Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)

1982

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Tuesday, October 5, 1982
                          7:30 PM
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Friday, October 8, 1982 7:30 PM

Friday, October 15, 1982 7:30 PM (Live radio broadcast)

Saturday, October 16, 1982 10:30 AM (Radio broadcast)

Wednesday, October 20, 1982 7:30 PM

> Sunday, October 24, 1982 2:00 PM

Wednesday, October 27, 1982 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 30, 1982 7:30 PM

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1982 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

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General Director's Message

I am happy to welcome you to the 60th consecutive Fall Season of the San Francisco Opera, the 50th anniversary of our first season in the magnificent War Memorial Opera House.

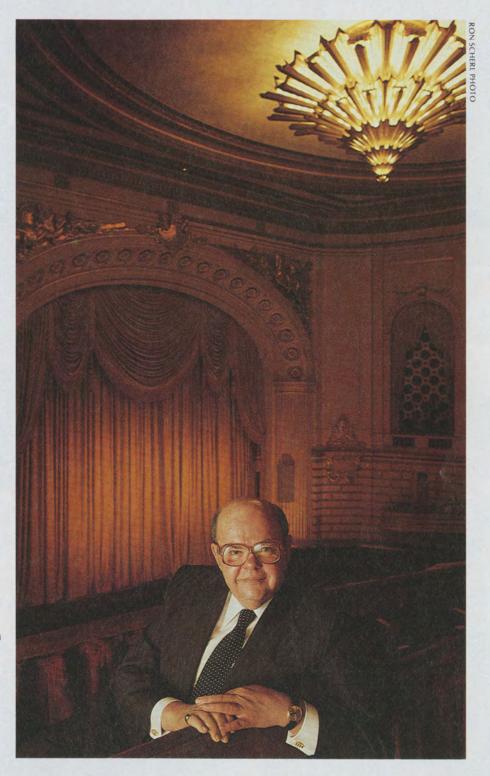
In my first Fall Season as general director, I hope that I have presented a program and a roster of artists that you will thoroughly enjoy. I am proud that we were able to secure the services of so many distinguished performers, both in the category of artists known and loved here and those who are making San Francisco Opera debuts.

With the realization that I am following in the footsteps of two distinguished predecessors, much of my energy is going into the long-range planning of exciting future seasons.

It is perhaps for this reason that I continue to be concerned with the financial health of this great opera company. In order to remain one of the outstanding cultural institutions of the world, we must thrive and grow and continue to surpass the exacting standards we have set for ourselves.

With the help of my excellent staff and a community whose loyalty and support remain the envy of other opera houses, I am confident that our goals will continue to be met.

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1982 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

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Editor: Koraljka Lockhart. Art director: Frank Benson. Editorial assistants: Robert M. Robb, John Schauer. Editorial offices: San Francisco Opera, War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco, CA 94102. Telephone (415) 861-4008.

Featured on the covers of all 10 issues of the 1982 San Francisco Opera Fall season magazine are reproductions of works of art from the collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco: The M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park, whose staff generously assisted in the search for the right subjects.

The Crowning of Mirtillo FERDINAND BOL 1616-1680, Dutch, oil on canvas, 55½x76¾.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco M.H.de Young Memorial Museum California Palace of the Legion of Honor

Cover design: Lorli Willis, Cover photography: Schopplein Studio

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Features

Calvin. by Thomas O'Connor

Figaro: A Hot Property by William Mann

Happy Birthday, Opera House By David Littlejohn

Departments

Calvin Simmons as seen by several San Francisco	,
Opera colleagues, who offer a collection of	
ad-hoc reminiscences of the young maestro.	

Notes on the Mozart opera that is certain to cause audiences "to leave any performance of The Marriage of Figaro feeling years younger and livelier, perhaps even more friendly to their fellow human beings."

The War Memorial Opera House becomes a quinquagenarian.

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From the President

It is with great pride that we welcome you to San Francisco Opera's 60th consecutive Fall Season; it was on September 26, 1923, that Gaetano Merola conducted a performance of La Bohème in the Civic Auditorium, launching the first Fall Season of what was to become one of the great opera companies of the world. It is a happy coincidence that 50 years ago this October, the indefatigable Merola conducted Tosca at the start of our Company's first season in its beautiful home, the War Memorial Opera House. It is a fitting tribute to this great house that our final presentation this fall is a commemorative production of Tosca.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new subscribers, who have joined the San Francisco Opera family on several new fall subscription series and during our recent Summer Festival. Congratulations are due to everyone concerned with the Festival, which was a stunning success; attendance was 83 per cent of capacity, more than 60 per cent higher than that for our first festival in 1981. This significant increase in support is most heartening.

One of the primary concerns of our general director, Terence A. McEwen, is long-range planning to secure a stable financial future for our Company. An important means for achieving this is our endowment fund, which serves two purposes: the interest earned by the fund supplements our annual earned income, while the principal is a cushion against the sort of unforeseen financial difficulty that hangs over every non-profit performing arts organization. Some of you may not be aware that San Francisco Opera entered a voluntary



Walter M. Baird President and Chief Executive Officer San Francisco Opera Association

moratorium on our endowment fund drive during the financing and completion of the Performing Arts Center. Now that the Center is completed, it is imperative that we direct our energy with renewed enthusiasm toward the growth of our endowment fund. A major step in that direction is this year's gala opening night benefit performance of *Un Ballo*

in Maschera, the net proceeds from which have given our endowment fund drive a major boost.

As I have mentioned so often in these messages, we could not survive without the continuing support to our annual fund drive. Ticket revenues cover only about 55 per cent of our expenses, and we must look to annual contributions from our supporters for a substantial portion of the remaining 45 per cent. We are grateful to the thousands who make annual gifts to us; if you are not among them, won't you please join them.

We would like to extend our continuing gratitude to the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Hotel Tax Fund, Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas, the City and County of San Francisco, the San Francisco Opera Guild, and the War Memorial Board of Trustees. Their assistance remains a vital contribution to our endeavors.

Finally, I would like to welcome the 10 new members of the San Francisco Opera Board of Directors who were elected during the past few months. They join us in our commitment to work with the administration and staff to give the San Francisco public what it deserves: a Company that is both financially stable and artistically dynamic.

San Francisco Opera 1982

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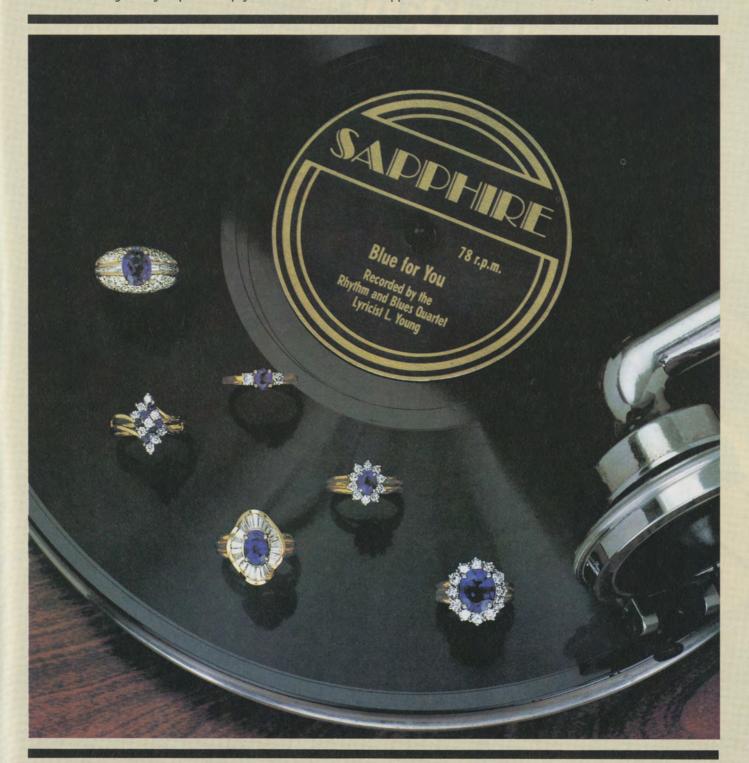
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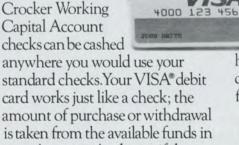
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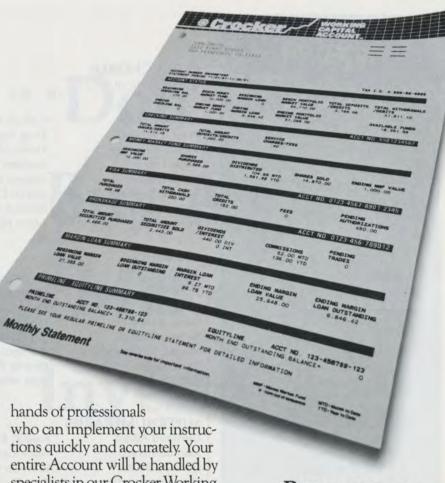
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continued from p. 17

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San Francisco Opera On Radio

Bay Area radio audiences will have four opportunities to hear each of the San Francisco Opera 1982 broadcasts, including the traditional Friday night time slot. This twelfth season of opera broadcasts, produced by San Francisco Opera in cooperation with KQED-FM, will also be heard nationwide on member stations of National Public Radio and other selected stations throughout the country. Recipient of the 1980 George Foster Peabody Award, the broadcasts are made possible in part by grants from Standard Oil of California and the Chevron companies, R.J. Reynolds Industries, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Local broadcasts will be Friday evenings and Saturday mornings on KQED-FM, 88.5, at the times listed below. Broadcasts may also be heard Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. on KCSM, 91.1 FM, and Sundays at 1 p.m. on KALW, 91.7 FM (all times are Pacific Time).

10/1 Turandot 8 p.m., 11 a.m.

10/8 Nabucco

8 p.m., 11 a.m.

10/15 Le Nozze di Figaro 7:30 p.m., 10:30 a.m.

10/22 La Cenerentola 8 p.m., 11 a.m.

10/29 Dialogues of the Carmelites 8 p.m., 11 a.m.

11/5 The Rake's Progress

8 p.m., 11 a.m. 11/12 The Queen of Spades

8 p.m., 11 a.m.

11/19 Lohengrin

7:30 p.m., 10:30 a.m.

11/26 Cendrillon 8 p.m., 11 a.m.

For broadcast times outside the Bay Area, contact your local NPR station or consult local listings. Executive producer for the San Francisco Opera broadcasts is Robert Walker; producer, Marilyn Mercur. Gene Parrish is host, and Fred Krock the audio engineer.

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San Francisco Opera

Terence A. McEwen, general director

1982 Fall Season

Gala Benefit Opening Night Friday, September 10, 7:00

Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi This production was made possible by a very generous gift from a friend of the San Francisco Opera.

Caballé, Battle, Baldani/Pavarotti, Carroli*, Langan, Stapp, Woodman, Thomas, Kazaras*

Adler/Frisell/Conklin/Lamb/Munn

Saturday, September 11, 8:00

Norma Bellini

This production was made possible in 1972 through the generosity of the late James D. Robertson. Sutherland, Horne, Richards/Mauro*,

Flagello, Hensel* Bonynge/Mansouri/Varona/Sullivan

Monday, September 13, 8:00

Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi Caballé, Battle, Baldani/Moldoveanu*, Carroli, Langan, Stapp, Woodman, Thomas, Kazaras Adler/Frisell/Conklin/Lamb/Munn

Tuesday, September 14, 8:00 Norma Bellini

Thursday, September 16, 8:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi

Friday, September 17, 8:00

Norma Bellini

Sunday, September 19, 2:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi

Tuesday, September 21, 8:00 Norma Bellini

Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi Caballé, Battle, Baldani/Moldoveanu, Elvira*, Langan, Stapp, Woodman, Thomas, Kazaras

Adler/Frisell/Conklin/Lamb/Munn

Friday, September 24, 8:00

Salome Strauss Barstow*, Dernesch, Quittmeyer, Hartliep/Belcourt*, Devlin, Hensel, Del Carlo, MacAllister, Duykers, Green, Tate, Busterud*, Wexler, Stapp, Glaum, Kazaras Klobučar/Lehnhoff/Hoheisel**/Munn

Saturday, September 25, 8:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi Sunday, September 26, 2:00 Norma Bellini

Monday, September 27, 8:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi

Tuesday, September 28, 8:00 Salome Strauss

Wednesday, September 29, 7:30 Norma Bellini

Friday, October 1, 8:00

Salome Strauss

Saturday, October 2, 8:00 Norma Bellini

Tuesday, October 5, 7:30 **New Production**

Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart Doese**, Popp*, Esham, Rice, Gamberoni*/Prey, Krause*, Langan, Green, Tate, Stapp Varviso/Frisell/Brown/Sullivan

Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 Salome Strauss

Friday, October 8, 7:30

Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Saturday, October 9, 2:00 Family Matinee

The Marriage of Figaro Mozart Cook, de la Rosa, Quittmeyer, DeVol, Gamberoni/Davies, Woodman, Glaum, Thomas, Tate, Stapp Bradshaw/Thompson/Brown/Sullivan

Saturday, October 9, 8:00

Salome Strauss

Sunday, October 10, 2:00

La Cenerentola Rossini Horne, de la Rosa, Richards/Araiza** Bruscantini, Montarsolo, Del Carlo Bernardi/Asagaroff/Ponnelle/Sullivan

Tuesday, October 12, 8:00 Salome Strauss

Wednesday October 13, 7:30

La Cenerentola Rossini Friday, October 15, 7:30

Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Saturday, October 16, 8:00 La Cenerentola Rossini

Sunday, October 17, 2:00 Salome Strauss

Tuesday, October 19, 8:00 La Cenerentola Rossini

Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Friday, October 22, 8:00 La Cenerentola Rossini

Saturday, October 23, 8:00 **New Production**

Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulence This production from the Metropolitan Opera was made possible by a muchappreciated grant from the San Francisco Opera Guild. L. Price, Crespin, Vaness, Zeani*, Norden*, Petersen, Richards/Hensel, Halfvarson, Green, Thomas Lewis/Dexter*/Reppa/Greenwood/ Wechsler

Sunday, October 24, 2:00 Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Monday, October 25, 8:00 La Cenerentola Rossini

Tuesday, October 26, 8:00

Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulenc

Wednesday, October 27, 7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Friday, October 29, 8:00 Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulenc

Saturday, October 30, 7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Sunday, October 31, 2:00 La Cenerentola Rossini

Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulenc

Thursday, November 4, 8:00 **New Production**

The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky Zylis-Gara, Resnik, Quittmeyer, Petersen, de la Rosa, Gamberoni/Svetlev, Krause, Dickson*, Green, Halfvarson, Thomas, Tate, Stapp Agler/Merrill/O'Hearn*/Sulich*/Munn

Saturday, November 6, 8:00

Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulenc

continued



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Sunday, November 7, 2:00

The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky

Tuesday, November 9, 8:00

Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulenc

Wednesday, November 10, 7:30 San Francisco Opera Premiere

Cendrillon Massenet Production from National Arts Centre, Ottawa, Canada

Greenawald, Welting, Wallis, Forrester, Erickson*, Rice/Gramm, Busterud, Tate, Glaum

Bernardi/Macdonald*/Bardon*/Mess/ Sullivan

Friday, November 12, 8:00

The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky

Saturday, November 13, 8:00 Cendrillon Massenet

Sunday, November 14, 2:00

Dialogues of the Carmelites Poulenc

Monday, November 15, 8:00

The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky

Thursday, November 18, 7:30
The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky

Friday, November 19, 7:30

Lohengrin Wagner

This production was made possible by a very generous gift from a friend of the San Francisco Opera.

Lorengar, Rysanek/Hofmann*, Becht*, Ward, Woodman, Tate, Thomas, Glaum, Stapp

Glaum, Stapp Hollreiser/Weber/Montresor/Munn

Saturday, November 20, 2:00 Cendrillon Massenet

Monday, November 22, 8:00

The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky

Tuesday, November 23, **7:30 Lohengrin** Wagner

Wednesday, November 24, 7:30

Tosca Puccini

This production was made possible in 1972 by generous grants from the Charles E. Merrill Trust and Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Magowan, Trustees. Jones/Aragall, Díaz, Tajo, Halfvarson, Green, Glaum, Stapp Navarro/Farruggio/Ponnelle/Munn

Thursday, November 25, 8:00 **Cendrillon** Massenet

Friday, November 26, 8:00 Tosca Puccini

Saturday, November 27, 8:00

The Queen of Spades Tchaikovsky

Sunday, November 28, 1:30 Lohengrin Wagner

Monday, November 29, 8:00

Cendrillon Massenet

Tuesday, November 30, 8:00 **Tosca** Puccini

Wednesday, December 1, 7:30 Lohengrin Wagner

Friday, December 3, 8:00

Cendrillon Massenet

Saturday, December 4, 8:00 Tosca Puccini

Sunday, December 5, 1:30 **Lohengrin** Wagner

Monday, December 6, 8:00

Cendrillon Massenet

Tuesday, December 7, 8:00
Tosca Puccini

Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 Lohengrin Wagner

Friday, December 10, 8:00 Tosca Puccini

Saturday, December 11, 7:30 Lohengrin Wagner

Sunday, December 12, 2:00
Tosca Puccini

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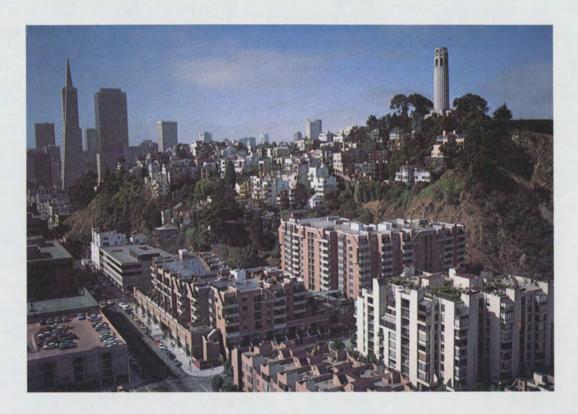
Thursday, October 14, 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 22, 1:00 p.m. Monday, October 25, 1:00 p.m.

Matinee for Senior Citizens and Disabled Patrons

Wednesday, October 6, 1:00 p.m.



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1982 Fall Opera Previews

Information on opera previews and lectures is carried in San Francisco Opera Magazine in order to enable patrons to make advance plans. The following is a list of previews and lectures that are open to the public.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD

Opera "Insights" held in the Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, Van Ness and McAllister, in San Francisco. All panel discussions begin at 6 p.m., doors open at 5:30 p.m. Series subscription for Guild members is \$12; Non-Guild members \$16; Individual tickets are \$4. For further information, please call (415) 565-6432. Program subject to rehearsal schedule of the artists.

Marilyn Horne	10/5
Sesto Bruscantini/Paolo Montarsolo	10/14
Regina Resnik	11/9

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PREVIEWS

MARIN

Previews held at Park School Auditorium, 360 East Blithedale, Mill Valley; refreshments served at 7:30 p.m., previews at 8:00 p.m. Series registration is \$17.50 for 6 previews (\$15.00 for students and seniors). Single tickets are \$3.50 (\$3.00 for students and seniors). For further information, please call (415) 388-6789.

LA CENERENTOLA	
Harold Rosenthal	10/7
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES Speight Jenkins	10/14
CENDRILLON Arthur Kaplan	10/28
THE QUEEN OF SPADES Dale Harris	11/4
LOHENGRIN Blanche Thebom	11/18

NORTH PENINSULA

Previews held at William Crocker School, 2600 Ralston Ave., Hillsborough. Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. Series registration is \$20.00; single tickets are \$5.00. For further information, please call (415) 595-4136.

LA CENERENTOLA/CENDRILLON	
James Keolker	10/11
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	
Eugene Marker	11/1
LOHENGRIN	
Blanche Thebom	11/15

SOUTH PENINSULA

Previews held at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Road, at 8:00 p.m. Series registration is \$18.00; single tickets are \$4.00, students half price. For further information, please call (415) 494-8519 or 325-8451.

LA CENERENTOLA Harold Rosenthal	10/5
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES Speight Jenkins	10/12
THE QUEEN OF SPADES Dale Harris	11/2
CENDRILLON James Keolker	11/9

LOHENGRIN	
Blanche Thebom	11/16

SAN JOSE OPERA GUILD

Previews will be held at the Saratoga Community Center, 13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga. All lectures are on Thursday mornings at 10:30. Series is open to the public at a cost of \$3.00 per lecture, \$2.00 for students and senior citizens (free of charge to San Jose Opera Guild members). For further information, please call (408) 741-1331.

LA CENERENTOLA Harold Rosenthal	10/7
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES Speight Jenkins	10/14
CENDRILLON James Keolker	10/21
LOHENGRIN Blanche Thebom	10/28
THE QUEEN OF SPADES Dale Harris	11/4

JUNIOR LEAGUE OPERA PREVIEWS

All Junior League opera previews will be held in Herbst Theatre in the Veterans Building, Van Ness at McAllister. Lectures begin at 11 a.m. There is no admission charge. For information, please call Barbara Labagh at (415) 349-3521.

LA CENERENTOLA Harold Rosenthal	10/6
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES Speight Jenkins	10/11
THE QUEEN OF SPADES Dale Harris	11/3
CENDRILLON Arthur Kaplan	11/10
LOHENGRIN James Keolker	11/19
A special "Evening with Leonty	ne Price"

A special "Evening with Leontyne Price" is offered on October 13, 5:30 p.m., in Herbst Theatre. Miss Price will be interviewed by Speight Jenkins. The event is free of charge and open to all. This program is being presented by the Junior League of San Francisco to celebrate 35 years of previews of opera, ballet and the A.C.T.

PIEDMONT ADULT EDUCATION OPERA PREVIEW SERIES

Previews of all 1982 fall season operas will be given by Arthur Kaplan at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont, at 7:30 p.m. Series registration is \$45; \$40 for Piedmont residents. Single tickets are \$5.00. For further information, call (415) 653-9454 or 658-3679.

LA CENERENTOLA	10/4
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES	10/18
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	11/1
CENDRILLON	11/8
LOHENGRIN	11/17
TOSCA	11/22

NAPA OPERA LECTURE SERIES

For the 10th year there will be a 10week course called "Adventures in Opera" in Napa. The course, which accompanies the Saturday and Sunday series at the San Francisco Opera, will be held at 7:30 in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1917 Third Street, in Napa. Ernest Fly will again teach the course. Cost for the entire series will be \$20.00. Individual lectures will be \$3.00. For further information, please call Mr. Fly at (707) 224-6162.

LA CENERENTOLA	10/7
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	10/14
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES	10/21
CENDRILLON	10/28
LOHENGRIN	11/4
TOSCA	11/11

FRIENDS OF THE KENSINGTON LIBRARY

A free lecture featuring Michael Barclay will be presented from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. The preview will compare and contrast Rossini's La Cenerentola with Massenet's Cendrillon. For further information, please call (415) 524-3043.

MERRITT COLLEGE OPERA LECTURE SERIES

Merritt College will offer a tuition-free course on all of the fall operas. The previews include recordings and films and will be held Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 14. They will be held at Merritt College, 12500 Campus Drive, Building R, Room 125, in Oakland. For further information, please call (415) 436-2430.

SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY COLLEGE PREVIEWS

The San Francisco Community College District will sponsor a series of free previews Wednesday mornings at 10:00 at 33 Gough Street in the auditorium. The previews will be given by Robert Finch, president of the San Francisco Chapter of the Opera Guild. For further information, please call (415) 239-3082.

LA CENERENTOLA	10/6
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES	10/13
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	10/20
CENDRILLON	10/27
LOHENGRIN	11/3
TOSCA	11/10

OPERA EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL PREVIEW SERIES

Previews of all the operas of the 1982 fall season will be given by Michael Barclay, director of Opera Education International. Lectures are given in the auditorium of the Dr. William Cobb School, 2725 California Street, between Scott and Divisadero, at 7:30 p.m. Discount series tickets for all 10 lectures, including Barclay', discography "The 1982 Season on Recy rds," is \$50. Individual admission is * J. For further information, please c* (415) 526-5244.

LA CENERENTOLA	10/4
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES	10/14
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	10/21
CENDRILLON	11/1
LOHENGRIN	11/8
TOSCA	11/17

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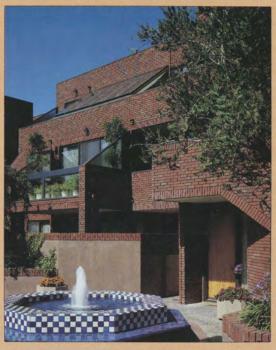
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UC BERKELEY EXTENSION LECTURE SERIES

Ten illustrated previews will be given by Natalie Limonick, professor of music, USC. All previews are at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the UC Extension Center, 55 Laguna St. (at Market), San Francisco. Series \$70; preregistration advisable; single previews \$8 at the door if space is available. For more information, please call (415) 642-8840.

LA CENERENTOLA	10/4
DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES	10/11
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	10/18
CENDRILLON	10/25
LOHENGRIN	11/2
TOSCA	11/8

CHABOT COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES/OPERA FOR EVERYONE

A 10-week series of introductions to the 1982 San Francisco Opera season. Offered by Chabot College and conducted by Eugene Marker, these 10 lectures are open to all and will be given on 10 consecutive Thursday evenings. All lectures are at 7:00 p.m. in the San Leandro Library Community Center Theater, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro, and in the "Little Theater" on the Hayward Campus of Chabot College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. Series registration is \$18.00. Individual admission is \$2.50. For further information, please call (415) 786-6802.

LA CENERENTOLA	10/7
DIALOGUES OF THE CAR	MELITES 10/14
THE QUEEN OF SPADES	10/21 (Hayward)
CENDRILLON	10/28
LOHENGRIN	11/4
TOSCA	11/11

ROBERT GOODHUE'S FALL OPERA COURSE

Mr. Goodhue offers 10 two-hour classes on all the fall operas (one class per opera). There is a choice of two sections: Section A (Mondays at 6:00 p.m., August 23 to November 15), and Section B (Thursdays at 6:15 p.m., August 26 to November 18). Cost for the course is \$60.00; individual classes are \$7.00 if space permits. Classes are held at 13 Columbus Ave., San Francisco. For further information, please call (415) 956-1271.

SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Adult Extension Program will present "Why We Love the Opera," a lecture series on four consecutive Wednesdays in September and October in the Little Theater of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. The lectures are by Michael Steinberg, artistic adviser of the San Francisco Symphony, and begin at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$18 for a series ticket, \$5 for individual lectures. For more information, call (415) 564-8086.

10/6 "In the pit: What the orchestra does beyond the Oom-pa-pa"

10/13 "Singers and singing"

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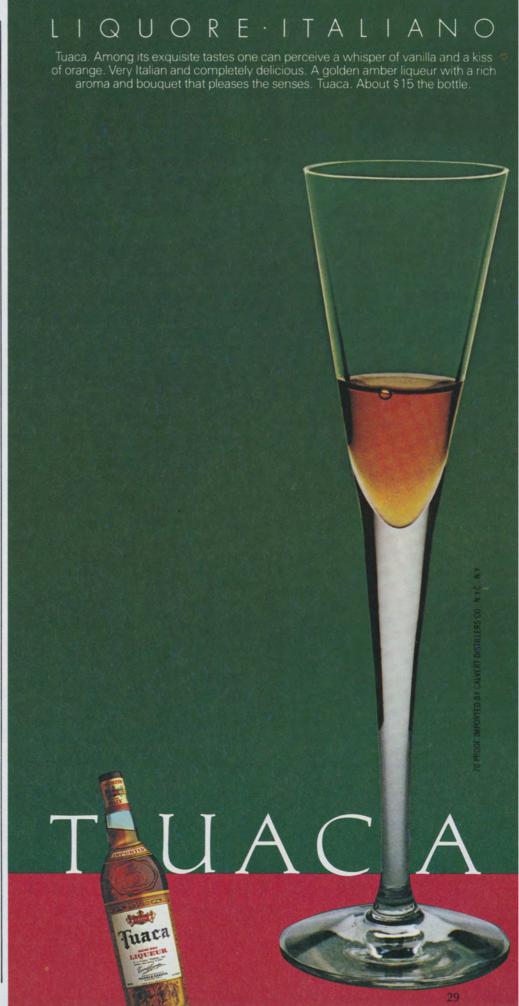
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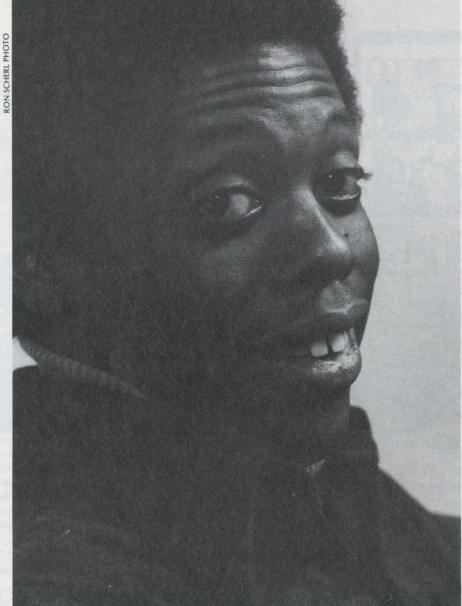
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Calvin Simmons in 1980.

Calvin.

By THOMAS O'CONNOR

Above all, there was that grin. A little goofy, loose, utterly infectious. The kind of grin that invariably goes with a big, mischievous laugh and makes people want to share the joke. The kind that made him seem accessible.

When he disappeared into the murky waters of a pond near New York's Lake Placid in the dusk of August 21, Calvin Simmons was, at 32, "just a baby as conductors go," in the words of one musician who knew him well. Yet he had already racked up a seeming lifetime of musical experience.

Though he apparently had the entire musical world before him, Calvin Simmons's home — more than any other spot — was the San Francisco Opera, where he first performed at the ripe age of nine as a member of the San Francisco Boys Chorus.

The Boys Chorus, which was cofounded by Kurt Herbert Adler and Madi Bacon, was the first ensemble Simmons ever led — at the age of 11. After studying at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, his adult career in music began in 1970 when Adler engaged him as assistant conductor of the Merola Opera Program. In 1972 he was named assistant conductor of the San Francisco

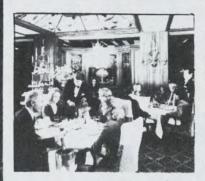


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Calvin Simmons and coach Paul Connelly during Western Opera Theater's 1974 tour of Alaska.

Opera. During the three years he held that post, he also served as associate music director of Western Opera Theater.

In 1974 Simmons became the youngest (and only American) conductor at the Glyndebourne Festival in England, where he spent four seasons. From 1975 to 1978 he was assistant conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and in 1978-79 made his official conducting debut with the San Francisco Opera (La Bohème), the Metropolitan Opera (Hansel and Gretel) and the San Diego Opera (the world premiere of Menotti's La Loca). In 1979 he became the music director of the Oakland Symphony, the first black ever to lead a major American symphony orchestra, and before his death had guest conducted many of the major orchestras of the United States.

His conducting of Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk in 1981 at the San Francisco Opera — the work's first performance in the U.S. in 45 years — was the unquestioned triumph of Adler's valedictory season as head of the opera company.

Though enmeshed in the frenzy that comes with the start of a new season, a clutch of Simmons's colleagues at the San Francisco Opera — some of whom knew him since his teens — took time recently to recall the skinny black guy with the big grin and bigger talent.

Matthew Farruggio, production supervisor:

"The first time I saw him he was all of nine years old, singing with the Boys Chorus. I think it was Cavalleria/Pagliacci. Even then he just stood out, he was such a happy presence. The other kids looked up to him as a captain.

"Calvin always seemed to have an easy, slow solution to difficult problems. He could easily balance things and smooth them out. I never once saw him belittle anyone; he would go to the core of the problem without destroying. That's such an unusual quality.

"He was a fabulous musical coach. Whether it was Birgit Nilsson or some kid in the Merola Program, they listened to him. Birgit once agreed to perform at a Fol de Rol only on the condition that Calvin accompany her, 'so then I don't have to rehearse so much,' she said. And of course he could do fabulous imitations. One of the funniest things I've ever seen was

when he pretended to be Kurt Herbert Adler at a Merola benefit, opposite Beverly Sills. The gag was that Sills and Adler were having an argument, but she just kept breaking up.

"His musical humor was incredible. At the drop of a hat he would play anything. I remember a piano rehearsal of *Der Rosenkavalier* he was accompanying. Sena Jurinac and Paul Hager and just about everybody else got into a heated discussion. Calvin just kept playing along throughout the argument, sounding just like Strauss, and playing louder as peoples' voices rose in the discussion."

Zaven Melikian, concertmaster, Opera Orchestra:

"It was a Mozart. Figaro, or maybe Così. So long ago I don't remember. First time I ever saw him play. Calvin was in the pit, playing harpsichord. He had to be in his teens still. What was amazing about him was that you couldn't pin him down to the continuo. At every performance he was doing something different, which is actually the way it's supposed to be done: in Mozart's day, they did improvise the continuo parts. But I've never heard what he was doing then, either before or since.

"He was a wizard at improvisation. You could name a composer to him and he would start playing something that sounded just like that composer. Except that it wasn't. It was like Rich Little at a keyboard.

"The first time I had him as a conductor was a student performance of La Bohème. It was like he'd been conducting all his life. He was a brilliant musician, nowhere near his potential. With his sense of humor, he would create an atmosphere where everyone felt an urge to concentrate more. He always knew what he was doing; he wasn't a clown, even though he sometimes appeared to be. Everything with him was natural and spontaneous.

"Calvin could be a very moody guy; very few people knew that. Sometimes he was angry, and I would think, 'Oh, he's just joking.' Everyone was so used to seeing that big smile, you wouldn't know that he was serious.

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Calvin Simmons and Kurt Herbert Adler during rehearsals for Wagner's Lohengrin. 1978.

But you can't always be a nice guy when you're a musician at that level.

"When he led the Shostakovich last year here, he had matured a great deal as a musician. He had something you don't learn, a natural knack for the music.

"Calvin was the only conductor I've ever had whose refusal to use a baton didn't bother me. Usually that's very disturbing, because you don't get the proper pulse. But Calvin would use just his hands, and I would kid him about it and say, 'The problem is you're black; I can't see your hands.' So he'd always say, 'For you, Zaven, I'll wear white gloves.' His big superstition was one of the oddest I've ever seen: he always wore bright red socks underneath his white tie and tails."

A few days after word of Calvin Simmons's disappearance reached San Francisco, Kurt Herbert Adler, general director emeritus of the San Francisco Opera, recalled his special relationship with his young protégé, in an interview with KQED-FM's Sedge Thomson:

"Calvin was an enormous talent; he was a musical wonder child, though I hate to use that term . . . Our association was both artistically and personally a very close one, in which I'm glad to say my wife Nancy also participated. I used to call Calvin 'my grandson.'

"I noticed artistically his very rapid development during the last year and a half. He always was talented, but his interest and his dedication and his talent became, in my opinion, much deeper. I went over to some of his concerts with the Oakland Symphony, and it was the same development. There were concerts where I thought something was left to be desired, and then it grew and the orchestra improved. The audience in Oakland loved him, and came to the Symphony, which was very important. I only hope that this will continue and that his work was not in vain.

"He was extremely well prepared to direct Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk last year. Not only did he enjoy it, but everybody in the company enjoyed his participation, including the players in the orchestra, the public and the press. It was a major success, for him and for Shostakovich. . . ."

John Priest, technical director: "Calvin was the first conductor I'd ever known as a friend. He really was a delightful fellow. I think he got along so famously with everyone because of his extraordinary good nature. He was never reticent about telling somebody when they weren't right, but he was always very generous, and careful about people's feelings. He also made a huge planning contribution to the success of the new Zellerbach Rehearsal Wing.

"One of the most memorable exhibitions I've ever seen in my life was Calvin at a party sitting down at a piano and proceeding to perform all of Salome, all the way through. He did all the parts, and we're talking about a solid hour and a half of music, without a pause. It was screamingly funny. Calvin was a perfect example of a performer who knows exactly how far he could go with something, and not an inch beyond."

Thomas Heimberg, manager, Opera Orchestra:

"For several years there was a sign posted on the stage-left door to the orchestra pit that read, 'No one admitted, except Calvin.' Some of the percussionists put it there because he used to peek in and say hello all the time. He was often hanging around; that pit was very familiar to him, a second home.

"We had our own private jokes. I went to him once and said, 'Calvin, I have a little test for you. You are musical, dedicated, talented, and you have great good will. But there's something you have to be able to do to make a career. I'd like to hear you say, 'Get out of my way.' So he looked at me, suddenly his smile faded, and he slowly said, 'Get the hell out of my way!' I shook his hand.

"The orchestra players always liked Calvin a lot. With conductors, it's not a question only of musical insight or of great enthusiasm. There is a basic craft of conducting, and like any musical skill, there are both right and wrong ways to do it. Calvin was always trying to learn the right ways. A lot of conductors are so used to orchestras



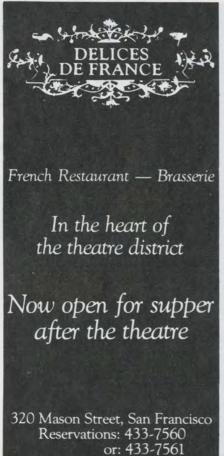


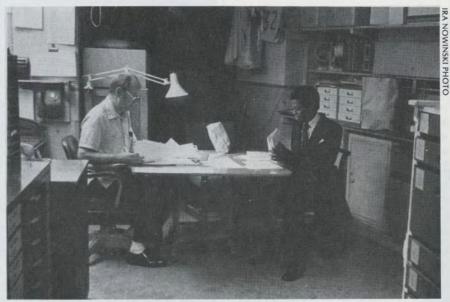
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Calvin Simmons backstage with master of properties Ivan van Perre. 1981.

that can play well that they get good sounds even if they're not conducting well. Calvin never left it at that. He always wanted to make his beat clear, and he wanted to indicate what he was doing. Calvin was learning the craft, all the time. When the going was rough, and you wanted to look up and see a conductor who not only knew where you were but was also able to help you stay there, he could do it."

James Schwabacher, member, Board of Directors, and president, Merola Fund:

"Calvin was responsible for that wonderful benefit for Spring Opera at the Curran Theatre in 1975, the 24-hour Mozart Marathon. It was all because he went running into Mr. Adler's office and started crying 'Why isn't Mozart's birthday being celebrated?' So Calvin organized the whole thing. Even got Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to sing.

"We had dinner at the end of July of this year. He had just come from his great success with Così fan tutte in St. Louis, and was telling us all about the Mozart cycle that he and Jonathan Miller had planned. He told us about their plans to do an operetta for television production there, and I got out several Gershwin scores for him. He was interested in doing something American.

"As outgoing as he was, Calvin was very hard to pin down and really get to

know. Yet, no matter what the company was, he was always the same; very warm, always throwing his arms around everyone and making you feel that he really cared."

Patricia Mitchell, company administrator:

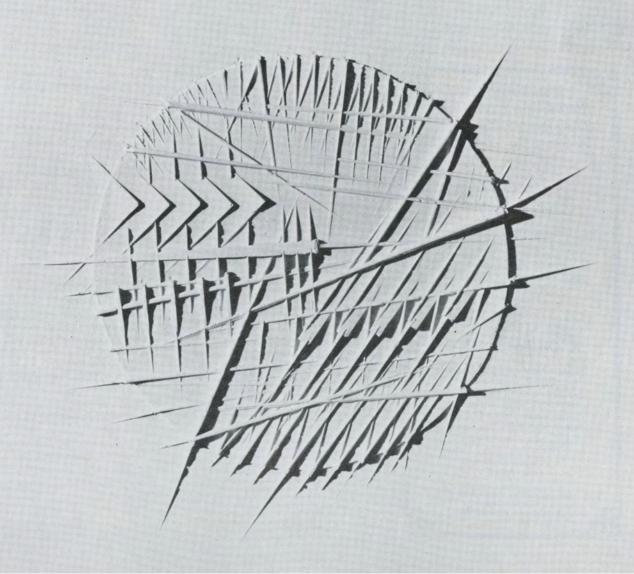
"He had such a great sense of the outrageous. Besides the musical gifts, the thing about him that was so incredible was the spirit of the man.

"I will always remember Adler's 75th birthday party. Calvin and Willie (W. Anthony Waters, another gifted young black opera conductor) did the letter duet between Susanna and the Countess from Le Nozze di Figaro. Singing all of this gorgeous music very well, you understand. But it was such a hoot. You just laughed till tears rolled down your face. It was wonderful.

"I think Calvin's incredible sense of humor helped him as an opera conductor in the sense of being able to keep a perspective without being distant. It made it so much easier for him to deal with all those tempestuous personalities. He just had this sense of delight; when something was funny or untoward, his eyes would just get big as soup plates.

"The mimicry he could pull off was extraordinary. Once, he was guest conductor at the Atlanta Symphony. A friend of mine, who was the manager there, told me about it. The concert

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was wildly successful, and then Calvin went to a reception afterwards at the home of some local bigwigs. Now this is in Atlanta, and the hostess sees him and walks up to this tall, skinny black guy in his tuxedo and says, 'Why, now how do yuh do? Uh, what 'er ya'll do'in heah?' Calvin smiles at her and says, 'Why, how do yuh do? Ah conducted the cohn-cert,' in this flawless Southern accent. The mimicry he could pull off was something else."

Richard Bradshaw, chorus director: "Calvin and I didn't meet here, but when we were both at Glyndebourne in 1975. All that natural talent made him a great success as a coach, really made the place come alive.
Glyndebourne was always a big part of him. He went there after John Pritchard had come to San Francisco Opera to conduct, and Calvin was assigned to him as a rehearsal pianist.

"Our rooms in the house at Glyndebourne were adjoining, and, to tell you the truth, for two years we ripped the place apart between us. He was endlessly mischievous. One of the great events of the year for him was the chance to go swapping the picnic baskets. Everyone comes to Glyndebourne with picnics; some of them very grandiose, with silver service and hampers from Fortnum and Mason's. And some people come with humbler fare, with pâté from the local equivalent of Safeway. Calvin and I would go around during the first act, before the picnic period, and swap them around. Never too far away, of course, so things always got returned to their rightful owners. And then we'd hide behind the hedge so we could hear the whole thing getting sorted out; you know, people exploding when they found this bottle of cheap, thin Riesling where they'd had a bottle of Dom Pérignon, and their neighbors being delighted to discover their Cinderella supper that had turned into foie gras, caviar and Dom Pérignon. . . .

"What Calvin had especially was the ability to diffuse tensions in a rehearsal with just the right line or

Calvin Simmons and Beverly Sills at the 1973 San Francisco Opera Guild Fol de Rol. The photos were taken during a performance of Sillsiana.

CAROLYN MASON JONES PHOTOS

right joke, and a wonderful sense of self-deprecation. He was on the Johnny Carson TV show, I recall. Carson was being rather tough with him, and said he thought that at concerts players don't really seem to be watching the conductor.

"And Calvin said, 'Well, I think they look up occasionally.' Carson said, 'What ever do they look up for?'

"With a big grin, Calvin answered him like a flash, 'I don't know. Diversion, perhaps.'

"He had the ability to get on with an enormous number of people, to take an interest in the third horn player's second child, or whatever. Before I arrived in San Francisco, I went down to visit him in Los Angeles. I was amazed at how well he knew all the Philharmonic players, all about them. He was absolutely loved by them.

"The fact that he was such a good rehearsal pianist helped him deal with singers very much. By the time he came to conduct Lady Macbeth last year, he'd worked so long in the business, he knew the traditions. He knew how to get conventional politeness out of the way and get onto a much more informal footing with the singers. That's one of the reasons there were so few tensions over Lady Macbeth. Calvin saw how to get people to work for him.

"Of course there was another side to him, too. When all was said and done, he was a very lonely character. There was a morose side. . . . I think in the end he would have come back to working in opera. It's what he knew best; he was brought up in it."

Talk to some of Simmons's colleagues for a while, and a surprising portrait of the young maestro emerges. Behind the outrageous humor and the gifted musician, there was a ferocious intensity to him. Matthew Farruggio remembers a rehearsal, in the early 1970s, when Simmons was accompanying the singers on the piano. "He was playing so strongly he sounded like an orchestra," he recalls. "And with such intensity that he actually broke a finger."

But there was another detail, one equally characteristic: the laughing young musician kept right on playing.

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Posthumous oil portrait of Mozart (1819) by Barbara Kraft, after the family portrait of 1780-81.

FIGARO: A HOT PROPERTY

By WILLIAM MANN

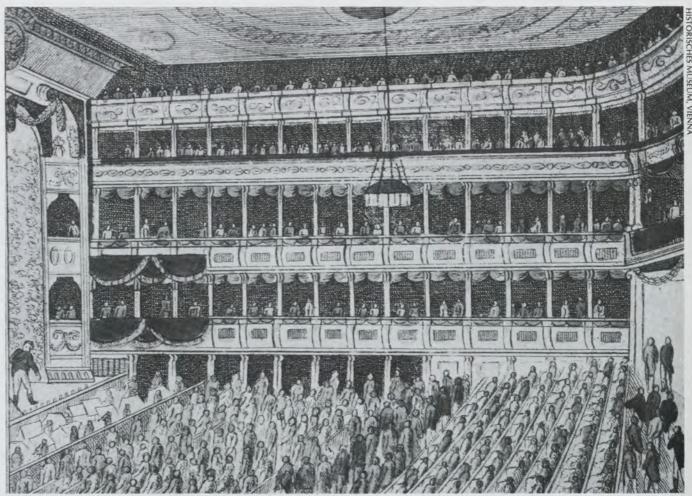
By the spring of 1783, when he met Lorenzo da Ponte, Mozart was an experienced opera composer though he was only 27 years old. He had composed fourteen theatrical works (including two decidedly stagey oratorios, and incidental music to the drama King Thamos, but excluding the ballets Les Petits riens and Le Gelosie del Seraglio), all but one performed, mostly to loud acclaim. His latest in the genre was Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a German opera with spoken dialogue for Vienna's Court Singspiel. an abortive attempt to establish German opera in Austria. Die Entführung was liked, but Viennese society preferred Italian opera because the standard of singing was likely to remain higher. So the Emperor Joseph II abolished German opera in favor of Italian, while retaining the title of National Singspiel (a lovely specimen of compromise).

Mozart was living in Vienna, married, and looking for work (though by no means hard up for musical commissions at this time). But he was passed over for new operas in favor of the real Italian composers Salieri, Sarti, Paisiello, together with the Spanishborn, adopted Italian, Vicente Martín y Soler. Either he had to gain the Emperor's ear, or to make contact with one of the Court librettists: one was the Abbé Gian-Battista Casti (who wrote the libretto on which Richard Strauss' Capriccio was, 150 years later, to be based), the other Lorenzo da

Emperor's ear, or to make contact with one of the Court librettists: one was the Abbé Gian-Battista Casti (who wrote the libretto on which Richard Strauss' Capriccio was, 150 years later, to be based), the other Lorenzo da

William Mann is the author of books on the operas of Mozart and Richard Strauss, and of a popular history book, Music in Time, due for publication in the U.S. this fall. He recently retired from the staff of The Times, London, after 34 years, 22 of them as chief music critic. He is an associate editor of Opera magazine.

Ponte, who had never written an opera libretto in his life until the Emperor engaged him as a "virgin muse." Lorenzo da Ponte had been born a Jew in Ceneda (now called Vittorio Veneto) near Venice in 1749. His original name Emmanuele Conegliano was changed when his father married a Gentile woman, became Christian and had himself and his three sons baptized by the Bishop of Ceneda whose surname they formally assumed — Emmanuele took the Bishop's Christian name as well and became Lorenzo da Ponte. This "Mark 2" Lorenzo da Ponte became a priest and had a colorful career as a philanderer, adventurer, and globetrotter as well as poet (he spent some years in London and finally emigrated to New York where he died at the age of 89). His memoirs are available in paperback, lively reading I promise, but they tell almost nothing about the collaboration with Mozart which has made da Ponte immortal the little they say is highly unreliable. Mozart met da Ponte in Vienna at the house of Baron Raimund Wetzlar von Plankenstern, a Jew in whose house Mozart had lodged. Da Ponte suggested that they should collaborate; Mozart did not have too many hopes about the offer. He began and left unfinished two Italian comic operas (L'Oca del Cairo and Lo Sposo deluso) before he broached to da Ponte the



Interior of the Vienna Burgtheater, site of the premiere of Le Nozze di Figaro. Colored engraving; unsigned.

notion of contriving a comic opera in Italian out of Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais's famous play Le Mariage de Figaro.

This was a hot property. Beaumarchais (1732-99), a pleb who bought himself a nobility and only just survived the French Revolution, wrote Figaro as the second of three comedies about the Count Almaviva. The first of these, Le Barbier de Séville (1775) was a farcical piece, almost commedia dell'arte in manner, introducing us to the harlequinesque barber Figaro, who aids his ex-client, young Count Almaviva, to marry the pretty Rosina over the head of her guardian Dr. Bartolo (who fancied her himself) despite the machinations of Bartolo's devious crony, the music-teacher Don Basilio, not to mention Bartolo's housekeeper Marcellina (called Berta in Rossini's later operatic version). The second part of Beaumarchais's trilogy,

Figaro's Wedding (innocently subtitled "opuscule comique") was a different matter. It showed Figaro outwitting Almaviva (now his employer) and pouring abuse on the aristocracy, the law, the political system and other established features of European life. Beaumarchais finished it in 1778. Louis XVI of France declared "Cela est détestable, cela ne sera jamais joué," and banned it. It was therefore also forbidden in Germany and Austria. Beaumarchais instigated a campaign of intriguery, worthy of Figaro, against the French censors. By September 1783 he secured a private performance in a French aristocrat's château, a year later the public premiere: Louis XVI had relented, supposing the play so lengthy that it would bore everybody. The Austrian Emperor still "expected" that his censors would reject the German translation of Figaro because it contained "much that is

objectionable." Emanuel Schikaneder was not allowed to produce it, and although the German translation was permitted publication, its author Johann Rautenstrauch dedicated the volume to the memory of the ducats he had lost. A pirated version of *Figaro* was played in London as early as December 1784.

Mozart knew that, to break into the closed shop of Viennese Italian opera, he must arrive with a bang. Le Mariage de Figaro, everywhere discussed, much read, yet censored, was just such an explosive charge. Figaro in that very play had remarked "Ce qui ne vaut pas la peine d'être dit, on le chante." Set the play to music, sing it in a foreign language, and it must surely appear harmless. Notwithstanding da Ponte's subsequent asseveration that he soft-soaped the Emperor into accepting his Figaro libretto, we are more likely to accept

Christian Dior

MAQUILLAGE

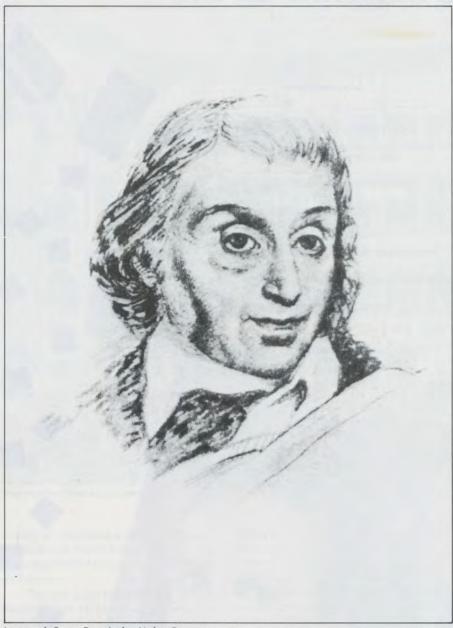
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Lorenzo da Ponte. Portrait after Nathan Rogers.

Mozart's own account of the negotiations. He persuaded the Emperor by playing extracts to him on the piano and by reassuring him that the offensive portions of the play had been removed. Da Ponte recalled: "I set to work and as fast as I wrote the words, Mozart set them to music. In six weeks everything was in order." If we assume that da Ponte was not inventing these idyllic circumstances of collaboration, then which were the six weeks? Since Mozart's extant letters to his father do not mention his work on Figaro, we must guess. My own

imaginative assumption is that he broached the subject to da Ponte in about August 1785. Mozart already knew Beaumarchais's play; inferably da Ponte also did, since he at once agreed to the adaptation. Both spoke French and could work from the original text. Da Ponte was lazy and easily distracted, but a hard worker when occasion demanded. He will have made a detailed scenario in two or three days and, after discussion, prepared to write the libretto before the end of August. Mozart, as was his custom, will have thought out an ideal available cast—

obviously the lovely Nancy Storace as Susanna, and Francesco Benucci, whom he already esteemed as a basso buffo, as Figaro; perhaps Stefano Mandini who had arrived in 1783 in Vienna; maybe Bartolo was already designed for Bussani who had joined the company in 1784; surely Michael Kelly for Don Basilio, already a friend. Kelly was allowed to hear "Crudel, perché finora" before anybody else, at Mozart's forte-piano (if we can trust Kelly's memory).

In September 1785 I think that da Ponte wrote the libretto and "as fast as I wrote the words, Mozart set them to music." Not so fast if we know Mozart. Granted (imaginatively) that during August they chose what to omit and how to turn Beaumarchais's five acts into da Ponte's four, and which lines must be translated straight into Italian, and which others turned into verse for set numbers, and then how many set ensembles must be provided (the ensembles are the special glory of Figaro; da Ponte is as much to be credited for them as Mozart who may have given a hand, being more experienced in music-theater granted all this; if the quotation is true, Mozart will still have come back to da Ponte all the time with second thoughts based on the music he had worked out in his head and could not accommodate (never could) to what his poet had written. Both lived in Vienna; they did not have to communicate, time-wastingly, by mail; Mozart needed only to go round to da Ponte's house and explain what was wrong.

Even Mozart could not have composed the whole four acts of Le Nozze di Figaro during those six weeks in September and October, working in the mornings (and some evenings, when the afternoon's pupils had departed). It is likely that he persisted with Figaro during later November and part of December (when he composed the piano concerto K. 482), harrying da Ponte the while. Since he had to write the short comic German operetta Der Schauspieldirektor in January he must, I think, have been far advanced with Figaro. Any remains will have been completed in February. Mozart was busy in March and the first

continued on p. 76

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Hermann Prey, Lucia Popp



Hermann Prey

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO



Hermann Prey, Lucia Popp



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Photos taken in rehearsal by Ira Nowinski



Lucia Popp, Helena Döse



Helena Döse, Lucia Popp



Faith Esham, Helena Döse, Lucia Popp



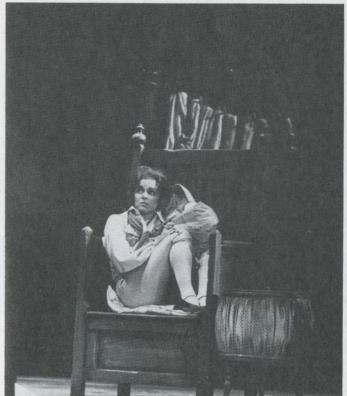
Lucia Popp



Helena Döse



Faith Esham, Lucia Popp



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Tom Krause



Kevin Langan, Laura Brooks Rice



Kevin Langan, Laura Brooks Rice



Kevin Langan, Laura Brooks Rice, Jonathan Green





Profiles



HELENA DÖSE

Soprano Helena Döse makes her American opera debut as Countess Almaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro. Born in Göteborg, Sweden, she made her operatic debut there in 1971 as Aida. Three seasons later, she bowed at the Glyndebourne Festival as Mozart's Countess and, that same year, made her debut at Covent Garden in a production of La Bohème. Miss Döse is a member of the Royal Opera in Stockholm, where she has appeared as Liù opposite Birgit Nilsson's Turandot, as Mimì in La Bohème, in the title roles of Janácek's Katya Kabanova and Puccini's Manon Lescaut, and as Eva in the Götz Friedrich production of Die Meistersinger that was telecast by the BBC in 1979. Other roles in Miss Döse's repertoire include Elisabetta in Don Carlo, Desdemona in Otello, Gutrune in Götterdämmerung, Micaëla in Carmen, Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte, and the title role of Ariadne auf Naxos, which she sang for the first time in 1980 at Glyndebourne. A concert artist of note, Miss Döse's first American appearance was a concert with the Seattle Symphony in 1977, at which she sang Beethoven's "Ah, Perfido!" and Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder. Recent operatic engagements include The Queen of Spades with the Netherlands Opera Theater, and Der Freischütz at Covent Garden. She will perform in the latter early next year in Brussels and Hamburg, and will be seen in Falstaff at the Paris Opéra.



REBECCA COOK

Soprano Rebecca Cook portrays the Countess in the English-language performances of *The Marriage of Figaro*, having made three unscheduled appearances as Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera earlier this season. First-place winner in the Grand Finals of the 1978 San Francisco Opera Auditions, Miss Cook appeared as Micaëla in Carmen and Gerhilde in Die Walküre during the 1981 Fall Season. The Tennessee native made her San Francisco Opera debut in 1979 as the Fifth Maidservant in Elektra and Fiordiligi in the English-language performances of Così fan tutte. In 1980 she appeared in Die Frau ohne Schatten, Jenufa, The Magic Flute and Arabella. That same season, she performed the leading role of Lady Katharine in Friml's The Vagabond King with Spring Opera Theater and created the role of Mariane in the world premiere of Kirke Mechem's Tartuffe for the American Opera Project. She made her Carmel Bach Festival debut as the Countess in The Marriage of Figaro that same year, repeating the role in 1981 for Spring Opera Theater. For two years Miss Cook participated in the San Francisco/ Affiliate Artists-Opera program, and appeared in concert with the orchestras of Indianapolis, St. Louis, Omaha, Fort Wayne, and U.C. Berkeley. She made a highly successful European debut as Micaëla with the Zurich Opera this past spring, and was a featured soloist with Montserrat Caballé and Ermanno Mauro at this year's Golden Gate Park concert, drawing ovations from the overflow crowd at that popular event. In February of next year, Miss Cook begins a contract with the Mannheim Opera, where her roles will include Puccini's Mimi, and Mozart's Pamina and the Countess.



LUCIA POPP

Soprano Lucia Popp makes her long-awaited San Francisco Opera debut as Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro, a role she has made her own in opera houses around the world. Holder of the prestigious title of Kammersängerin with the Vienna Staatsoper, Miss Popp made her opera debut as Queen of the Night in The Magic Flute at the Bratislava Opera House in her native Czechoslovakia. At the age of 21 she was engaged by Herbert von Karajan for the Vienna Staatsoper, and that same season made her debut at the Salzburg Festival under the baton of Otto Klemperer. During the next few years she bowed at many of the world's great companies, including Hamburg, Cologne, Paris and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, where she appears regularly. Miss Popp is also a member of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, and has performed at the festivals of Munich, Vienna, Holland, Edinburgh, Aldeburgh and Salzburg. Her close association with the

Vienna Staatsoper is reflected in the number of new productions she has appeared in there, including Zauberflöte, Rosenkavalier, Fledermaus, Fidelio and Le Nozze di Figaro, the last two of which featured her during the Staatsoper's historic visit to Washington, D.C., in 1979. Her Metropolitan Opera debut was during the first season in the new house, when she appeared as Queen of the Night in The Magic Flute. Most recently she appeared at the Met as Pamina in the same opera. The vehicle of her 1976 La Scala debut was Der Rosenkavalier, an opera she has appeared in over 150 times and recorded with Leonard Bernstein. Other conductors with whom Miss Popp has recorded include Klemperer, Krips, Rostropovich, Davis, Solti, Sawallisch, Haitink and Mackerras. Highlights of the last season include her first major Wagner role as Eva in Die Meistersinger at Covent Garden; her first Marenka in The Bartered Bride in Vienna: Die Zauberflöte at the Salzburg Festival and in Hamburg; a new Nozze di Figaro and Meistersinger at the Munich Festival; and an acclaimed West Coast debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Strauss' Four Last Songs under the direction of Carlo Maria Giulini.



EVELYN DE LA ROSA

Soprano Evelyn de la Rosa, who made her San Francisco Opera debut as the Celestial Voice in Don Carlo in 1979, sings Susanna in the English-language performances of The Marriage of Figaro, Clorinda in La Cenerentola and Chloe in The Queen of Spades. During the 1982 Summer Festival, she appeared as Berta in Il Barbiere di Siviglia. Last fall, the Nevada native was heard as Aksinya in Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk and, with Spring Opera in 1981, Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro. She appeared as Diana in the 1981 world premiere of Henry Mollicone's Emperor Norton with Brown Bag Opera and, in May 1980, created the role of Dorine in the American Opera Project's world premiere production of Mechem's Tartuffe. As a participant in the 1979 Merola Opera Program, Miss de la Rosa was heard as Aennchen in Der Freischütz and Colombina in Wolf-Ferrari's The Inquisitive Women, and received the first-place Gropper Award at the Paul Masson Winery and the Leona Gordon Lowin Award at the Grand Finals of the San Francisco Opera Auditions. As a member of the 1982 Western Opera Theater, she portrayed Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro and Musetta in La Bohème. Other

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After the comedy by PIERRE AUGUSTIN CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

(in Italian)

Conductor Silvio Varviso Production Sonja Frisell Set and Costume Designer Zack Brown Lighting Designer Joan Sullivan Chorus Director Richard Bradshaw Musical Preparation James Johnson Mark Haffner Prompter Susan Webb Harpsichord continuo James Johnson

Assistant Stage Director

Sheila Gruson Stage Manager

Gretchen Mueller

First performance: Vienna, May 1, 1786 First San Francisco Opera performance: November 9, 1936

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 7:30 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 7:30 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 7:30 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 7:30 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 AT 2:00 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27 AT 7:30 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7:30

Le Nozze di Figaro radio broadcast on October 15 at 7:30 p.m. and October 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Please do not interrupt the music with applause.

Latecomers will not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed.

The use of cameras and any kind of recording equipment is strictly forbidden. The performance will last approximately three hours and forty minutes.

CAST

Figaro
Susanna
Dr. Bartolo
Marcellina
Cherubino
Count Almaviva
Don Basilio
Countess Almaviva
Don Curzio
Antonio
Barbarina
Peasant girl

Hermann Prey
Lucia Popp*
Kevin Langan
Laura Brooks Rice
Faith Esham
Tom Krause*
Jonathan Green
Helena Döse**
Robert Tate
Gregory Stapp
Kathryn Gamberoni*
Shelley Seitz

Peasants and servants

**American opera debut *San Francisco Opera debut

TIME AND PLACE: 18th century; the château of Count Almaviva outside Seville

ACT I A room in the château

INTERMISSION

ACT II The Countess' apartment

INTERMISSION

ACT III A courtyard of the château

INTERMISSION

ACT IV The garden of the château

This year's performances of *The Marriage of Figaro* are dedicated to the memory of Calvin Simmons.

Synopsis

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

ACT I

As the curtain rises early on the morning of "the crazy day," Figaro and Susanna are making last-minute preparations for their wedding, in a room which connects with the private apartments of the Count and Countess. Figaro is measuring to see where the bed the Count has given them will best fit; when Susanna realizes that this is to be their bedroom, she points out to Figaro that its convenient position is also most convenient for the Count's intentions to seduce her. Figaro is outraged: he determines that if the Count wants to play games it shall be to Figaro's tune.

Marcellina, the castle housekeeper, enters with her former employer, Dr. Bartolo, whom she has summoned from Seville to advise her: she has lent Figaro money against his promise of marriage, and is determined to prevent his marriage to Susanna. Bartolo is as anxious as Marcellina to sabotage Figaro's wedding: he holds forth at length on the pleasures of vengeance.

Susanna returns, and the two rivals engage in combat until Bartolo drags Marcellina off. Cherubino, a well-born page-boy living in the castle, rushes in to beg Susanna's help in getting the Countess to intercede for him: the Count has banished him after discovering him flirting with Susanna's cousin Barbarina, when the Count himself was on an amorous visit to the same person. Cherubino tries to explain to Susanna that the presence of any woman — it doesn't matter who — makes him helpless with unfulfilled longings.

As the Count's voice is heard, Cherubino hides. Almaviva begins to press his suit with Susanna but is in turn interrupted by the arrival of the music-master Don Basilio. When Basilio gossips to Susanna about Cherubino's infatuation with the Countess, Almaviva reappears. In due course, he uncovers the page's hiding place. Further recriminations are prevented by the arrival of Figaro with a group of castle retainers whom he has hastily collected in order to praise the Count for abolishing the droit de seigneur. He hopes to maneuver the Count into giving his public consent to the marriage. The Count ably circumvents him, and the retainers leave. Figaro and Susanna attempt to intercede for Cherubino with the only result that the Count grants the page a commission in his regiment, requiring him to leave at once. Figaro paints a brutally realistic picture of the horrors of war to the shaken Cherubino.

ACT II

In her boudoir the young Countess, informed by Susanna of the Count's intentions, laments the waning of her husband's love. Susanna and Figaro persuade her to join in a plot to embarrass the Count by arranging a fake rendezvous for that evening. Figaro sends Cherubino to the ladies to be dressed as a girl as part of the scheme. First the page sings them a love song he has written. They are in the midst of trying dresses on him when the Count tries to enter the locked room. Cherubino quickly hides in the closet, which the Countess refuses to open. The Count, locking the room behind them, takes the Countess with him to fetch tools to break open the closet door. Fortunately Susanna has managed to slip back unnoticed into the room; she releases Cherubino who escapes by jumping from the balcony. When the Count and Countess return, the Countess confesses that it is in fact Cherubino in the closet, and is terrified by the Count's furious threats to kill the page. She is no less astonished than her husband when Susanna steps out. Just as harmony is restored, Figaro arrives to announce that the wedding party is assembling, but the gardener Antonio appears, insisting that he saw someone jump from the balcony. Figaro, with

Susanna's and the Countess' help, manages to stay one step ahead of the Count until Marcellina, Bartolo and Basilio burst in. They have little difficulty in persuading the Count to try Figaro for breach of promise.

ACT III

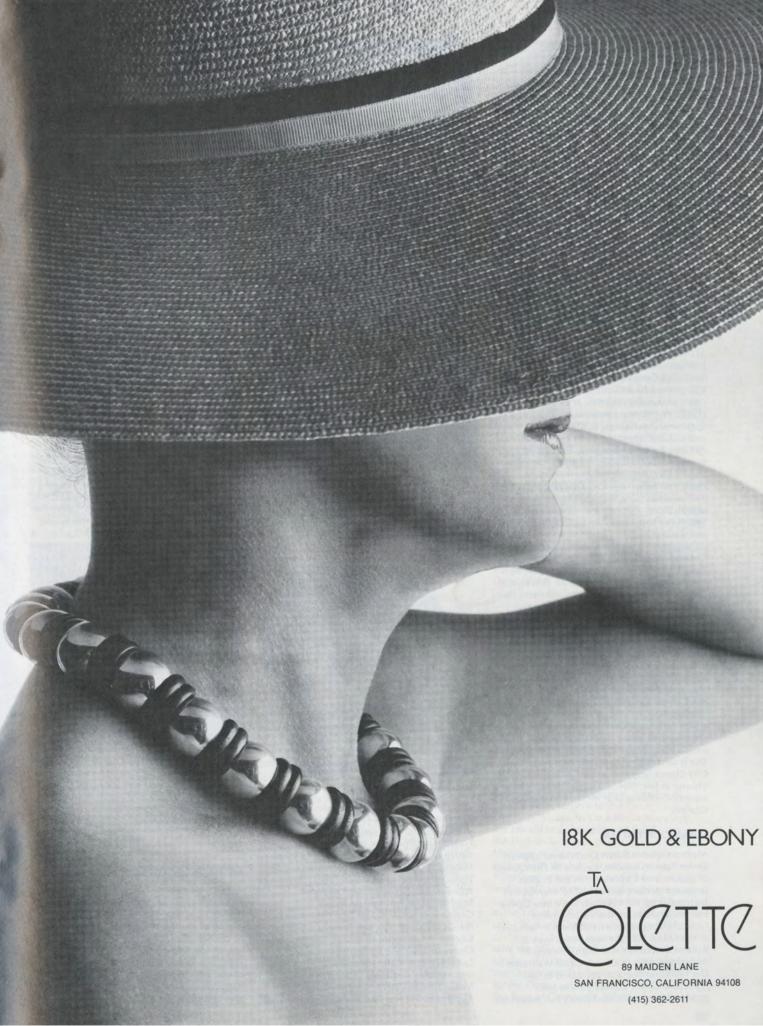
Curzio, the judge, on arrival at the castle, receives instructions from the Count on how to conduct the case. When he leaves, Susanna, with the Countess' encouragement, finds a pretext to visit the Count and arrange the false rendezvous with him for that evening. But the Count overhears her telling Figaro as she leaves him that the case is as good as won. Furious at being tricked, he vows revenge. As everyone assembles for the trial, Barbarina takes Cherubino off to her house to dress him as a girl in order to hide from the Count.

During the trial, the Countess, seeking Susanna, recalls the happiness of her first love for the Count. The trial over, the enraged Figaro finds himself sentenced to repay Marcellina at once — or to marry her. In attempting to find reasons why this should be impossible, Figaro discovers that he is in fact the offspring of a former illicit union between Dr. Bartolo and Marcellina herself. Susanna meanwhile has secured from the Countess a gift of enough money to buy off Figaro's debt; she returns to find him embracing the despised housekeeper. The confusion is rapidly cleared, and to the Count's irritation a double wedding is planned. Further irritation is provided by Antonio, who brings evidence that Cherubino is still at the castle.

The Countess and Susanna resume their plotting, writing a letter to the Count confirming the tryst for that evening. They seal it with a pin which the Count is to return to Susanna as confirmation. A group of village girls arrive to bring flowers to the Countess. Among them are Barbarina and the disguised Cherubino. Antonio, however, unmasks the page, but Barbarina uses the Count's past flirtations with her to discomfort him. The act ends with the wedding ceremonies, during which Susanna slips the Count her note.

ACT IV

That night in the garden, where the false rendezvous is to take place, Barbarina, searching for the lost pin which the Count has given her to take back to Susanna, unwittingly reveals the arrangement to Figaro. He at once suspects that Susanna is deceiving him, and hides witnesses to oversee the rendezvous. Susanna and the Countess, who have exchanged clothes in order to deceive the Count, arrive with Marcellina who has warned them of Figaro's suspicions. Susanna, to punish him for his jealousy, torments him with her supposed joy at giving herself to the Count. Susanna hides in time to see the disguise work its first effect as Cherubino flirts with the disguised Countess in the belief that she is Susanna. The Count, arriving for his tryst, chases the page away; he is about to fulfill his desires with the supposed Susanna when he is frightened off by Figaro. Figaro attempts to enlist the supposed Countess' aid; but he needs only a moment to understand from her voice that it is in reality Susanna. In playful revenge he woos her as if she were the Countess, to Susanna's fury. Figaro has only just time enough to calm her before the Count returns, still searching for Susanna. Figaro and Susanna, whom the Count, since she is in the Countess' clothing, takes to be his wife, play an exaggerated love scene for his benefit. Believing the Countess has deceived him, the Count furiously calls everyone to witness her disgrace. He adamantly refuses all pleas for pardon, until the real Countess appears. Grasping the truth at last, the Count kneels to beg his wife's forgiveness.



recent engagements include *Palestrina* with the Berkeley Symphony and concerts in the 1982 Midsummer Mozart Festival.



FAITH ESHAM

Faith Esham appears as Cherubino in The Marriage of Figaro, a role she has sung at Juilliard (1974), Sante Fe (1976), with New York City Opera (1977), in Amsterdam (1980-81), at the Glyndebourne Festival (1981) and, most recently, at La Scala (1982). The Kentucky native, who holds a degree in psychology, made her professional opera debut in 1974 as an Affiliate Artist in Memphis, Tennessee, and first appeared with San Francisco Opera as Lola in Cavalleria Rusticana in 1976. She made her New York City Opera debut in 1977 and has sung with that company every season since, appearing as Cherubino, Siebel in Faust, Ännchen in Der Freischütz and Zerlina in Don Giovanni, among others. As winner of the 1980 Naumburg Recital Contest, Miss Esham will appear in Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center in January of next year. Last year she sang the title role of Cendrillon in Paris, a role she will recreate with New York City Opera next fall, and portrayed Mimi in La Bohème with Santa Fe Opera. Last June she was heard as Zerlina in Don Giovanni with the Orchestre de Paris as part of the Paris Mozart Festival, an assignment she will repeat at the Kennedy Center in an upcoming season. This year she also sang Pamina in The Magic Flute with the Carmel Bach Festival. She has begun rehearsals with conductor Lorin Maazel for a film version of Carmen with Placido Domingo, directed by Francesco Rosi, in which Miss Esham will appear as Micaëla. She is also singing that role with New York City Opera later this season as well as in Vienna in her 1984 Staatsoper debut. Other assignments next year include Mélisande in Geneva.

SUSAN QUITTMEYER

Mezzo-soprano Susan Quittmeyer appears as the Page in Salome, Paulina in The Queen of Spades and Cherubino in the English language performances of The Marriage of Figaro during the 1982 San Francisco Opera Fall Season. During the 1982 Summer Festival she sang Fenena in Verdi's Nabucco; in the fall of 1981 she was heard here as Rosette in Manon, the High Priestess in Aida, Mercédès in Carmen, and Waltraute in Die Walküre. She also appeared in San Francisco Opera Center's Showcase production of John Harbison's Full Moon in



March last spring. Miss Quittmeyer made her professional debut in the St. Louis Opera Theater's production of Soler's The Tree of Chastity; during that same 1978-79 season, she performed the role of the Baroness in the East Coast premiere of Rota's The Italian Straw Hat with the John Brownlee Opera Theater. As an apprentice with the Santa Fe Opera, she first sang the Page in Salome. The New York native was a participant in the San Francisco Opera's Affiliate Artist Program in 1979. During her two-year association with the program, she sang Dorabella in Così fan tutte; Cherubino in The Marriage of Figaro with Spring Opera Theater; and two leading roles in world premieres given by the American Opera Project: John Harbison's Winter's Tale and Kirke Mechem's Tartuffe. During the 1980-81 season, Miss Quittmeyer made her debut with the San Francisco Symphony under Leonard Slatkin as soloist in the Beethoven Ninth Symphony. She also bowed with the Baltimore Opera as Siebel in Faust and with the Los Angeles Repertory Theater as the Composer in Ariadne auf Naxos.



LAURA BROOKS RICE

Laura Brooks Rice sings two roles in the 1982 San Francisco Opera Fall Season: Marcellina in the international cast of Le Nozze di Figaro, and Dorothée in Cendrillon. A native of Atlanta, Miss Rice made her San Francisco Opera debut as Grimgerde in Die Walküre in 1981. Her most recent appearances here include Rosina in Scarlatti's The Triumph of Honor and Gertrude Stein in Vivian Fine's Women in the Garden with the San Francisco Opera Center. As an apprentice with Central City Opera in 1980, she appeared in Lucia di Lammermoor, Candide and Marschner's Der Vampyr. A winner of the 1981 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, she was also a winner of the New

York Regional San Francisco Opera Auditions that same year. A 1981 Merola Opera Program participant, she portrayed Meg Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Miss Rice is currently an Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center. In addition to her operatic engagements, she is also active on the concert stage. Her most recent performances include the Beethoven Ninth Symphony with the San Francisco and Atlanta Symphonies, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the Atlanta Symphony, and Cerinto in Boito's *Nerone* with the Opera Orchestra of New York.



LUANA DeVOL

Soprano Luana DeVol sings Marcellina in the English-language performances of The Marriage of Figaro. Miss DeVol made her San Francisco Opera debut in 1973 singing the roles of the Overseer in Elektra and the Backstage Voice in Peter Grimes. Earlier that year she appeared as Amelie in the Spring Opera production of The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein, and with Western Opera Theater as the Mother in Hansel and Gretel. A native of San Francisco, Miss DeVol's studies led to a scholarship at the United States International University Opera Studio in San Diego. After winning the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions in 1970, she spent a year of study in London and while there appeared in performances of Britten's Rape of Lucretia and the Verdi Requiem. As a concert performer, she has received much acclaim in the Bay Area for her performances in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Oakland Symphony and Britten's War Requiem at Stanford University. In 1975 she portrayed Sextus in Pocket Opera's concert performances of Julius Caesar. Miss DeVol recently appeared as soprano soloist at the Cabrillo Festival in Aptos, California, for the sixth consecutive year. Earlier this year she appeared in the title role of Tosca in Las Vegas, in that city's first staged grand opera, and garnered critical acclaim as King Meleagro in the U.S. premiere of Handel's Atalanta with Pocket Opera.

KATHRYN GAMBERONI

Kathryn Gamberoni makes her San Francisco Opera debut this fall, portraying Barbarina in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Masha in *The Queen of Spades*. As winner of the San Francisco Opera Auditions, the young soprano performed with the San Francisco Opera Center during last spring's Showcase series, singing the trouser role of Riccardo in Scarlatti's *The Triumph of Honor* and appearing as Isadora Duncan in Vivian



Fine's The Women in the Garden. For the past two summers, she has performed with the Lake George Opera Festival, singing Kathie in The Student Prince and Frasquita in Carmen. Other engagements have included Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro, Adina in L'Elisir d'amore, Juliette in Roméo et Juliette and Gretel in Hansel and Gretel with the Opera Ensemble of New York. Miss Gamberoni sang the role of Gerda in the widely acclaimed American premiere of Delius's Fennimore and Gerda with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis in 1981, and will repeat the role in her European debut when the production travels to the Edinburgh Festival next summer. She was the New York District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions this year, and last summer she sang her first Norina in Don Pasquale with the Glimmerglass Opera. This season Miss Gamberoni bows with the Washington Opera as Blonde in Mozart's Abduction from the Seraglio.



HERMANN PREY

Hermann Prey returns to San Francisco Opera for the first time in 19 years to sing the title role in Le Nozze di Figaro, of which he is widely regarded as the leading exponent today. International recognition followed his first rendition of the role in 1955 at the Vienna Staatsoper. Five years later he made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Wolfram in Tannhäuser, the same role in which he made his first Bayreuth appearances. He made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1963, when he appeared as Guglielmo in Così fan tutte, Olivier in Capriccio and Figaro in The Barber of Seville. He returned to the Metropolitan Opera in 1964 to portray Papageno in The Magic Flute, which he repeated in the premiere of the famed Chagall production for the opening season of the new

Metropolitan Opera House. The German baritone appears regularly at the great opera houses of the world, including La Scala, Covent Garden, the Paris Opéra, the Vienna Staatsoper, the Munich Opera and the Salzburg Festival. Acclaimed for his sensitive interpretations of lieder, Prey has been heard throughout the world on stage, on television and on recordings. He is founder and artistic director of the Schubertiade Hohenems, the annual Schubert festival in Austria. Recent engagements include Die Meistersinger in Bayreuth: Le Nozze di Figaro, Eugene Onegin and Das Liebesverbot in Munich; recitals in Munich, Dresden, Edinburgh and Brussels: Le Nozze di Figaro in Bonn; and Die Zauberflöte at Covent Garden.



JOHN DAVIES

Singing Figaro in the English-language production of The Marriage of Figaro is bass-baritone John Davies. The young Boston native has appeared frequently with the San Francisco Opera and its affiliates. As a member of Western Opera Theater, he has portrayed Bartolo in The Barber of Seville. Figaro in The Marriage of Figaro and Leporello in Don Giovanni. With Spring Opera Theater he was seen as the Composer in Donizetti's Viva la Mamma. During his debut season with San Francisco Opera in 1975, Davies appeared in L'Incoronazione di Poppea, Andrea Chénier, Il Trovatore and Werther. Other fall season credits include La Forza del destino, Tosca, The Makropulos Case, I Pagliacci and Angle of Repose in 1976; and Adriana Lecouvreur, Ariadne auf Naxos and Un Ballo in Maschera in 1977. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1978 in Billy Budd and returned the next season in the same production. He is a frequent performer with the Opera Company of Boston, where he has been seen in War and Peace and La Bohème. Last season Davies made debuts with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Opera Theater of Rochester and Opera/Omaha, where he returns this season for The Magic Flute. During the 1981-82 season he was seen in La Traviata, H.M.S. Pinafore and The Barber of Seville with Opera Theatre of Syracuse, in Die Fledermaus with the Mobile Opera; and in Bretón's zarzuela La Verbena de la Paloma with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

TOM KRAUSE

Distinguished baritone Tom Krause makes his San Francisco Opera debut with his renowned portrayal of Count Almaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro, a role he has sung in the



world's major opera houses, and portrays Count Tomsky in The Queen of Spades. He is a regular at La Scala, the Paris Opéra, the Vienna Staatsoper, the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Metropolitan Opera and the festivals in Salzburg, Glyndebourne, Edinburgh and Bayreuth. He made his professional debut as Escamillo in Carmen at the Berlin Städtische Oper in 1959. Currently a resident of Hamburg, he has performed extensively with the Hamburg Staatsoper, including engagements during the 1980-81 season in Don Giovanni and Così fan tutte, and performances the following season in Le Nozze di Figaro and, again, Don Giovanni. Renowned as a concert artist as well as opera performer, Krause made his American debut in Britten's War Requiem with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood and has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Boston Symphony and the orchestras of Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and San Francisco. In 1981 he was heard in Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Vienna Philharmonic and was seen as Escamillo with the Deutsche Oper Berlin. That same year saw him as the High Priest in Samson et Dalila with the Chicago Lyric Opera. His engagements this year include Parsifal with the Geneva Opera in January; appearances in May with the Oregon Symphony performing the Verdi Requiem; and the Cincinnati May Festival, where he sang scenes from Boris Godunov. Krause's recorded repertoire reflects his stylistic versatility, including complete recordings of Fidelio, Carmen, Don Pasquale, Così fan tutte, Elektra, Tristan und Isolde, Euryanthe, La Clemenza di Tito and I Pagliacci, as well as oratorios by Bach, Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn.

THOMAS WOODMAN

Baritone Thomas Woodman, a native of Connecticut, returns to the San Francisco Opera as Silvano in Un Ballo in Maschera, the Herald in Lohengrin and the Count in the English-language performances of The Marriage of Figaro. Currently an Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, Woodman was most recently heard as Ping in the 1982 Summer Festival production of Turandot. Since his debut with the Company in the fall of 1980 in Die Frau ohne Schatten and I Pagliacci, he has sung with all the affiliates of the San Francisco Opera. He sang the title role in the world premiere of Mollicone's Emperor Norton with Brown Bag Opera and Prince Paul in the 1981 Spring Opera production of The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. While a member of



Western Opera Theater Woodman sang the role of Marcello in La Bohème. A former Merola Opera Program participant and 1980 Metropolitan Opera Council Finalist, he made his professional opera debut in 1979 with the Central City Opera in The Barber of Seville, The Merry Widow (conducted by Kurt Herbert Adler), Mollicone's Face on the Barroom Floor and Cadman's Shanewis. He was recently heard in Verdi's Stiffelio with Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera and will portray the role of the Count in Hawaii Opera Theater's 1983 production of The Marriage of Figaro.



KEVIN LANGAN

Bass Kevin Langan, a native of New Jersey, returns for a third season with the San Francisco Opera as Samuele in Un Ballo in Maschera and Dr. Bartolo in Le Nozze di Figaro. Langan, who recently appeared as Timur in Turandot and Trulove in The Rake's Progress with the 1982 San Francisco Opera Summer Festival, made his Company debut in 1980. Since that time he has appeared here in Samson et Dalila, Simon Boccanegra, Die Frau ohne Schatten, La Traviata, Arabella, Madama Butterfly, Aida, Carmen, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk and Don Giovanni. He was recently engaged for a third consecutive season by the Opera Company of Philadelphia as Dr. Bartolo in Le Nozze di Figaro, and made his Opera Omaha debut as Sarastro in Die Zauberflöte. Langan, who was a member of the Merola Opera Program and a 1980 National Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, makes his European debut this fall in Lyons as Osmin in Die Entführung aus dem Serail. Recent engagements include Ashby in La Fanciulla del West and Sarastro in Philadelphia, Don Carlo and La Traviata with the New Jersey Opera and Osmin in Los

Angeles. Concert performances include Boris Godunov with the St. Louis Symphony, Rossini's Stabat Mater with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Messiah with the Indianapolis and Houston Symphonies and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Oakland Symphony. Early next year, he will appear in San Diego Opera's new production of Saint-Saëns's Henry VIII.



CARL GLAUM

Bass Carl Glaum appears in six roles this fall: the Fifth Jew in Salome, Dr. Bartolo in the English-language cast of The Marriage of Figaro, the Jailer in Dialogues of the Carmelites, the First Minister in Cendrillon, a Noble in Lohengrin, and Sciarrone in Tosca. Glaum began his career with the Illinois Opera Theater at the Lake George Opera Festival in 1971, when he appeared in Peter Grimes, and remained with that company for six years. In 1978, he portrayed the title role of the Chicago Opera Theater's production of Don Pasquale and was resident artist with the Minnesota Opera Company, where he sang Don Basilio in The Marriage of Figaro and created the role of Colonel Blagden in the world premiere of Robert Ward's Claudia LeGare. As a member of the 1981 Western Opera Theater company, he portrayed Dulcamara in L'Elisir d'amore and Friar Lawrence in Romeo and Juliet. He made his San Francisco Opera debut as Hans Schwarz in Die Meistersinger during the 1981 Summer Festival, when he also sang Marullo in Rigoletto. Glaum appeared in the 1981 Spring Opera productions of Romeo and Juliet and Il Ballo delle Ingrate, and was heard last fall in Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk and Le Cid. Earlier this year he participated in performances of Don Pasquale and Rigoletto with the Houston Grand Opera.

JONATHAN GREEN

Tenor Jonathan Green appears in five roles during the 1982 Fall Season: the First Jew in Salome, Don Basilio in Le Nozze di Figaro, the Father Confessor in Dialogues of the Carmelites, Chekalinsky in The Queen of Spades and Spoletta in Tosca. During the 1982 Summer Festival, he was heard as Pong in Turandot and Sellem in The Rake's Progress. After winning rave reviews for his performance in the title role of Kurka's The Good Soldier Schweik with Spring Opera, Green has sung a variety of roles with the San Francisco Opera, including the First Priest in The Magic Flute, the Shepherd in Tristan und Isolde and Beppe in Pagliacci in the 1980 season, as well as Mitrane in



Semiramide, the Teacher in Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, Vicomte Cascada in The Merry Widow, Don Arias in Le Cid and the Fool in Wozzeck last fall. He is a frequent performer with the New York City Opera, where he bowed as Don Basilio in The Marriage of Figaro in 1977. Other assignments at City Opera include Lippo Fiorentino in Weill's Street Scene (telecast over PBS), a part in the world premiere of Miss Havisham's Fire by Argento and, most recently, appearances in La Traviata and Ariadne auf Naxos. On the roster of the 1980 and 1981 Spoleto Festivals, Green has also performed with the opera companies of Philadelphia, Kansas City and Louisville.



IEFFREY THOMAS

Jeffrey Thomas returns to the San Francisco Opera to sing the role of a Judge in Un Ballo in Maschera, Don Basilio in Englishlanguage performances of The Marriage of Figaro, the First Commissioner in Dialogues of the Carmelites, Chaplitzky in The Queen of Spades and a Noble in Lohengrin. The young tenor made his debut with the Company during the 1981 Summer Festival as Vogelgesang in Wagner's Die Meistersinger and was most recently heard as the Officer in the 1982 Summer Festival production of Il Barbiere di Siviglia. A Pennsylvania native, Thomas studied at the Juilliard School of Music, where he was featured as Count Belfiore in Mozart's La Finta Giardiniera, in The Mother of Us All. and in the American Opera Center's productions of Un Ballo in Maschera, Monteverdi's L'Orfeo, and the world premiere of Edward Barnes's Feathertop, A member of the Adler Fellowship Program, he portrayed Flaminio in the 1982 San Francisco Opera Center production of Scarlatti's The Triumph of Honor and the Tenor in Vivian Fine's Women in the



Garden. Thomas has performed in Mexico's Teatro Degollado as Rameau's Pygmalion with Concert Royal and the New York Baroque Dance Company, in Boston with the Boston Musica Viva, and at the Kennedy Center in Robin Hood with New York's Ensemble for Early Music. Thomas makes his European debut in the Spring of 1983 at the Maggio Musicale in Florence, singing Lully's Perseus in the Teatro Comunale.



ROBERT TATE

Tenor Robert Tate, a frequent performer with the San Francisco Opera and its affiliates, sings five roles during the 1982 Fall Season: the Second Jew in Salome, Don Curzio in the Italian and English-language performances of The Marriage of Figaro, the Master of Ceremonies in both Queen of Spades and Cendrillon, and a Noble in Lohengrin. He made his Spring Opera debut in 1979 in the ensemble of Britten's Death in Venice and subsequently sang Antigonus in the 1979 world premiere of Harbison's Winter's Tale that inaugurated the American Opera Project. The following year he appeared in the world premiere of Mechem's Tartuffe, again under the auspices of the AOP. He made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1980, when he appeared in Samson et Dalila, Simon Boccanegra, La Traviata and I Pagliacci. In 1981, he appeared in the Summer Festival production of L'Incoronazione di Poppea and the Spring Opera Theater production of The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. The lyric tenor has also portrayed Ernesto in Don Pasquale with Brown Bag Opera and has sung with Mobile Opera, Pocket Opera and West Bay Opera. Last spring he won plaudits in the travesty role of Cornelia in the San Francisco Opera Center Showcase production of A. Scarlatti's The Triumph of Honor. He was most recently heard with the Oakland Ballet and Symphony in Stravinsky's Les Noces and made his debut at Wolf Trap this summer as Ferrando in Così fan tutte.

GREGORY STAPP

American bass Gregory Stapp appears as Tommaso in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, the Second Soldier in *Salome*, Antonio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Narumoff in *The Queen of Spades*, a Noble in *Lohengrin* and the Jailer in *Tosca*. The first-prize winner in the 1982 Metropolitan Opera Western Regional Auditions, he has also received awards from the Sullivan Musical Foundation and Baltimore Opera Competition. In 1980 he sang the role of Charlemagne in the American premiere of Schubert's *Fierrabras*



with the Opera Theater of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. Currently an Adler Fellow, Stapp was for two years the Atlantic Richfield Affiliate Artist in the San Francisco/Affiliate Artists-Opera Program. He made his Company debut during the 1980 Fall Season in The Magic Flute and La Traviata. During the 1981 Spring Opera Season, Stapp was heard as Pluto in Il Ballo delle Ingrate, Ajax in The Cry of Clytaemnestra and Friar Lawrence in Romeo and Juliet. The same year he appeared with the Company in Summer Festival productions of Die Meistersinger and Rigoletto, and during the Fall Season, in Semiramide, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, Le Cid, Lucia di Lammermoor and Il Trovatore. During the 1982 Summer Festival, the young bass was featured in four operas: Julius Caesar, Turandot, Nabucco and The Rake's Progress. Earlier this year he appeared as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony in performances of Bach's St. Matthew Passion.



SILVIO VARVISO

Silvio Varviso returns to San Francisco Opera to conduct Le Nozze di Figaro, which he conducted at Glyndebourne in 1962 and has led numerous times at the Vienna Staatsoper, where he has appeared regularly since his debut there in 1965. The Swiss conductor received his education at the conservatory of his native Zurich and in 1950 became principal conductor at the Basel Opera, eventually becoming music and artistic director of the company. He later served as music director of the Swedish Royal Opera and was appointed Court Conductor by King Gustav Adolf, making him only the second non-Swedish conductor ever to receive that honor. Varviso made his American debut with San Francisco Opera in 1959 with performances of Orfeo ed Euridice, Carmina Burana and La Bohème. Since then he has led

performances here of Tosca, Der Rosenkavalier, La Traviata, Le Nozze di Figaro, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Rigoletto, Don Carlo, Tristan und Isolde, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, La Bohème and Don Carlo. Maestro Varviso has conducted at Bayreuth for six years, and his performances at the Stuttgart Opera, where he served as music director for eight years beginning in 1972, include a much-discussed production of the Ring Cycle by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle mounted between 1975 and 1980. A master of a wide variety of musical styles, Varviso has recorded numerous complete operas ranging from Rossini to Strauss, and he won special acclaim for his Bayreuth Festival recording of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1961 conducting Lucia di Lammermoor in the production that also marked Joan Sutherland's Met debut, and he returns there this season after an absence of 12 years to conduct Die Walküre. He has been a frequent guest conductor at Covent Garden since his debut there in 1964, most recently leading Pelléas et Mélisande and Tosca this year. A regular conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic, Varviso has led most of the major orchestras of Europe. Other concert appearances include performances with the Chicago Symphony in this country and the NHK Symphony in Tokyo.



RICHARD BRADSHAW

Richard Bradshaw returns to the podium to conduct the English-language performances of The Marriage of Figaro. Currently chorus director of the San Francisco Opera, he joined the Company in 1977 and made his American conducting debut that season with special matinee performances of Gounod's Faust. Subsequent conducting assignments have included La Traviata, Julius Caesar and the West Coast premiere of John Eaton's The Cry of Clytaemnestra with Spring Opera Theater. Earlier this year, he led the San Francisco Opera Center Showcase productions of Vivian Fine's The Women in the Garden and John Harbison's Full Moon in March. A native of England, Bradshaw is conductor and director of the New London Ensemble and has appeared with most of the major British orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the London Mozart Players, with whom he made his Royal Festival Hall debut in 1976 in celebration of the 25th anniversary of that hall. At the end of 1976 he held the post of chorus director of the Marseilles Opera, and in 1977 conducted performances of Don Giovanni

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on the Glyndebourne Festival Opera tour. For the 1979 International Verdi Congress in Irvine, California, Bradshaw conducted the original version of *La Forza del destino*. He conducts regularly for the British Broadcasting Corporation, and has recently recorded new works with the City of London Sinfonia and the BBC Singers. Bradshaw also holds the post of conductor and lecturer at the University of California at Berkeley.



SONJA FRISELL

In her seventh season with the San Francisco Opera, Sonja Frisell directs a new production of Le Nozze di Figaro and Un Ballo in Maschera, the opera she first staged here to great acclaim in 1977. Born in England, she received operatic training with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera and the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, where she studied with Carl Ebert. She made her American debut with Khovanshchina in Chicago in 1969. Her first San Francisco Opera assignment was the 1975 production of Simon Boccanegra, which she had directed the previous year in Chicago and revived here in 1980. At the War Memorial she was also responsible for Aida in 1977, returning the following year for Norma and Werther and for Don Carlo in 1979. During the 1981 season here she staged Lucia di Lammermoor and Le Cid. She has been on the staff of La Scala for 15 years; in 1972 she became staff producer there and from 1974 through 1979 was director of production. Among her production credits are Vivaldi's Tito Manlio at the Piccola Scala, Fidelio in Venice, La Traviata in Bregenz, Don Pasquale at Montepulciano and Un Ballo in Maschera for the Paris Opera. Recent engagements include Andrea Chénier in Turin, a revival of the Jean-Pierre Ponnelle production of L'Italiana in Algeri at the Metropolitan and her directing debut at the Houston Grand Opera with Un Ballo in Maschera.

ROBIN THOMPSON

Robin Thompson makes his San Francisco Opera directorial debut with the Englishlanguage performances of *The Marriage of Figaro*. He began his association with the Company in 1979 as an assistant director. Over the past three seasons, he has worked on productions of *Semiramide*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Turandot*, *Die Walküre*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Lear*, *Arabella* and *La Gioconda*. A California native, Thompson received his operatic training at Indiana University with the recommendation of



distinguished American bass George London, sponsored by a grant from the James B. Pendleton Foundation of Los Angeles. His master's thesis production of Leonard Bernstein's Trouble in Tahiti was chosen by the Israel Philharmonic to tour Israel as part of a festival of that composer's works. As a companion piece to the one-act opera, Thompson and Bernstein produced a musical revue of the composer's Broadway shows. Awarded a National Opera Institute Grant as apprentice to stage director Frank Corsaro, Thompson worked on the Broadway play Cold Storage and on productions at the New York City Opera, Washington Opera and the Houston Grand Opera. Earlier this year, he was awarded the San Francisco Opera Guild Scholarship to further his studies at the opera houses of Munich and Berlin.



ZACK BROWN

Designer Zack Brown returns to San Francisco Opera with designs for the new production of Le Nozze di Figaro. His first Company assignment was the set and costume design for the 1979 production of Ponchielli's La Gioconda, which was telecast nationally and earned Brown two Emmy Awards. As resident designer for Washington Opera, Brown has worked on productions of A Postcard From Morocco, II Barbiere di Siviglia, Handel's Semele, The Rake's Progress and L'Elisir d'amore in the Terrace Theatre and La Bohème, Un Ballo in Maschera and Macbeth in the opera house at the Kennedy Center. Other opera credits include both sets and costumes for Busoni's Doktor Faust and sets for Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers at Wolf Trap; and set designs for La Traviata at New York City Opera and Verdi's Stiffelio for the Boston Opera Company. He created the sets for the 1982 production of Die Fledermaus at the

Santa Fe Opera, and his designs for La Cenerentola and The Abduction from the Seraglio will be seen at the Washington Opera later this season. For the legitimate theater Brown has created the sets and costumes for Shaw's Heartbreak House and Misalliance, the sets for Shaffer's Sleuth and costumes for Chekhov's The Three Sisters. all at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, His sets for Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest and his costumes for Saint Joan, both for New York's Circle in the Square in 1977, won him nominations for Tony and Drama Desk awards, respectively. For the American Ballet Theatre, Brown has designed La Sonnambula, and he was responsible for the costumes in a five-part television miniseries of O'Neill's Mourning Becomes Electra.



JOAN SULLIVAN

In her third year with the San Francisco Opera, associate lighting designer Joan Sullivan has designed the lighting for the 1982 Fall Season productions of Norma, Le Nozze di Figaro and Cendrillon. She is also the lighting director for this season's production of La Cenerentola. During the 1982 Summer Festival she was responsible for Il Barbiere di Siviglia and The Rake's Progress. The 1981 season included her work on such productions as The Merry Widow, Le Cid and Il Trovatore, and her 1980 credits included Simon Boccanegra and Arabella. In a similar post with the Lyric Opera of Chicago from 1974 through 1979, Miss Sullivan worked on all the company's productions and also recreated the lighting for the Chicago production of Penderecki's Paradise Lost in the work's European premiere in 1979 at La Scala. In Chicago she also served as lighting designer for the Lyric Opera School, where her credits included Britten's Turn of the Screw and The Rape of Lucretia, Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress, Cimarosa's Il Matrimonio Segreto and Bizet's Doctor Miracle. As lighting designer for the Kentucky Opera Association from 1978 to 1980, she designed the lighting for The Magic Flute, I Pagliacci, The Impresario and Il Trovatore. This year, Miss Sullivan's lighting assignments included Simon Boccanegra with the greater Miami Opera and Elektra with the New Orleans Opera.

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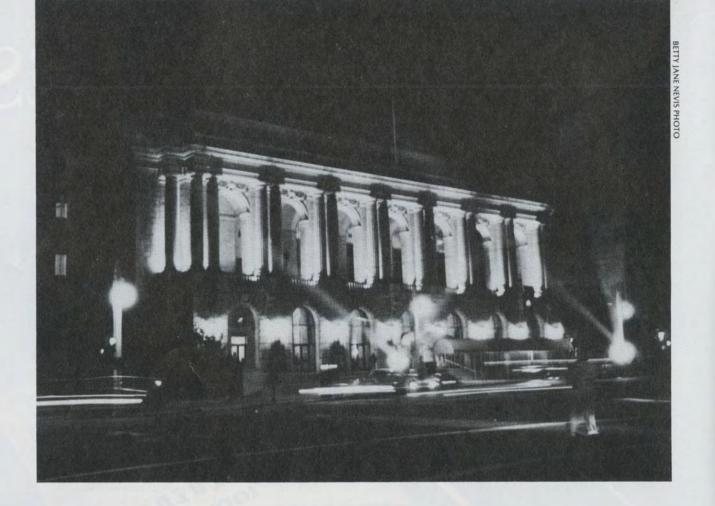
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Happy Birthday, Opera House

By DAVID LITTLEJOHN

Before the turn of this century, San Francisco had enough wealth, enough of a genuine European presence, and enough people who wanted to act like the elite of Paris or Milan to think that a permanent civic opera house would be a good thing to have (even if it was only used for opera a few weeks each year). In 1904, civic leaders invited out Daniel Burnham of Chicago, the country's leading classical city planner, to help design a better San Francisco. Among other things, his plan called for a grandiose new civic center including an opera house — in the area around Van Ness above Market. The

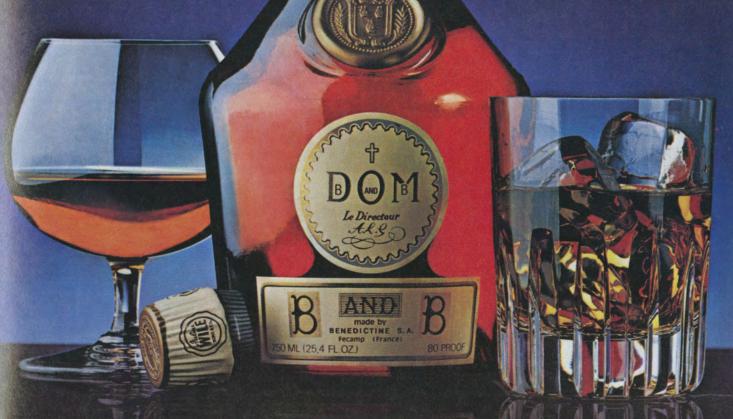
earthquake and fire helped speed the pace of ground-clearing, and portions of Burnham's plan — including the City Hall — were built from 1912 on. After World War I, wealthy music lovers joined in a prickly alliance with patriotic veterans to extend the Civic Center west of Van Ness Avenue, for a combined War Memorial complex that would include an opera house, veterans' building, and museum. By 1920, the committee in charge had raised more than two million dollars, and broken ground for the new buildings.

Twelve years of wrangling and controversy followed. Veterans argued endlessly with music lovers, old designs

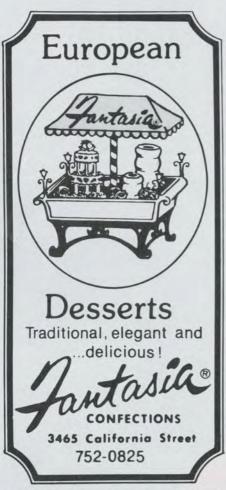
were rejected and new ones submitted, real estate deals dragged on and on. Bond issues were voted, prices kept mounting, the economy sank in the Depression. After standing empty for more than a decade, the two-block site finally began to fill with workers in 1931. On October 15, 1932, just fifty years ago, the War Memorial Opera House opened, with Claudia Muzio singing Tosca, and Gaetano Merola conducting.

David Littlejohn is a writer, critic and professor of journalism at the University of California in Berkeley, who regularly reviews the West Coast opera for the London Times.

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The choice of architects for the two buildings - Arthur Brown Jr. and G. Albert Lansburgh — now seems obvious. Brown was San Francisco's best-known designer of monumental classical buildings: Lansburgh was one of the most successful theater architects in the West. But originally the architectural advisory committee for the War Memorial (chaired by Bernard Maybeck) had chosen Willis Polk to do the opera house, with Lansburgh as consultant; and the firm of Bakewell and Brown to design the veterans' and museum building across the court. Polk had been Daniel Burnham's local representative, and proven himself with buildings like Filoli and the Mills Tower. But he died in 1924: then Arthur Brown dissolved his partnership with John Bakewell in 1927. So in the end, both buildings were given to Brown and Lansburgh to design.

Major credit for the design nowadays tends to be given to Arthur Brown Jr., who established a formidable reputation indeed before he died in 1957. Born in Oakland in 1874, he studied civil engineering at U.C. Berkeley and architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris - a typical pattern for any ambitious American architect of the time. Most of the leading San Francisco architects of the early 20th century had studied at the Ecole, as had their East Coast counterparts in the "American Renaissance." Many of their designs including the War Memorial Opera House - are often still categorized as "Beaux-Arts" in style, a term now very loosely used to refer to the academic interpretation of historical period styles (particularly Roman, or French and Italian Renaissance) taught by the Ecole and its affiliated ateliers between about 1870 and the 1920s. Like most successful Beaux Arts graduates, Brown was able to work in a variety of period styles he even flirted with modernism (Coit Tower, the Trans-Bay Terminal). But his most enduring works still seem both classical and somehow French, a testimony to both his training and his

In partnership with John Bakewell (a fellow diplômé of the Ecole), Brown entered and won the competition for the centerpiece of Burnham's San Francisco Plan, the new City Hall (1912-15), which is still regarded as his masterpiece - and, by at least one critic, as "the finest classical building in our recent history." Before the opera house commission, the firm also did the flamboyant Palace of Horticulture for the 1915 Fair, rebuilt the City of Paris, remodeled the De Young Museum, and designed Temple Emmanu-El, the PG&E Building on Market, the California School of Fine Arts, city halls for Berkeley and Pasadena, the old Burlingame Country Club, the W.W. Crocker estate in Hillsborough, and a number of other private mansions.

Gustave Albert Lansburgh (Ecole des Beaux Arts, 1906) made his reputation in a more limited field, as one of the chief designers of the great motion picture palaces of the 20s and 30s. Among them are the surviving Golden Gate and Warfield Theatres in San Francisco, across the street from one another at Market and Taylor, and several lavish houses in Los Angeles. Many of his prizes - including the Hill Street Theatre in Los Angeles, and the New Orpheum in San Francisco have been torn down. In one of his drawings for the new opera house in 1927, Lansburgh specifically compared its dimensions and capacity (then 3,328 seats) with those of five of his cinema palaces: the Golden Gate (2,726 seats), Loew's Warfield (2,507), and the Warner (now Wiltern - 2,742), Broadway Orpheum (now Palace -2,264), and Hill Street (2,832), all in Los Angeles. In every respect, he was determined to make this new house the grandest of them all.

In the documents collection of the College of Environmental Design in Berkeley are 30 drawings and a great many blueprints of opera house designs from Lansburgh's collection. The Bancroft Library across campus houses a collection of drawings and plans from the collection of his partner, Arthur Brown Ir., including two spectacular two-by-four foot watercolored "sections" of an opera house scheme, peopled by hundreds of elegant little 1926 beaux and belles. Other plans and sketches - including the original ink-on-linen plans actually used — are still in the possession of the War Memorial trustees, or of Brown's

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War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building during construction.

daughter and son-in-law in San Francisco.

Drawings dated from 1924 to 1930 make it clear that the two architects considered and abandoned a great variety of basic design plans before settling on what we have today. In October 1924 they were playing with the idea of an immense oval arena set inside a rectangular box, with its main entrance and grand foyer on the Fulton Street side, and large side foyers on Van Ness and Franklin. This one would have had two baroque oval stairwells in the southeast and southwest corners, sets of upper and lower boxes near the stage (like the Curran and Geary), and a grand total of 4,675 seats. (The new Met, attacked as "hypertrophic," holds 3,800.) Changing the arena shape to a modified ellipse, half encircled by a two-story, 30-foot-wide curving promenade, got them up to almost 5,000 seats. Meanwhile the proscenium grew, from 35 to 46 to 52 feet wide.

At that point, common sense entered: acoustics and sight lines in a

5,000 seat opera house would be hopeless. Most ideal or "advanced" designs today call for 1,500-2,000 seats, but American opera economics rule that out. A fascinating plan of March 1925 retains the near-circular seating arena, and the grand circumferential promenade - with a twelve-foot wide fover encircling that. A single-slope, three-stage balcony seats 1,468; a halfring of 23 boxes is supplemented by two "royal" 16-seat boxes under noble arches near the stage: total capacity 3,518, plus maybe 500 standees. This design - which is close to that of the great 1926 color renderings - also called for circular men's and women's lounges, and a bridge over the promenade to connect the elaborately turned corner stairs with the mezzanine fover.

A scheme of January 1926 vastly enlarged the balcony, and almost doubled the number of boxes: total places 4,168. Later that year, and through 1927, the plan shifted to two separate cantilevered balcony terraces

in a great semicircular arc over the boxes, stretching almost from one side of the stage to the other. Some plans showed a raised circle of seats behind the orchestra seats. Sometimes three aisles, sometimes four (even six) divide the orchestra seats. Through years of sketches, this area was pinched in at the front corners to allow for triumphant wall decorations, or royal boxes, or both. At one point, the architects toyed with a total of 58 boxes: eighteen on the sides, two tiers of 19 each in the center, and two royal boxes near the stage.

Something like the present scheme — three-aisle orchestra, a tier of 25 boxes, and two balcony terraces subdivided by cross-aisles — evolved about 1928, but economic pressures obliged the architects to shrink it in 1930. The '28 plan had called for building out to the Franklin Street line (where the 1976-9 addition now reaches); and making the whole building as wide as the two projecting "pavilions" that now contain the two

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An early photo of the Opera House and Veterans Building.

main staircases. This reduced overall capacity from 3,415 to 3,254, reduced the 30-foot wide, two-story side promenades to 17½ feet and one story, and left a "modest" grand foyer of 36 by 108 feet. (The celebrated foyer of San Francisco's Fox Theatre, Lansburgh noted on one plan, was only 44 by 80.)

The very latest plans I saw (1931) still presumed that organ pipes would one day rise behind the pierced screens of the side-wall arches, behind the boxes — and that the open air loggia behind the Van Ness Avenue colonnade would be filled with entr'acte strollers on our balmy autumn nights. Fifty years on, still no organ, still no doors to the loggia. Abandoning the organ, the architects tried to fit three super-boxes for ten people each in front of the decorative arches; but that

never happened either. (The 1931 plan also showed Franklin Street behind the house all but closed to traffic during performances, in order to park 84 chauffeur-driven cars! Some Depression.)

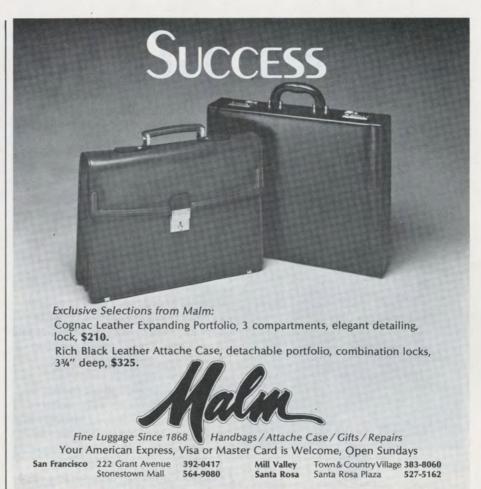
Even more interesting to me than all these changes of shape, size, and facilities in the evolving design is the evidence that, from 1924 to 1928 at least, both architects (but in particular Albert Lansburgh) took it for granted that all the public spaces of the opera house would be decorated like crazy. Even the roughest sketches are scrawled all over with busy Beaux-Arty in-fill: swags, cartouches, figured friezes, niches, urns, dentils, rinceau moldings, you name it. The molded and coffered frame around the proscenium is sometimes drawn two or



MOULIN STUDIOS

three times its present width, and infinitely more fussy. In place of the two music-making Amażons on horseback who now leap out of the spandrels (with their two gentlemenfriends on percussion), those corners were stuffed with whole villages of Grecian musicians, or winged angels, or four-horse chariots. Where today a modest shield crowns the arch, once 15-foot female figures sprawled on either side of a mammoth escutcheon, their flowing draperies borne up by putti.

In one drawing signed December 1927, the ceiling oval is teeming with figures, like a Venetian palazzo's, then is framed by cubic yards of gilded plaster and hung with your standard rococo chandelier. In a 1926 design, a sculpted frieze of classical figures about



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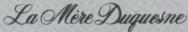
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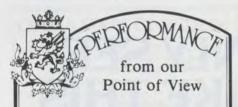
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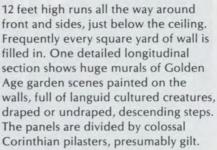
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Every possible change was rung on the chamfered corners that occupied the spaces between proscenium arch and side walls, and the front portions of those walls to where the balconies begin. Twenty-foot high groups of aspiring gilded figures hold up Tivoli lightoliers in stage-side niches. Thirtyfoot carvatids balance entablatures on their heads. Royal boxes, with royal blue drapes and upholstery, are supported on the shoulders of suffering atlantes, and are framed by huge fluted columns inside coffered hemicycles. Shell-shaped niches bristle with busts and urns, temple facades grow over doors, busy Adam-esque panels fill every available space; colossal Corinthian orders frame semicolossal Ionic orders, supporting entablatures piled with statues on top.

Personally, I think the present grand fover is an elegant, a commodious, and a joyful place. The gilt-plaster coffers in the ceiling vault, the bronze stair rails and lamp stands stop (for my taste) just this side of excess, and allow me to savor the fine spaces and materials, as well as the colorful flow and mingling of people that Charles Garnier (Paris Opéra) understood so well. But some critics in 1932 found it cold and austere; and the brilliant watercolored sections in the Bancroft Library show, in its place, a curving, semi-annular vaulted promenade that is painted, carved, and colored like the glitziest movie palace: blue and red painted mural panels, figured ceilings, everywhere gilt: gilt urns, gilt moldings, gilt light standards. Through it all pose and prance those teeny fashionable people circa 1926.

All these preliminary plans and sketches are jolly fun to leaf through. But on the whole, I think we were fortunate to have had that twelve year delay between ground-breaking and opening night. Thanks either to the

chastened tastes of changing times, or to budgetary pressures, or to Arthur Brown's stifling some of Albert Lansburgh's gusto, we ended up with an opera house, inside and out, that is less likely to embarrass us fifty years hence, and more likely to satisfy, than any of these unbuilt schemes.

The building we have today, discreetly enlarged in 1976-79, is one of the most handsome and commodious opera houses in the world. In style as well as basic design, it is appropriate for the art form it houses six months of the year. It enhances one's enjoyment of good opera performances far more effectively than most of the more gaudily decorated and hierarchically organized 19th century palaces. And very few of the opera houses built since San Francisco's (no one has dared to venture a new Beaux Arts or neoclassical house in the past fifty years) feel quite right for the extravagances of emotion and personality they encase.

On the whole, I think the San Francisco Opera House works well for opera-goers (I leave to others an evaluation of its production facilities), because its spaces, tones, and classical details appear noble and gracious and yet non-assertive, non-distracting. Before, between, or after a performance, one can enjoy the spectacle of people and architecture in the foyers and promenades. ("The sparkling light, the animated and smiling faces, the greetings exchanged, all will have an air of festivity and pleasure." - Charles Garnier) During performances, the eye, or the mind's eye, can take in the full curve of the proscenium arch, enjoy the unifying motif of octagonal coffers; rest on the uncluttered walls; trace the lines of the neat gilt-pointed, cast-stone rustication, the suave balcony curves, feel a trace of antique pride in the high "organ chamber" arches, the traditional gold curtain, the Edgar Walter nudes on horseback. All soothes and uplifts, accustoms one to elegance and grace. This cream-gold-and-rose-velvet luxe may clash with the occasional Lulu or Lear: but for 90% of the repertoire it seems a perfect setting, and makes the experience of a good opera better in San Francisco than almost anywhere else.

AWord from the Director

In this production the traditional, published order of numbers in the third act has been changed to accord with what is now widely believed to have been Mozart's original intention. The revised sequence places the Countess' recitative and aria "E Susanna non vien . . . Dove sono," and the preceding Cherubino-Barbarina recitative "Andiam, andiam, bel paggio," between the Count's aria and the sextet, instead of following them. This not only makes better dramatic sense, it also results in a key sequence ("Dove sono" in C major, sextet in F major and "Letter Duet" in Bb major) that is consistent with the meticulous care Mozart usually exhibits in the tonal structure of his operas.

This solution to a problem that had long perplexed commentators (and directors) was first proposed by Robert Moberly and Christopher Raeburn in the April 1965 issue of Music and Letters. They suggested that Mozart made the change (which involves the only part of the act not directly derived from Beaumarchais's play) during rehearsals for the Vienna premiere of 1786, when the same singer, Francesco Bussani, had to play both Doctor Bartolo and the gardener Antonio. In the conjectured original order, it would have been impossible for Bussani to appear as Bartolo in the recitative following the sextet, and then immediately re-enter dressed as Antonio for the recitative preceding the "Letter Duet."

The "new" order has been accepted by some of the most illustrious conductors today, including Charles Mackerras at the English National Opera, Colin Davis at Covent Garden, Georg Solti at the Paris Opéra and Herbert von Karajan at the Salzburg Festival and Vienna Staatsoper. The revised sequence was seen in the 1981 Spring Opera Theater production, but this is the first time audiences in the War Memorial Opera House will be seeing Mozart's opera as we believe he meant it to be seen.

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performance of Le Nozze di Figaro was announced for 28 April - meaning that by then it should have been accepted, copied, learned, designed and rehearsed. The premiere was postponed until 1 May, and on 29 April Mozart wrote the overture, one of his most brilliant, and longer than the piece of music which we all know (Mozart tore out a middle section). The six weeks which da Ponte remembered were, I am sure, those in the autumn of 1785 when Mozart was writing, playing his music to da Ponte perhaps, and explaining why the poor poet had to write some more for their opera which both knew, by then, was going to be "a new kind of spectacle to a public of so refined a taste and such just understanding." It had to be something remarkable and convincing if it was to succeed on the Vienna stage and make their promising reputation established and beneficial - both were hard up; Mozart had to appeal for funds to a publisher in November of 1785.

In February 1786 Mozart obliged his Imperial Majesty and employer with Der Schauspieldirektor. It must have been before this that da Ponte went to Joseph II with the text of Le Nozze di Figaro. Later he retailed the story thus:

Emp. Don't you know that Mozart, though a wonder at instrumental music, has written only one opera and nothing remarkable at that?

Da P. Yes, Sire, but without your Majesty's clemency I would have written but one drama for Vienna.

Emp. But this Mariage de Figaro — I have just forbidden the German company to use it.

Da P. Yes, Sire, but I was writing an opera, not a comedy. I had to omit many scenes and cut others considerably. I have omitted or cut anything that might offend good taste or public decency at a performance over which the Sovereign Majesty might preside. The music, I may add, as far as I may judge of it, seems to me marvelously beautiful.

Joseph II favored da Ponte, and so gave his blessing on Le Nozze and sent a messenger to Mozart who arrived with his score and played it to the Emperor who was much enchanted by the music, and ordered it to be copied,

and the opera scheduled for immediate production.

Figaro was thus given official favor at the expense of Martín's Una Cosa rara, and Righini's Demogorgone (in which Kelly gave an impersonation of da Ponte). The Abbé Casti's faction did all they could to hinder the production, so Josepha Duschek and her musician husband. Franz, then visiting Vienna, reported to Leopold Mozart. The singers were bribed, according to Franz Xaver Niemecek, to sing wrongly, until Mozart persuaded the Emperor to intervene and threaten them. The climate changed, according to Michael Kelly (the Irish tenor who doubled Don Basilio and Don Curzio) when Benucci rehearsed "Non più andrai" on stage and, by his vocal splendor and musicianly eloquence, won over the entire company and the orchestra.

The first performance was postponed until 1 May 1786 (appropriate day for such a left-wing opera). Storace as Susanna "enchanted eye, ear and soul" according to one Hungarian spectator. She was the *prima donna* of the company and for many years Susanna's was generally considered a more important role than that of Countess Almaviva — Susanna sings in many more musical numbers. Count Almaviva was sung by Stefano Mandini.

The Countess was sung by Luisa Laschi, later Mozart's Zerlina, by then Mme. Mombelli - we would consider them roles for quite different singers, the former a heroic lyric soprano, the latter a soubrette. Mandini's wife Maria sang Marcellina and was evidently a soprano with a compass up to high B, not a contralto as often cast nowadays. The Cherubino was Dorothea Sardi-Bussani, good looking, rather than vocally or musically gifted, but the wife of Francesco Bussani, manager of the company, who (surely a last-minute decision necessitating a change of order in Act III) doubled Don Bartolo and Antonio and was, according to da Ponte, "a jack of all trades save that of an honest man." Mozart wrote Barbarina for a very young girl. By good fortune he found Nannina Gottlieb, who was just Beaumarchais's prescribed twelve years old; later she was his first Pamina.

The first performance went "imperfectly," but was acclaimed as a masterpiece, though some galleryites hissed. At the second performance five encores were given, seven in the third whereupon the Emperor forbade repeats of numbers for more than one voice (Figaro is especially rich in magnificent ensembles). Altogether the opera was performed nine times, successfully, in 1786, then dropped from the Vienna repertory. But by the end of the year it had been taken up in Prague with extraordinary public success; Mozart was invited to enjoy this and he commented with surprise and pleasure how the tunes were to be heard as quadrilles at fashionable dances, or whistled by common folk in the street. As a result the Prague company commissioned Don Giovanni, and Vienna (but not until 1789), revived Figaro and suddenly found that it was more popular than before. It remained in the repertory there until Mozart's death, then was dropped until 1798. Already the music had been published, and during the nineteenth century productions occurred regularly here and there, usually much altered. Nowadays we deplore this but Mozart was quite accustomed to such changes; he made them himself, even to Figaro. An extra aria for Cherubino has not survived, nor a ballet at the end of Act One, mentioned by da Ponte. But there are two alternative (less pointful) arias which Susanna sang in the 1789 Vienna revival (the singer was Mozart's first Fiordiligi) and I can hardly believe that Almaviva was not given, somewhere, sometime, a second aria since all his fellow principals had at least two. Marcellina, Barbarina, Basilio, and Bartolo have one each: often some of these are omitted from performance. A definite text for Figaro would not be performable: some alternative numbers are lost, others are simply alternatives; there is an orchestral recitative for "Non più andrai," but is it by Mozart? There are a million musical problems to be sorted out. But audiences are certain to leave any performance of The Marriage of Figaro feeling years younger and livelier, perhaps even more friendly to their fellow human beings. It is not a moral opera, but it makes you feel much, much better.





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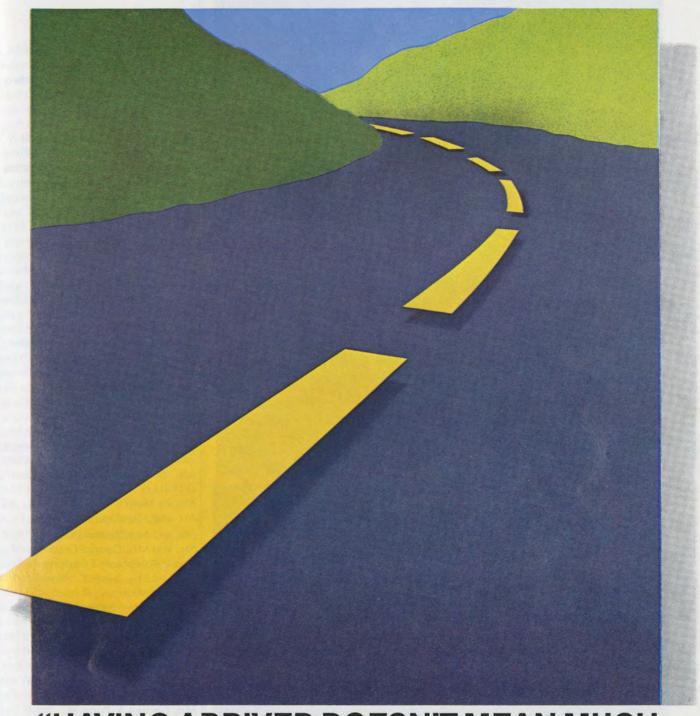
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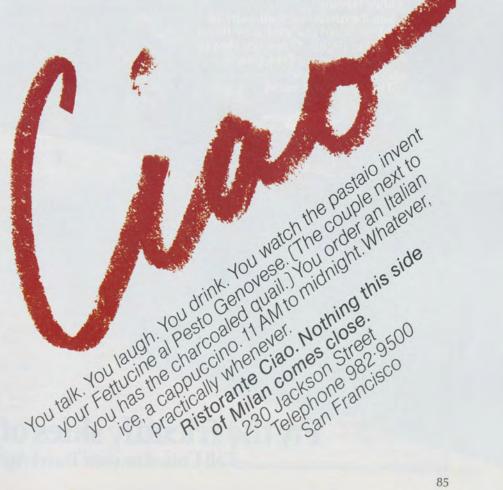
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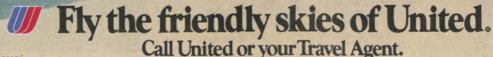
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This season's Opera House Museum exhibit, assembled by San Francisco Opera's Christine Albany, evokes the excitement that surrounded the building of this "Temple of Music" and its sister-structure, the Veterans Building. The exhibit includes rare photographs and memorabilia, original documents and recorded portions of the first act of *Tosca* as it was broadcast nationally by NBC on that memorable October evening in 1932.

The Opera House Museum, located in the south corridor of the mezzanine (box) level behind the Opera Boutique, is open one hour before curtain and during every intermission. We hope you will take a few moments this season to share in the joy of that historic Opening Night of 1932 and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of San Francisco Opera's beautiful home.



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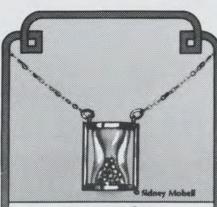
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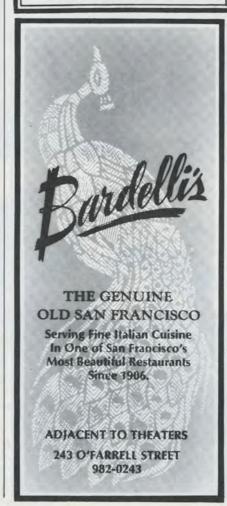
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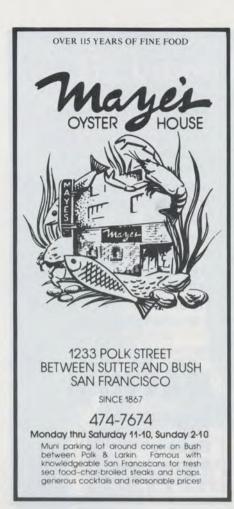
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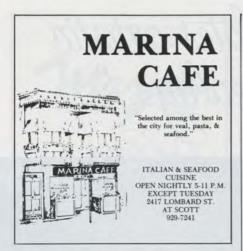




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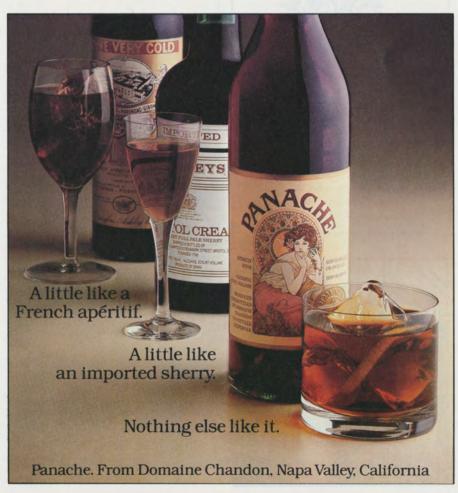
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Services

Bus Service

Many Opera goers who live in the northern section of San Francisco are regular patrons of the Municipal Railway special "Opera Bus."

This bus is added to Muni's northbound 47 line following all evening performances of the Opera, Symphony, Ballet and other major events. The service is also provided for all Saturday and Sunday matinees.

Look for this bus, marked "47 Special," after each performance in the bus zone at Van Ness Avenue and Grove Street - across Van Ness from the Opera

House.

Its route is as follows:

North on Van Ness to Chestnut, then left to Divisadero where it turns left to Union. It continues on Union over Russian Hill to Columbus, then left to Powell - then right to the end of the line at North Point.

Taxi Service

Patrons needing a cab at the end of the performance should reserve one with the doorman at the Taxi Entrance before the end of the final intermission.

Food Service

The lower lounge in the Opera House is now open one and one-half hours prior to curtain time for hot buffet service. Patrons arriving before the front doors open will be admitted at the Carriage Entrance.

Refreshments are served in the box tier on the mezzanine floor, the grand tier and dress circle levels during all

performances.

Emergency Telephone

The telephone number 431-4370 may be used by patrons for emergencies only during performances. Before the performance, patrons anticipating possible emergencies should leave their seat number at the Nurse's Station in the lower lounge, where the emergency telephone is located.

FIRE NOTICE: There are sufficient exits in this building to accommodate the entire audience. The exit indicated by the lighted "Exit" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route to the street. In case of fire please do not run - walk through that exit.

Watch That Watch

Patrons are reminded to please check that their digital watch alarms are switched OFF before the performance begins.

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ALLIES AID OPERA!

Big Jewelry Heist!

More than \$15,000 worth of juvelry was taken without a struggle from prominent San Francisco citizens and businesse and later donated as prizes for the Opera Raffle. Mystery shrouds the identity of the suspect.

In an exclusive interview, Artina Grahn said. "He was a debonair sort of fellow along the lines of the suave gentleman thief, Raffles, from early David Niven movies. He promised continued superlative performances at the Opera House if I would hand over my wife's \$6000 diamond ring, Naturally, we let him have R."

have it."

A reliable source at Neiman-Marcus said the suspect appeared as a latter-day Robin
Blood — very chivalirous about
the sneeds of the opera, so how
could we resist! We gave him an
amethyst and diamond necklace
valued as \$5000."



First Night Finery

This year's Opera Season will be especially memorable for one charmed lady. It Magain had donated a mushing Bine For packet. The site of design feature a mandarin cottar and it his length. It is quantized to turn length, it is quantized to form 1500. What goes on under the luxurious jacket just might be the compliments of Saks Fills Avenue. They have donated igt certificate. Value 8500.



San Francisco Opera General Director, Terry McEven tries to talk Luciano Pavarotti into letting the Company raffle of the tenor's prize Massrati... 30 lucky raffle winners will receive LUCIANO, the tenor's latest London Records release.

Early Bird Prize! Ooh la-la! What a Difference a Day Makes!

The day is October 15, the leadline for the Early Bird brawing. And what a catch this ear's lucky winner will make "WA's round trip for two to aris and Amsterdam with all he trimmings.

In Paris you'll stay for a week in the heart of the Left Bank at the exclusive Bourgogne et Montane Hotel. You'll be wined, dined and pampered silly at the most famous restau-

Woman Fights Losing Battle In Country; Saves Face in City

premises to transform one lucky winner in this year's San Franciaco Opera Baffie. The week begins at the fabrious Soossas Week and the Springs. A personalized, delicious del plan under the supervision of a trained nutriliniate guarantees loss of weight without loss of patience. For seven dray, nor lucky lady will be parapered with manages, facials and seven the seven described to the sev

The new body might want a new look I. Magain covers it all from facial and makeup to body massage to the crowning glory of a shampoo and finish. And, going to extremes on this day of days, manifume and needfure.

days, manicure and pedicure.
But there's more here than
meets the eye. For the piece de
resistance, Laykin et Cle offer
dome-shaped 16-karst gold earrings, designed in a striking circular interplay of black and
white enamed with brilliant goldring highlights. Ogly. Jaskin et

Loyalists Donate Wealth of Prizes

S. F. Opera – Winner

In a year of belt tightening that no around, this year's San Francisc Opera Raffle offers a good tee of relief from the old emas Generous donors have railised to support the opera's needs will prises that range from self in proveness to nelf-indulgence and a whole lot more in but went. Give back page for con twent.

The emphasis seems to be on getting away from it all - whether it be 7000 miles away oright here in one of San Francis

Apart from the Grand Priss
the Boson Prises and the Earl
Bird Prise, there are two romatic 14-day cruises to the Caribbe
as for two. One aboard the Notweglan American Line elegan
five star Sagafjord via Bermud
and Mexico, and the other wit
Holland America on its new
Trans-Canal Boote.

In another region of the subest, United Airlines, Westi Hotels and Hawsiian Airline have put together a dream vaction for two in Hawaii — Iw days in each of Westin's luxur hotels: the Mauna Kea on 'th big island," the Westin Waile on Maui and the Westin likan i

And moving right along in a different direction — Sitmar Crulses, KKHI Tours and Jackson Travel give two more lucky winners a fabulous 14-day cruise to view the splendors of

Last, but by no means least, Aeromesice and Empire Tours with the help of the Mexican Tourism Office offer a round trip for two to Manzanillo and six nights at the fabled Las Hadas Hotel.

Rembrandt, Goya Etchings

For the art collector, what cheaper than an afternoon. Butterfield's and more forthou than finding a Matine at garge safe? Way, the San Fractico Opera Raffile. Where et dees one have the opportunity deed to the control of the contr

Hardie's Heritage Gallery gratoga has donated a dryod burin etching of Remued on Back Page



Loyalists defending the cultural caus

Grand Prize! Meet the Girl From Ipanema

You've guessed it — Riot And the best part is getting there — a 25-day leisurely, laxing from cruise for two on a Della Croise Lines majestic Santa Liner. It will be like being on your own private yacht with an eciector group of passengers limited to 105. Everything is first class from food and entertainment to outdoor extragargements. Perb in-

ranama Canai and Puerto Cabeiv. Veneruela. And then down be jungle-covered coast to the said of leash rain forests, the safel Gras. Corcovado and Coscabana, where you'll stay in a celeium botel for two days while subying the magnificent beachsubying the magnificent beachsubying the magnificent beachsubying the magnificent beachter to San Francisco via the travelless Attended Varigi.



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3 MAJOR DRAWINGS

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Ticket Information

San Francisco Opera Box Office. Lobby, War Memorial Opera House: Van Ness at Grove, (415) 864-3330. 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Monday through Saturday. 10 A.M. through first intermission on all performance days.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The box office in the outer lobby of the Opera House will remain open through the first intermission of every performance. Tickets for remaining performances in the season may be purchased at this time.

Unused Tickets

Patrons who are unable to attend a performance may make a worthwhile contribution to the San Francisco Opera Association by returning their tickets to the Box Office or telephoning (415) 431-1210. Donors will receive a receipt for the full value, but the amount is not considered a contribution to the fund drive or fulfillment of a fund drive pledge.

Opera glasses are available for rent in the lobby.

Please note that no cameras or tape recorders are permitted in the Opera House.

Children of any age attending a performance must have a ticket.

Management reserves the right to remove any patron creating a disturbance.

For lost and found information, inquire at check room No. 3 or call (415) 621-6600, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Performing Arts Center Tours

Tours of the San Francisco Performing Arts Center, which include the War Memorial Opera House, the Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall and the Herbst Theatre take place as follows:

Mondays, 10:00-2:30 on the hour and half hour

Davies Hall only: Wednesday 1:30/2:30 — Saturday 12:30/1:30

All tours leave from Davies Symphony Hall, Grove Street entrance

General \$3.00 — Seniors/Students \$2.00 For further information, please call (415) 552-8338

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An objective of the new TOP engine was to improve efficiency and lower exhaust emissions in the partial load realm-where an WAKE MANIFOLD VACUUM engine normally operates—without loss of maximum performance. To accomplish this, Porsche engineers laid out the optimum air/fuel mixtures along the engine's entire working range.

In addition, Porsche engineers divided the TOP engine's

operating range into 256 parts and developed separate maps of the optimum ignition timing points (shown left) and the optimum fuel injection volumes as a function of intake manifold vacuum (load) and engine revolutions (speed). Both maps have been programmed into a computer in the 944 which reads engine temperature, engine speed,

crank position, throttle position, intake air temperature, intake air flow, and exhaust-gas oxygen content-then makes instantaneous calculations, and provides optimum values for both the electronic ignition timing and fuel injec-

Porsche engineers also included an automatic fuel shut-off system to provide further efficiency when the throttle valve is closed. (A timedelay relay prevents fuel shut-off during gear-shifting.) No other engine has this combination of advanced engineering features. At Porsche, excellence is expected.





determined by its compression ratio and combustion-chamber design.

The TOP engine's compression ratio is a high 9.5:1 to optimize performance. Its combustion-chamber design (shown left) is extremely compact and has dual quench zones to optimize the velocity swirl of the air/fuel mixture.

On the track, the 944 accelerates from 0 to 50 mph in 5.9 seconds. And it reaches the ¼-mile mark from a standing start in only 16.2 seconds at 84 mph. Its top speed: 130 mph.

Test drive the 944. For your nearest dealer, call toll-free: (800) 447-4700. In Illinois, (800) 322-4400.

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Marlboro	16	1.0	Benson & Hedges 100's	16	1.1
Salem	14	1.1	Parliament Lights 100's	12	0.9
Kool Milds	11	0.9	Salem 100's	15	1.1
Newport	16	1.2	Marlboro 100's	16	1.1
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