancellation of a performance or change to a later date. The upcoming Leontyne Price concert was changed to a later date; fortunately, the change was announced far enough in advance that many patrons were able to adjust their schedules, and those who had purchased tickets were notified. Approximately 3,000 tickets however still needed to have the correct date hand printed on each ticket. "This is a highly detailed operation, but as a Virgo, I thrive on detail. I rather enjoy the tidiness of it. Your columns of numbers either add up or they don't, and if they don't, you simply find out why."

Margaret says with a laugh, "I have over 200,000 tickets that I'm accountable for. You can't give everybody tenth row center, but people understand this and are generally nice about it. There have been very few bad incidents with ticket problems." Supervising the ticket office requires exercising careful personal judgment in handling the public, a skill Margaret Norton excels in.—Paul Chaplin





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continued from p. 75

his Germanophile father-in-law for many years.

Actually, his Czech nationalism bordered on pan-Slavism and he considered Russia the "mother of the Slavs." The composer was fluent in Russian and organized a Russian circle in Brno. He made two trips there, in 1896 and 1902, and wrote on that first visit: "Now I am jubilant: awakening, resurrection! I shake off slavery. We are off—Russia!"

Janáček was also enamored of Polish culture and wrote articles on Polish music for the local newspaper. Chopin, a Pole, was the only composer he admired besides his close friend Dvořák, who like himself, was a Czech composer with a national consciousness.

Following his folklore period and prior to Czechoslovakia's independence, Janáček's music took on a pronounced revolutionary tone. Inspired by local uprisings against the German presence and the nationalist poems of a young poet, between 1906 and 1909 he wrote three choral pieces (Kantor Halfar, Marycka Magdónova, and 70,-000) which are considered important national works. He wrote Mr. Brouček's Excursion to the Moon and into the Fifteenth Century (1917) as a satirical criticism of his compatriots for adopting what he felt were petit bourgeois ways inappropriate in Czechoslovakia.

Despite his growing popularity and fame after the First World War, Janá-ček was, and had been, snubbed by many Prague luminaries who considered him nothing more than an eccentric peasant. Yet he was always championed by a small circle of loyal followers, including the German poet Max Brod, who translated many of his operas into German, and Mrs. Rosa Newmarch, an Englishwoman influential in London music circles who secured him an invitation to London on the occasion of his seventieth birthday.

continued on p. 80



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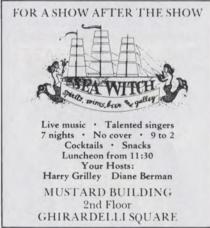
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And other friends helped arrange his reconciliation with Karel Kovarovic, director of the National Theater, which paved the way for his long-awaited première in the capital (1916).

In 1921 the sixty-seven year old composer could finally boast that three of his works (Katya Kabanová, Diary of the Man Who Vanished, and Taras Bulba) had premièred in one year, and that he was busy at work on the opera, The Cunning Little Vixen. At seventy, Janáček was at the height of his creative powers and his energy seemed boundless.

Both he and his biographers attribute much of this latent outburst to a curious friendship with a woman less than half his age. While Janáček was not happily married, except for an occasional infatuation for a young woman spied from afar, active pursuit of other women was not his style. But after the composer met Kamilla Stössel in 1917, she not only became his immediate confidante, but seemed to fire him with an abundance of creativity.

Mindful of scandal, Janáček insisted in letters to his friends that the friendship with Kamilla was purely platonic, although he was deeply in love. Interestingly, there is some evidence that Janáček's heart-felt devotion was never returned in quite the same way. He was happy enough, though, and many of his works from this period are passionate and emotional; some with story lines that seem autobiographical. The string quartet Intimate Letters



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(1928), the opera Katya Kabanová

(1928), the opera Katya Kabanová (1921), and the song series Diary of a Man Who Vanished (1919) were, among others, written with his young love in mind.

Janáček came from a long line of teachers. Combining the family tradition and his natural talent, Janácek was involved in music education most of his life. He became certified as a teacher and taught music at the local Teacher's Training Institute for thirty years. He also established and taught at a music school (which later became a conservatory) in Brno and directed several local choirs.

He was liked by his pupils, probably more for his unique personality than his pedagogic technique. Fiery and impetuous, he would storm about the classroom if no one could supply the precise answer to his obscure questions. "How does this chord sound?" he once asked, expecting his students to shout out: "Like the crackling of a fire." Although his two children died when they were quite young, he was warm and fatherly towards his students - visiting their rooms if they were sick, inviting them to dinner at his home when he was ill, so they would not miss any lessons.

Janáček, too, was a perpetual student of sorts, though mostly self-taught. As a young man he studied advanced music theory but soon discarded most of the accepted dogma because he developed his own. When he was older

continued on p. 82









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300 Sir Francis Drake San Anselmo 457-0641 he read psychology, aesthetics, sociology and philosophy, as well as Russian and Czech novels. The honorary doctorate awarded him in 1925 by the Masaryk University in Brno was his prize accomplishment—all his letters henceforth were signed with Ph.D. after his name.

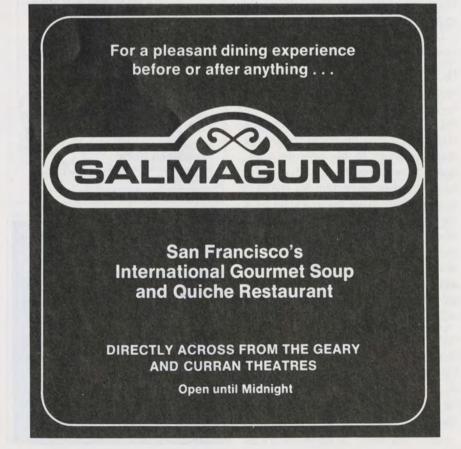
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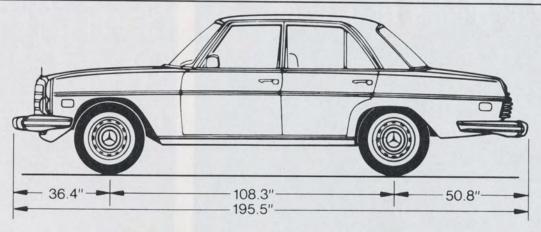
continued from p. 81

Much of his composing was done on Sunday, that being the only time Janáček was free of his many official duties. He was, as his wife once said, "always having new ideas about furthering the musical life of Brno." When World War I depleted the local choirs of male voices, lanáček organized a women's choir and wrote five pieces specially for women's voices. In the early 1880s the composer published and edited a small newspaper that reported on theater and music in Moravia, and always contributed articles to the local paper, Lidové Noviny.

The composer was high-strung and prone to slight heart attacks and bouts with rheumatism. He liked taking his cures in country spas and preferred the peace and quiet of his beloved Brno to any other place. He was a good walker, enjoyed gardening, and kept a number of pets. Though graceful, elegant, and a fastidious dresser (he sometimes changed his suit three times a day), he remained a simple man, close to the peasant and earthy ways of Moravia. He was a legend in Brno-revered, respected, and affectionately called the "young old man."

Maralyn Edid is a freelance writer and a graduate student in journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.



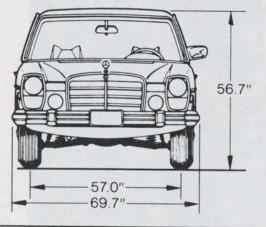


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September 10 Thaïs — Opening Night
September 17 Die Walküre (7:20 P.M.)*
September 24 La Forza del Destino
October 8 Tosca
October 15 Die Frau ohne Schatten

October 22 Peter Grimes

October 29 The Makropulos Case
November 5 Cavalleria Rusticana and

I Pagliacci

November 12 II Barbiere di Siviglia

November 26 Angle of Repose

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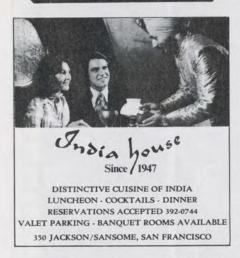
	Monday	Tuesday
September		
	13	Die Walküre 7:30 pm <i>A,B</i>
	20	La Forza del Destino 8 pm <i>A,B</i>
		Thais 8 pm <i>B</i>
	27	Tosca
October	4	8 pm <i>A,C</i> 5
	11	12
	18	Die Frau ohne Schatten 8 pm <i>A</i> ,C
	25	The Makropulos Case 8 pm A,B 26
November	1	Die Frau ohne Schatten 8 pm <i>D,F</i>
	8	Angle of Repose 8 pm A,C
Code letters indicate	15	Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci 8 pm A,C
*Special non-subscription Thanksgiving Night performance	22	11 Barbiere di Siviglia 8 pm A,C 23

1976 Calendar

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Opening Night Thais	Die Walküre 7:30 pm <i>J,K</i>	MARK STATE OF
		8 pm A 10	11	12
Thais 8 pm D,F	对于大声	Die Walküre 7:30 pm <i>G,H</i>	La Forza del Destino	Thaïs 2 pm <i>M,N</i>
15	16	17	8 pm J,L 18	19
Die Walküre 7:30 pm <i>D,E</i>	WE STATE OF	La Forza del Destino	Thais 8 pm J,K	Die Walküre 1:30 pm <i>M</i> , <i>O</i>
22	23	8 pm <i>G,I</i> 24	25	26
La Forza del Destino	No. of the	Thais 8 pm G,I	Die Walküre 1 pm X	La Forza del Destino
8 pm <i>D,E</i> 29	30	1	Tosca 8 pm J,L 2	^{2 pm O} 3
Peter Grimes 8 pm D,F		Tosca 8 pm <i>G,H</i>	Peter Grimes 8 pm J,K	Tosca 2 pm M,N
6	7	8	9	10
Peter Grimes 8 pm A,C		Die Frau ohne Schatten	Tosca 8 pm <i>D,F</i>	Peter Grimes 2 pm M,N
13	14	8 pm <i>G,I</i> 15	16	17
The Makropulos Case	ESE AL	Peter Grimes 8 pm G,H	Tosca 1:30 pm X The Makropulos	Die Frau ohne Schatten
^{8 pm D,E} 20	21	22	Case 8 pm J,L 23	1:30 pm <i>M,N</i> 24
Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci		The Makropulos Case	Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci 1:30 pm X	The Makropulos Case
^{8 pm D,F} 27	28	8 pm <i>G,I</i> 29	Die Frau ohne Schatten 30 8 pm J,L	^{2 pm M,O} 31
		Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci	Angle of Repose 8 pm <i>J,K</i>	La Forza del Destino
3	4	8 pm <i>G,H</i> * 5	6	$^{2 \text{ pm } M,N}$ 7
Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci	Fol de Rol 8:30 pm	Il Barbiere di Siviglia	La Forza del Destino 1:30 pm X	Angle of Repose 2 pm M,N
8 pm B 10	11	8 pm Č, <i>I</i> 12	Cavalleria Rusticana/ 1 Pagliacci 8 pm <i>J,L</i>	14
Il Barbiere di Siviglia	Angle of Repose	La Forza del Destino	Il Barbiere di Siviglia	Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci
^{8 pm £} 17	8 pm <i>D,F</i> 18	^{8 pm <i>H</i>} 19	8 pm <i>J,K</i> 20	2 pm <i>M,O</i> Leontyne Price Recital 8 pm 21
Cavalleria Rusticana/	Il Barbiere di Siviglia*	Angle of Repose	Cavalleria Rusticana/ I Pagliacci	Il Barbiere di Siviglia
^{8 pm £} 24	8 pm 25	8 pm <i>G,H</i> 26	8 pm K 27	² pm <i>M,O</i> 28
	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF			20









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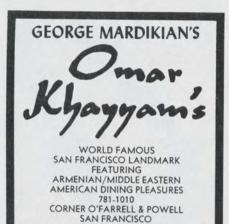
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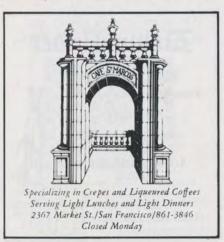




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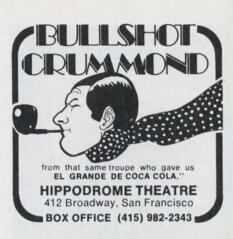
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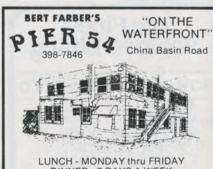
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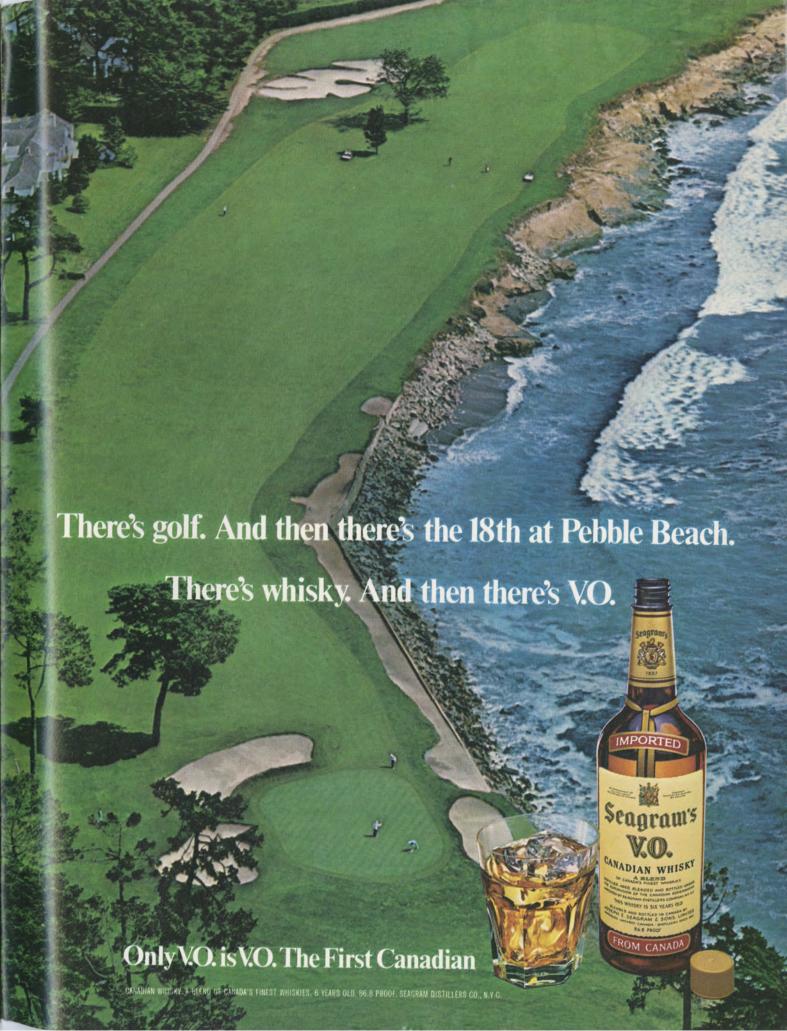
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SYNOPSIS/THE MAKROPULOS CASE

Three hundred years ago an alchemist by the name of Makropulos, employed by the Hapsburg Emperor, discovered the elixir of life and was forced by the Emperor to administer it to his own daughter, Elna.

During the three hundred years that she has lived, she has had many identities, many names (always with the initils E.M.) and many affairs. One of her more passionate affairs was with Baron Josef Ferdinand Prus by whom she had a son. She also gave the Baron the formula for the elixir, but the potion killed him and on his deathbed he left his estate to their illegiimate son.

Those in attendance around the deathbed, however, misunderstood the name he spoke, and unable to find such an heir, the estate went to a distant branch of the family. The illegitimate branch has contested this for nearly a century.

ACT I: In the office of his lawyer Dr. Kolenaty, Albert Gregor, the latest descendant of the illegitimate line of the Prus family, learns from the clerk Vitek that the case is to be settled that very day, once and for all. In debt and despondent at the thought of losing the estate, Gregor is desperate, Vitek's daughter, Christa, a young singer, enters exclaiming the glories of Emilia Marty, a beautiful opera singer. Dr. Kolenaty returns from court when suddenly Emilia Marty appears in the office, and inquires about the case of Gregor versus Prus. She displays, in the course of the conversation, an uncanny knowledge of the people and circumstances involved. She tells them of a written will left by the Baron which will provide them with the evidence they need to win the case. She also tells them exactly where to find the will. The lawyer, highly skeptical and suspicious, is forced by his client to look for the document. Gregor, dazzled by this famous beauty who has miraculously appeared to rescue him, falls madly in love and when left alone with her proclaims his devotion. She coldly repulses him. Interested in the case only because she needs the elixir's formula to give her another 300 years of life, Emilia asks Gregor for it, but he denies all knowledge of its existence. The lawyer soon returns with the document in hand, overwhelmed by its existence and her knowledge of it. He still must have proof, however, that the illegitimate son was indeed fathered by the Baron. Emilia Marty promises to deliver the proof the very next day.

ACT II: At the theatre after the evening's performance, Christa, starry-eyed over Emilia Marty, tells her fiancee Janek, Baron Prus' son, that she thinks she will devote her life to the theatre, sacrificing all else. Having so decided she then succumbs to his attentions. Gregor and Prus come looking for Emilia Marty. They are

The Makropulos Case

(IN ENGLISH)

Opera in three acts by LEOS JANAČEK Based on the play by KAREL CAPEK English Translation by NORMAN TUCKER

By arrangement with Theodore Presser, agent for Universal Edition, publisher and copyright owner

Conductor Christoph Von Dohnanyi

> Stage Director David Pountney*

Designer Leni Bauer-Ecsy

Chorus Director Robert Jones

Lighting Designer Thomas Munn

Production Coordinator Gabriele Ecsy**

> Musical Preparation Thomas Fulton

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Vitek Raymond Manton
Albert Gregor William Lewis

Christa Pamela South
Dr. Kolenaty Joshua Hecht

Dr. Kolenaty Joshua Hecht Emilia Marty Anja Silja

Jaroslav Prus Geraint Evans

Charwoman Gwendolyn Jones

Stagehand John Davies
Janek Neil Rosenshein*

Hauk Paul Crook

**American opera debut *San Francisco Opera debut

Chambermaid

TIME AND PLACE:

EARLY IN THE PRESENT CENTURY; PRAGUE

Shirley Lee Harned

ACT I The office of Dr. Kolenaty

ACT II The stage of a theatre

ACT III Emilia Marty's hotel room

First Performance: Brno, January 21, 1904

First San Francisco Opera Performance (American Premiere): November 19, 1966

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20, 1976 AT 8:00
SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 23, 1976 AT 8:00
TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 26, 1976 AT 8:00
FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 29, 1976 AT 8:00 (Broadcast)
SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 31, 1976 AT 2:00

Please do not interrupt the music with applause

Latecomers will not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed in order not to disturb patrons who have arrived on time

The use of cameras and any kind of recording equipment is strictly forbidden

The performance will last approximately two hours and forty-five minutes

interrupted by an elderly gentleman by the name of Hauk, one of Emilia Marty's lovers many years ago. Caught by the memory of their previous blissful relationship, they are transported into the past. Hauk then happily departs with his dreams of yesteryear. Emilia Marty sends Gregor away and tries to find out if Prus has the elixir's formula. Gregor returns proclaiming his love for her though in his tempestuousness he threatens to kill her for her indifference. Janek returns and Marty urges him to steal the document she seeks from his father. Unseen, Prus has come back and overhears the conversation. He admits possession of the document and agrees to give it to her but only on the condition that she spend the night with him.

ACT III: Prus, though disappointed because he has found Emilia Marty cold and unfeeling in love, stands by his bargain and hands over the document. He suddenly learns that Janek has killed himself for love of the beautiful singer Emilia Marty. She, however, is quite unaffected by the news. The others are soon shown into her hotel room, and charge her with fraud. They demand an explanation of her part in these affairs. Breaking down at last, Emilia Marty unfolds the fantastic tale of her 300 years of life and her many different lives and names. They realize at last that she is telling the truth, and stand by in awe as her life drains away before their eyes. She, realizing at last the meaning of a life bounded by death, welcomes her end, and offers the formula to Christa, promising her fame and fortune. Christa refuses and burns the document as Marty dies.