Don Carlos

1986

Friday, September 5, 1986 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 10, 1986 7:00 PM Saturday, September 13, 1986 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 17, 1986 7:00 PM Saturday, September 20, 1986 7:00 PM Sunday, September 28, 1986 1:00 PM Wednesday, October 1, 1986 7:00 PM

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San Francisco Opera

Don Carlos

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Terence A. McEwen, General Director

Sir John Pritchard, Music Director

Don Carlos

FEATURES

- About Don Carlos by Andrew Porter
 Introduction to the five-act French Don Carlos, written by the undisputed authority on the subject, the musicologist who discovered many 'lost' parts of the Verdi opera.
- 38 Don Carlos: Up Close and Personal by David Littlejohn
 An extremely close look at the *real* Don Carlos, Prince of Asturias.
- 61 Company Profiles: Dale Wibben
 A brief portrait of a man who is a most important part of the Costume Shop team.



FALL SEASON 1986

DEPARTMENTS

- 14 1986 Fall Season Repertoire
- 35 Artist Profiles
- 41 Cast and Credits
- 42 Synopsis
- 66 Opera Previews
- 69 Box Holders
- 71 NEA Challenge Grant
- 72 Donor Benefits
- 74 Corporate Council
- 75 Medallion Society
- 78 Supporting San Francisco Opera
- 86 Services

COVER:

Titian (Italian, orig. name Tiziano Vecelli; c. 1477-1576), *An Allegory of Prudence*, c. 1565-70
Oil on canvas, 29¾ x 27 in.

Reproduced by courtesy of the Trustees, The National Gallery, London.

(The Latin inscription in the background translates as: "From the past, the present acts prudently, lest it spoil the future.")

Proceeds from the sale of this magazine benefit the San Francisco Opera.

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From the Chairman of the Board and the President

At the beginning of San Francisco Opera's 1986 fall program, we have the pleasure of welcoming you once again to a season that combines repertory favorites with masterpieces less frequently encountered on the opera stages of the western world. During the course of the season, the curtain will go up on ten operas, three of which will be presented in totally new productions. The ten operas that make up our fall repertoire will be staged in both traditional and modern ways and will echo with the sounds of five different languages, all made accessible by a popular innovation, Supertitles.

The San Francisco Opera is fortunate in having a staunch group of supporters, whose generosity is vividly reflected in this fall's season. Our new productions will come to us through the courtesy of three generous donors: Mr. Evert B. Person underwrote our new Don Carlos, which will be given for the first time in its original French; a much-needed new production of a repertory favorite, La Bohème, will be presented in memory of George L. Quist; and Macbeth, in a strikingly new format, will come to us through the generous grant of the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.

Four of our revival productions will be presented through the courtesy of AT&T (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Bernard and Barbro Osher (*Jenůfa*), Friends of Richard K. Miller (*La Forza del Destino*), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederick Kohlenberg (*Manon*).

A generous grant from Chevron U.S.A. will enable us to enjoy Supertitles in Don Carlos, Le Nozze di Figaro, Jenufa, La Forza del Destino and Faust; a deeply appreciated gift from Frank Tack will make them available for Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg.

In acknowledging our governmental funding sources this year, we take particular pleasure in announcing that we have achieved the first-year goal of the National Endowment for the Arts' Challenge Grant, a feat that was accomplished through the concerted efforts and contributions of the Opera's Executive Committee, Board of Directors and close friends of the Opera. Funds from the grant and related matching gifts will be used to augment the Company's Endowment Fund. Special thanks are also due the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for its generous three-year grant, earmarked for the development of the San Francisco Opera Center.

The Hotel Tax Fund, Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas and the California Arts Council have all once again provided us with their much-appreciated support. The San Francisco Opera Guild, the Merola Opera Program and the War Memorial Board of Trustees also deserve our appreciation for their continued support.

The Board of Directors has this year been enriched by the addition of five new members. Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne heads the list, the first time a singer has joined our ranks; we are also proud to welcome prominent civic leader Charlotte Mailliard, as well as businessmen Evert B. Person, William Rollnick and F.J. Thomas Tilton. All five new members are active in numerous civic organizations and are significant additions to our Board.

In closing, we would again like to remind our loyal friends and supporters that, although our financial position is strong, and while slightly over half of our income is provided by ticket sales—an impressive statistic by any major opera company's standards—we are still left with a large amount that has to be raised in order to end the year in the black.

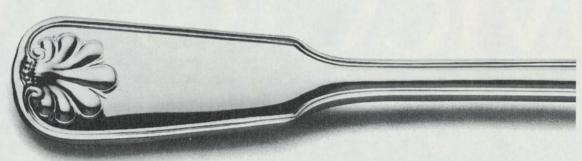
A very special opera season is about to begin. It continues a tradition of prominence that is sometimes taken for granted. Maintenance of this tradition, such an important part of what makes life in the Bay Area so special, requires dedication. We encourage and urge you to give us your continuing or new support.

Reid W. Dennis, Chairman Tully M. Friedman, President



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General Director's Message

As we begin San Francisco Opera's 64th annual Fall Season, I would like to share with our audiences several thoughts regarding the direction our Company is taking.

It is my belief that no opera company can achieve the steady progress necessary for vital artistic development without firm convictions-and dreams. With the emergence of superior-quality American artists from the ranks of our Opera Center, some of whose achievements you have witnessed recently on this stage, I really believe that we can develop into the kind of opera company Arturo Toscanini dreamed about in the 1920s: an ensemble company, with stars. This kind of company will consist of a solid, defined base of artists, grown and trained in our own environment, with the added number of world-traveling stars who are part of opera's special glamour. Our Opera Center graduates will thus not be restricted to supporting roles; they will share the stage with international stars, both as their support and as their equals. In the 1985 Fall Season, and in this year's Summer and Fall Seasons, we have taken steps in that direction.

I further believe that our Company, which is already respected world-wide, can also become one that will be *envied* world-wide, as a place where audiences are given the deep satisfaction of following brilliant new careers from their beginnings to their integration into the international opera scene.

This year's Fall Season also illustrates one of the challenges I faced when I first moved to San Francisco and saw the necessity of re-building the standard repertoire, since many of our productions for the great masterpieces of the 19th century had grown old. This season, we will unveil new stagings of one Puccini and two Verdi operas, and each has a very special point of interest.

The new *Don Carlos*, musically speaking, should be closer to what Verdi had in mind when he wrote the opera than any major production in recent years. It is performed in the original French, and our

production emphasizes the horrors of the Inquisition and the oppressive pall it must have thrown over Europe at the time. Our Bohème, in its turn, highlights Paris, the city that gave birth to the bohemian revolution in art and literature, a fact about the background to this beloved Italian opera that tends to be forgotten. The Macbeth production promises to

provide as direct an emotional wallop as the Shakespeare play does at first encounter.

Welcome to our 1986 Fall Season!

I AME

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1986 Fall Season

Opening Night
Friday, September 5, **7:00**New Production
Don Carlos Verdi

Lorengar, Toczyska, Voigt*, S. Patterson; Shicoff, Titus, Lloyd, Rouleau*, Skinner, De Haan, Anderson, Delavan* Pritchard (September 5, 10, 13, 17, 20), Johnson (September 28; October 1)/Cox/ Lazaridis*/Gardner**/Munn

San Francisco Opera expresses its deep appreciation to Mr. Evert B. Person for his generous gift to underwrite this new production.

Saturday, September 6, 7:30

Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart

Te Kanawa, Rolandi, Quittmeyer, Christin*,
Chen; Ramey, Devlin, Korn*, Dennis
Petersen, Harper, Pederson
Tate/Copley/Brown/Arhelger

The revival of this production is made possible, in part, by a grant from AT&T.

Tuesday, September 9, **7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro** Mozart

Wednesday, September 10, 7:00

Don Carlos Verdi

Friday, September 12, **7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro** Mozart

Saturday, September 13, 7:00

Don Carlos Verdi

Sunday, September 14, 2:00

Jenufa · Janáček

Beňačková*, Rysanek, Young, Voigt,
Cowdrick, Chen, Hartliep, Shaghoian;
Ochman, Rosenshein, Pederson, Coles*
Mackerras/Weber/Bauer-Ecsy/Munn

The revival of this production is made possible by a generous gift from Bernard and Barbro Osher.

Tuesday, September 16, **7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro** Mozart

Wednesday, September 17, **7:00 Don Carlos**Verdi

Friday, September 19, 8:00 **Jenůfa** Janáček

Saturday, September 20, 7:00 Don Carlos Verdi

Sunday, September 21, **1:30 Le Nozze di Figaro** Mozart

Tuesday, September 23, 8:00 **Jenůfa** Janáček

Wednesday, September 24, **7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro** Mozart

Thursday, September 25, **7:30 La Forza del Destino** Verdi
Slatinaru, Forst, Bruno; Cossutta, Brendel,
Plishka, Fissore, Andreolli, J. Patterson,
Skinner, Coles
Arena/Calábria/Samaritani/Munn

This production was originally made possible by a gift from the estate of William H. Noble and friends of the San Francisco Opera.

The revival of this production is made possible by friends of Richard K. Miller and dedicated to his memory.

Friday, September 26, **7:30 Le Nozze di Figaro**Mozart

Saturday, September 27, 8:00 **Jenůfa** Janáček

Sunday, September 28, 1:00 Don Carlos Verdi

Tuesday, September 30, **7:30**La Forza del Destino
Verdi

Wednesday, October 1, 7:00

Don Carlos Verdi

Thursday, October 2, **7:30 Jenůfa** Janáček

Saturday, October 4, 7:30 **La Forza del Destino** Verdi

Sunday, October 5, 2:00 **Jenůfa** Janáček

Tuesday, October 7, 8:00

Faust Gounod

Johnson, Cowdrick, Christin; Kraus (October 7, 10, 16), TBA (October 22, 25, 30;

November 2), Lloyd, Titus, Delavan

Fournet/Zambello/Skalicki, Munn/Mahoney/

Munn

Thursday, October 9, **7:30**La Forza del Destino
Verdi

Friday, October 10, 8:00 Faust Gounod

Sunday, October 12, **1:30**La Forza del Destino Verdi

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00

Die Meistersinger von

Nürnberg Wagner

Studer*, Walker; Tschammer, King, Trempont, Rydl, Gordon, Del Carlo, Emde, J. Patterson, Dennis Petersen, Pederson, Duykers, Coles, Harper, Potter, MacAllister Adler/Brenner/Oswald/Munn

This production was originally made possible by the Robert Watt Miller Memorial Fund.

Wednesday, October 15, **7:30**La Forza del Destino Verdi

Thursday, October 16, 8:00 Faust Gounod

Saturday, October 18, **7:30**La Forza del Destino Verdi

Sunday, October 19, 1:00

Die Meistersinger Wagner

Wednesday, October 22, **7:30 Faust** Gounod

Thursday, October 23, **7:00 Die Meistersinger** Wagner

Friday, October 24, 8:00

New Production

La Bohème Puccini

Miricioiu, Izzo D'Amico* (October 24, 28, 31; November 4), Gustafson (November 6, 9, 12, 15); Cupido (October 24, 28, 31; November 4), Lima (November 6, 9, 12, 15), Krause, Pendergraph, Langan, Del Carlo, Gudas,

Arena/Freedman/Mitchell/Button*/Munn This production is dedicated to the memory of

Saturday, October 25, 8:00 Faust Gounod

Harper, Pederson, Coles

George L. Quist.

Sunday, October 26, 1:00

Die Meistersinger Wagner

Tuesday, October 28, 8:00 La Bohème Puccini

Wednesday, October 29, **7:00 Die Meistersinger** Wagner

Thursday, October 30, 8:00 Faust Gounod

Friday, October 31, 8:00 La Bohème Puccini



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Saturday, November 1, 7:00

Die Meistersinger Wagner

Sunday, November 2, 2:00 Faust Gounod

Tuesday, November 4, 8:00 **La Bohème** Puccini

Thursday, November 6, 8:00 **La Bohème** Puccini

Friday, November 7, **7:00 Die Meistersinger** Wagner

Saturday, November 8, 8:00
Production new to San Francisco
Eugene Onegin Tchaikovsky
Freni, Walker, Cook, Donna Petersen; Allen*,
Gulyás, Ghiaurov, Tate, Skinner, Delavan
Bradshaw/Copley/Don/Stennett/Munn/
Sulich

This production is owned by the National Arts Centre of Canada and was originally produced for Festival Ottawa 1983.

Sunday, November 9, 2:00 La Bohème Puccini

Tuesday, November 11, 8:00 Eugene Onegin Tchaikovsky

Wednesday, November 12, **7:30**La Bohème Puccini

Friday, November 14, 8:00

Manon Massenet

Greenawald, Chen, S. Patterson, Cowdrick;
Araiza, G. Quilico*, Paul*, Corazza, Malis,
Pederson

Fournet/Mansouri/Mitchell/George/Munn

This production was originally made possible by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and the late James D. Robertson.

The revival of this production is made possible by a deeply appreciated gift from Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederick Kohlenberg.

Saturday, November 15, 8:00 La Bohème Puccini

Sunday, November 16, 2:00 **Eugene Onegin** Tchaikovsky

Wednesday, November 19, 8:00
New Production
Macbeth Verdi
Verrett, Voigt; Noble, Tomlinson, Popov*,
Harper, Skinner, Potter, Coles
Kord/Pizzi/Pizzi/Munn

The San Francisco Opera gratefully acknowledges the generous grant from the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation to underwrite this new production. Thursday, November 20, 7:30

Manon Massenet

Friday, November 21, 8:00 Eugene Onegin Tchaikovsky

Saturday, November 22, 8:00 Macbeth Verdi

Sunday, November 23, 2:00 Manon Massenet

Tuesday, November 25, 8:00 Macbeth Verdi

Wednesday, November 26, 7:30 **Eugene Onegin** Tchaikovsky

Friday, November 28, 8:00 Manon Massenet

Saturday, November 29, 8:00 **Macbeth** Verdi

Sunday, November 30, 1:00

Eugene Onegin Tchaikovsky

Sunday, November 30, 8:00 Manon Massenet

Tuesday, December 2, 8:00 Macbeth Verdi

Wednesday, December 3, 8:00

Manon Massenet

Thursday, December 4, 7:30

Manon Massenet

Friday, December 5, 8:00 **Eugene Onegin** Tchaikovsky

Saturday, December 6, 8:00 **Manon** Massenet

Sunday, December 7, 2:00 Macbeth Verdi

**American opera debut *San Francisco Opera debut

All performances feature English Supertitles. Supertitles for Don Carlos, Le Nozze di Figaro, Jenufa, La Forza del Destino and Faust underwritten by a generous grant from Chevron U.S.A. Supertitles for Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg underwritten by a deeply appreciated gift from Frank Tack.

Repertoire, casts and dates subject to change.

Box Office and telephone sales: (415) 864-3330.

San Francisco Opera Guild Presents Opera for Young Audiences

FAUST

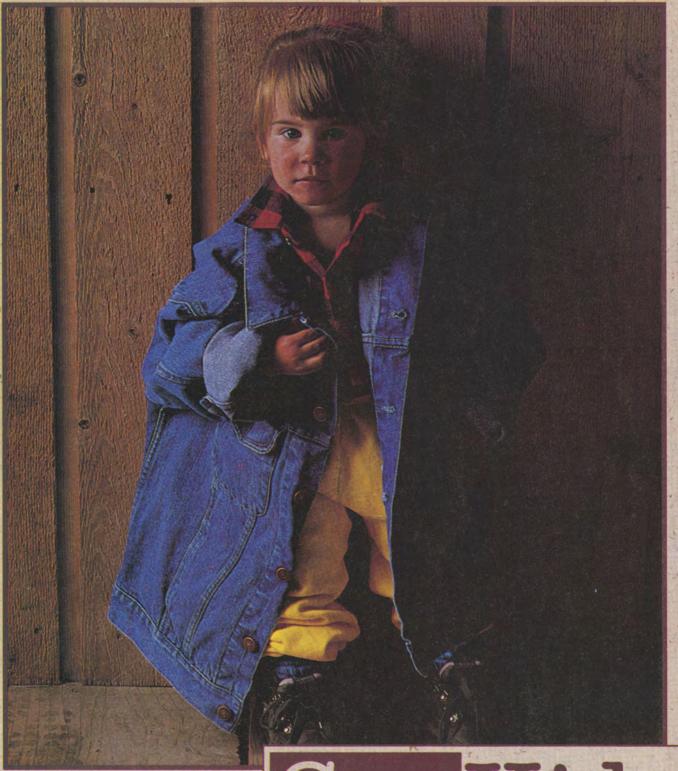
Gounod/in French with English Supertitles Thursday, October 16, 1:00 Thursday, October 30, 1:00

Matinee for Senior Citizens and Disabled Patrons Saturday, October 25, 1:00



The Ring Resplendent: San Francisco Opera's 1985 Ring cycle

The Archives for the Performing Arts invites you to view its exhibition of black and white photographs taken by Ira Nowinski, documenting San Francisco Opera's 1985 Ring cycle, currently on display in the War Memorial Opera House Museum. The series includes dramatic onstage shots, backstage views, and dressing room portraits. The Opera House Museum is located on the south mezzanine (box) level, adjacent to the Opera Boutique.





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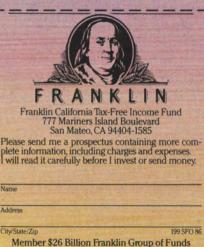
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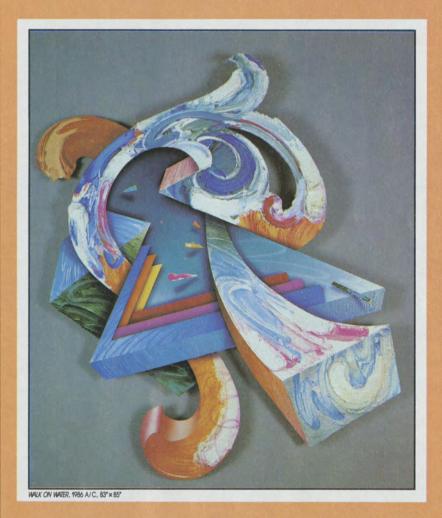
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About Don Carlos

By ANDREW PORTER

Many people value Don Carlos-that great drama of vivid characters caught in a web of State and Church, while the destinies of three nations hang on their decisions and actions-most highly of all Verdi's operas. Verdi himself, when asked whether he preferred Don Carlos or Aida. declared that while Aida had more "theatricality," in Don Carlos there were passages surpassing anything in the later opera. There is no "definitive" version of the score. Verdi first worked on Don Carlos in 1865-67, and on March 11, 1867 brought it to performance at the Paris Opéra. In 1872, for a Naples production, he made some slight revisions. Then in 1882-83 he undertook a thoroughgoing revision of the opera, reducing it from five acts to four; and in this new version the opera had its premiere (in Italian translation) at La Scala on January 10th, 1884.

The story doesn't end there. By no means. In 1886, yet another version of Don Carlos appeared, in Modena, with the "missing" first act reinstated, joined to the four acts of the revised version. The "Paris," "Naples," "Scala" and "Modena" scores were all published, and for nearly a hundred years opera companies made choices between them or—notably in Germany, Russia, and later in London—combined elements of each.

In 1969, the Institute of Verdi Stu-

Giuseppe Verdi is the subject of a colored lithograph/caricature, published in London's Vanity Fair in 1879.

Andrew Porter, the music critic of The New Yorker, has translated many operas: among them Macbeth (1847 and 1865 versions), La Forza del Destino (1862 and 1869 versions), Don Carlos (1867 and 1883 versions), Otello (1887 and 1894 versions), and Falstaff (1893 and 1894 versions).

dies, in Parma, convened an international congress on the subject of Don Carlos; and it was here that we learned that the opera had once contained even more music than is represented by the four printed scores. In Verdi's autograph score, which is now in the French Bibliothèque Nationale, and in the 1867 conducting copy, which is in the Paris Opéra Library, the American scholar David Rosen had found the stub ends of a good many pages carefully cut away (with the measures leading into or out of them crossed out on the pages that remained). In the conducting copy, he'd actually found one of the missing pieces of music, a section of the Philip-Posa duet; in this case the scrapped page had just been folded over, not physically removed. Meanwhile, in Verdi's villa at Sant'Agata, the German scholar Ursula Günther had been looking at the manuscript librettos that Verdi worked from; and there she had found the words of these missing sections.

A few months later, I was in Paris, in

the Opéra Library, and I asked to see the original material—the manuscript parts from which Don Carlos had been performed in 1867. Imagine my excitement when I discovered that all this "missing" music—pages and pages of Verdi's great opera, forgotten for over a century—was recoverable. Among the discoveries was the opening chorus; a duet for the two women; and a duet for Philip and his son. over the body of Posa, built on the melody that Verdi later used for the "Lacrimosa" of his Requiem. In the individual parts. this music hadn't been literally cut away, but only stitched or pinned together, or pasted down. I got permission to snip the stitches, take out rusty pins, and gently ease apart what had been pasted. I bought a fat sheaf of thirty-two-staff music paper. Line by line, as I copied, the music built up before me. It was almost all there; in just two places, a small instrumental patch had to be supplied.

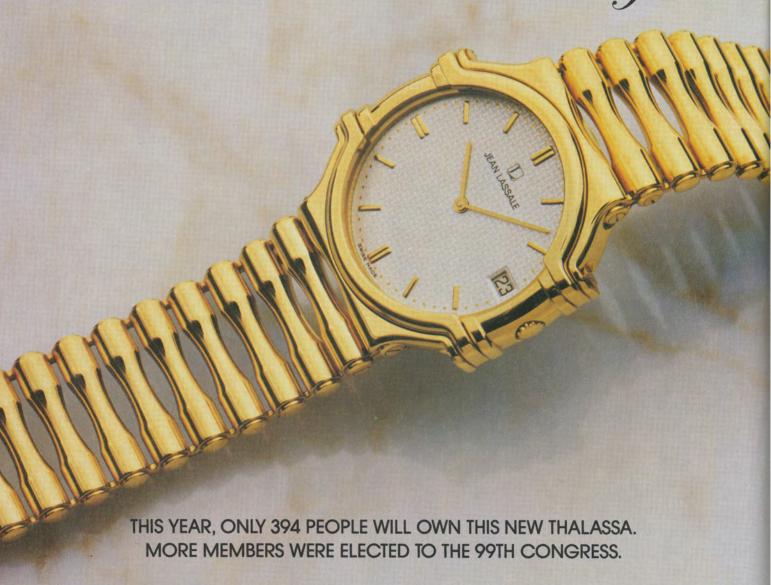
In 1973, both the BBC and the Opera Company of Boston were able to put on



In 1867, Verdi's Don Carlos received its Paris premiere as well as no less than 42 additional performances at the Opéra. Three months later, swiftly translated into Italian by A. de Lauzières, it appeared in London, at Covent Garden. A contemporary engraving deals with the auto-da-fé scene.

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San Francisco Opera's first Eboli was Irene Dalis. She sang the role at the Company's Don Carlo premiere, in 1958, returning in 1962, at which time she was captured in this backstage photo.

much fuller versions of *Don Carlos* than had ever been given before. (Some of the "new" music had already been heard in New York and London concert performances.) Brussels, Venice, and, in 1974, the English National Opera also borrowed my score. Before leaving Paris, I had told Mrs. Günther about my find. She prepared her own careful edition, and it has now been published in vocal score by Ricordi. And so, in recent years, hardly any two productions of *Don Carlos* have been textually identical. There's been even more music to choose from than before.

This new San Francisco production of *Don Carlos* will include music that has not been heard here before. (The unrevised *Don Carlos* was not performed in San Francisco as, for example, the unrevised *Macbeth* was, in 1862 and 1863.) General speculation on why the cuts were made (beyond the overriding consideration that *Don Carlos* as first conceived was

far too long for repertory use), and on whether the "new" music (some? all?) should be restored, can wait. Let us first consider the particular passages of "new" or unfamiliar music that (on present plans) will be heard today. In my discussion, I'll use the original French titles and text, since the opera is also going to be sung in the original language. More on that later.

The most important restoration of all is probably that of the Prélude et Introduction. This was Verdi's last-minute cut, made between a dress rehearsal that ran too long and the first performance. In the cut version, the opera begins with offstage fanfares and hunting-cries, and then the tenor's aria "Je l'ai vue." But originally Verdi set the scene and indicated the scope of the mighty drama. Violins, echoed by violas, sound the "lamenting" figure that recurs in many numbers of Don Carlos. (The first twenty bars were an inspired afterthought of Verdi's, as the orchestral parts make clear.) A sad melody winds upward on clarinet and oboe, and a chorus of woodcutters and their wives laments both the privations of a long winter and the hardships that the war with Spain has brought them. When the distant fanfares



Marilyn Horne as Princess Eboli at the San Francisco Opera in 1966.

and hunting calls ring out, the peasants reflect that kings have a happy life. The Princess Elisabeth crosses the stage, on horseback. The people cluster around her. In a short solo, she gives her golden chain to an old woman who has lost her two sons in the war, and tells the people to look forward to peace, brought about by her forthcoming marriage to Don Carlos. The people bless her, and the number ends with an alternation of the offstage royal hunt and the people's hopes for a better future.

The rest of the act is familiar, but it takes on a new color after this introduction. For Carlos comes forward having observed this scene. "Je l'ai vue" is now not just a simple love song but a dream of the future: he and Elisabeth are destined to ascend a throne from which will depend the happiness of half of Europe and much of America. Later, the crowd's appeal to Elisabeth to accept King Philip's hand and end their misery gains new urgency.

Act II will contain no unfamiliar music. The great duet that closes it, between King Philip and Rodrigue, Marquis of Posa, will be sung in the final, and finest, version that Verdi composed. Between 1864 and 1884, this duet went through four different forms. It was one of the passages that Verdi deemed most important: a confrontation between a liberal idealist and a "pragmatic," conservative politician. Verdi freely admitted that Posa was an anachronistic character, who in Philip's day would not have been permitted to live even as long as he does. Schiller—the ardent, revolutionary, idealistic playwright whose Don Carlos is the source of the libretto-invented him, and Verdi embraced him. The composer strove and strove, for the "Paris," for the "Naples," and then for the "Milan" versions, to get both words and music exactly right, and each time he wrote much of the text himself.

Before we leave Act II, a note on Princess Eboli is perhaps needed. The role was originally intended for a relatively unimportant singer, Rosine Bloch. The Opéra's star soprano Marie Sasse was to be the star of the show, as Elisabeth. But while composition was under way, and after Act II had already been written, the Opéra director, Auguste Perrin, suggested that Don Carlos might well feature two female stars, the other being Pauline Gueymard, as Eboli. Gueymard was also a soprano; she was the Opéra's first Leo-



Peter Glossop as Rodrigo at the San Francisco Opera in 1966.

nora in *Il Trovatore*. But, Perrin told Verdi, she had recently tackled mezzo roles with success and had been much approved in the low-lying part of Fidès in Meyerbeer's *Le Prophète*. Verdi accepted Perrin's suggestion; and Eboli's Veil Song in Act II, which Verdi had composed in G major, was pushed up a tone for Gueymard, into A. That explains a rather abrupt modulation before it. Mezzos who prefer G can claim authenticity for that key. (Mlle. Bloch, incidentally, covered both Elisabeth *and* Eboli.)

Act III in our version today begins with the Prelude that was composed in 1883. It continues with an 1867 offstage

"mandoline" chorus that introduces a delightful scene between Elisabeth and Eboli. The Queen has become wearied with the festivities; she asks Eboli to put on her mask and mantle and pretend to be the Queen while she, Elisabeth, retires to pray. Eboli agrees: "Pour une nuit me voilà Reine"—"For one night I am Queen here," and she plans to use the night to capture the heart of Carlos, whom she loves. There is a pretty reminiscence of the Veil Song from the previous act. A small monograph could be written about veil motifs in Don Carlos: Eboli sings of veils in Act II, wears one in Act III, and in Act IV declares that she will take a nun's veil. The

auto-da-fé, Act III Scene 2, which Verdi once declared to be the heart of his opera, is the only scene that he felt he had got right first time; from beginning to end he left it unrevised. No changes.

Act IV will bring its surprise when Elisabeth and Eboli are left alone on the stage. Philip's great aria and the duet with the Grand Inquisitor were never revised, and the scene between Elisabeth and Philip that follows will be done in the 1883 version, when Verdi replaced what he called a "stupid cantabile" for Elisabeth with "a strident outburst not beautiful, but theatrical." In 1883 he also made the subsequent quartet more concise. Then the two women are left alone. After Eboli's avowal that she loved Carlos and he spurned her, there is a long silence. Four bassoons, strings doubled, sound a tense theme, and over it the two women reflect. Elisabeth's line is controlled, thoughtful. Eboli's is fevered, marked by measured slow trills and octave leaps. Woodwinds sound the "lamenting" figure that opened the opera, and the timpani mutter and stutter. Then the bassoons lead the music from B-flat minor to D-flat major, and Elisabeth, harp-accompanied, sings a phrase of tender forgiveness: "May Heaven pardon her." But Eboli sings "God never pardons such sins." In monotone phrases, Eboli then confesses her other fault, that she has been Philip's mistress, and a shocked Elisabeth offers her the choice between exile and entering a convent. And so into the familiar "O don fatal."

This is a remarkable brief duet, without parallel in Verdi's oeuvre. He cut it from the opera at quite an early stage. One reason for doing so may have been dissatisfaction with the interpreters. When Perrin first proposed bringing Gueymard into the cast, he already foresaw possible difficulties arising from prima-donna rivalry. And among the abundant *Don Carlos* documents that survive in the French National Archives is a little note recording that Verdi one day left a rehearsal in disgust at the faces Mme. Sasse was pulling at what Mme. Gueymard was doing.

Verdi composed the final section of "O don fatal," which ends the first scene of Act IV, twice over. The earlier version (not included in the Günther score) is an Amneris-like outburst that takes the singer up to the high C. (It had its public premiere in Carnegie Recital Hall in 1971,

sung by Ellen Shade.) Gueymard's manuscript part survives, with numerous performance indications penciled in; some of them seem to be in Verdi's hand. Examining it comes close to having a coaching session with the composer.

In the second scene of Act IV we will hear another "new" duet: the "Lacrimosa" that King Philip and Carlos sing over Posa. Here B-flat major breaks into the tonic major. This father-son confrontation, over the body of the man whom they both loved and trusted, is dramatically potent, and launches a big ensemble, from which Verdi snipped section after section, until it became so scrappy that he decided to jettison it all and end the act with the death of Posa.

Originally, Verdi began Act V with an aria for Carlos. Then he converted it, with a few word changes, into Elisabeth's "Toi qui sus le néant." Tenors who complain that the title role of Don Carlos is hardly the leading role have some justice on their side: Verdi had little confidence in his first interpreter, Morère, and lightened his burden as far as possible. The Opéra rehearsal schedules show that Morère was often called in for extra coaching. In today's performance, the Carlos-Elisabeth duet that follows the aria will be sung in the revised (and improved) version, whose final section was lifted by a semitone, from B-flat into B; but there will follow the original 1867 ending of the opera. Philip and the Grand Inquisitor enter accompanied by a large group of inquisitors, basses, who thunder comminations on the hapless Carlos. The work ends not with the B-major blaze of 1883 but softly, in A major, with the chanting of offstage tenor monks. Several years ago Sir John Pritchard reinstated this close at Covent Garden, with magical effect.

Don Carlos was commissioned to be the Opéra's big attraction during Louis Philippe's Universal Exposition of 1867. (All the visiting monarchs had a night at the Opéra on their schedule.) Negotiations about the work began in 1864 (soon after Meyerbeer's death). Several subjects were discussed: a Judith and a Cleopatra (which Verdi didn't care about), and—once again—a King Lear, which Verdi thought insufficiently spectacular for an Opéra showpiece. He wanted to outdo Meyerbeer, whose (posthumous) L'Africaine had triumphed at the Opéra in 1865, while Verdi's Macbeth had been coolly



Gwyneth Jones as Elisabetta in San Francisco Opera's 1973 Don Carlo.

received at the Théâtre-Lyrique. Escudier, Verdi's French publisher, turned up at Sant'Agata in July 1865 bearing a Don Carlos scenario; and with qualified enthusiasm-"a magnificent drama, if a little lacking, perhaps, in spectacle"-Verdi accepted it. He approved of the librettists' two additions to Schiller's play: the opening act in Fontainebleau and the final appearance of Charles V (although twenty years later, when he came to revise the opera, he dropped the first and tried hard to get rid of the second). He asked for two more scenes from Schiller to be added: the Posa-Philip duet and the Philip-Inquisitor duet. They were; and so was the elaborate spectacle of the coronation-cum-auto-da-fé, which was done at the Opéra with teeming cohorts of elaborately costumed supers, as a fully Meyerbeerian spectacle. (Coronation scenes were evidently big at the Opéra: Verdi much admired Meyerbeer's in *Le Prophète*; and the Opéra's 1868 creation, Ambroise Thomas's *Hamlet*, also included a coronation scene.) *Don Carlos* became very long. Unmanageably long.

Some of the cuts, effected at early stages, we can presume to have been made for reasons as much artistic as practical. With others we cannot be sure. A dress rehearsal on February 24th ran (with four intermissions) for five hours and thirteen minutes; there were three



In 1962, San Francisco Opera's Don Carlo featured Thomas Stewart as Rodrigo.

hours and forty-seven minutes of music (longer than *L'Africaine*, Perrin complained). Opéra performances began officially at 7, but in practice usually many minutes later, and they had to finish by midnight, because, as a critic of the time explained, the last trains for the suburbs left at 12:30. So Verdi sliced out some twenty more minutes of music: the opening scene, a fiery speech for Posa at his first meeting with Carlos, and a section of the Philip-Posa duet. Thus truncated, *Don Carlos* was rehearsed again on March 9, and opened on March 11. And in that form it was published.

Why, we may wonder, if cuts were imposed on Verdi against his artistic conscience, did he not at least publish the lost passages? An answer is suggested by a remark he made much later, when occupied with the revision of Don Carlos: "When there has to be an operation, I would prefer to wield the knife myself." And even in its truncated form, as published, Don Carlos was much too long for regular use. During the Paris run new cuts were made, and elsewhere the opera was regularly shortened. Others "wielded the knife." So at length Verdi himself prepared the more concise, four-act "Milan" version. By then, Otello had already begun to grow. Verdi composed

the new music in his leaner, more athletic manner, and even professed physical revulsion at some of the passages conceived in his earlier, ampler (and glorious) grand-opera manner. At the same time, he reinstated dramatic points that the Paris cuts had obscured or destroyed.

Don Carlos was composed in French, and it was revised in French, in close collaboration (by letter) with the original librettist, Camille du Locle. (Joseph Méry, the initial co-librettist of the first version, had died in 1865, not long after work had started on the opera.) One must emphasize this Frenchness so long as one still comes across references to the "Italian

version" of the opera. There is no "Italian version" of Don Carlos, only an Italian translation of a French opera. (The only Don Carlos music that Verdi composed to Italian words was a new passage for the 1871 Naples production; and this passage was dropped in the 1883 revision.) There survives copious correspondence about the text, both for the 1867 and the 1883 scores: to-ing and fro-ing between composer and librettist, as Verdi struggles to get exactly the sense he wants, potently and concisely expressed. Often enough, he writes the lines himself. He had very precise ideas, and in the Italian translation (made in 1865 by Achille de Lauzières, revised in 1883 by Angelo Zanardini)



Evgeny Nesterenko in San Francisco Opera's 1979 presentation of Don Carlo.

these ideas are all too often blunted. What was direct becomes fancy. The matched articulations of verbal and musical phrases are disturbed. When Eboli's line in "O don fatal"

Présent du ciel en sa colère is rendered as

Che in suo furor mi fece il cielo, "heaven" and "fury" have changed places, and "heaven" acquires the angry figure that Verdi composed for "fury." (It's not ineffective, but it's not what Verdi wrote.) Open the new French/Italian Ricordi vocal score of *Don Carlos* at almost any page: to accommodate the Italian translation, new notes are added, slurs are added or beams are broken, and commas are shifted. Or consider, in Elisabeth's last aria,

Fontainebleau! mon coeur est plein de votre image

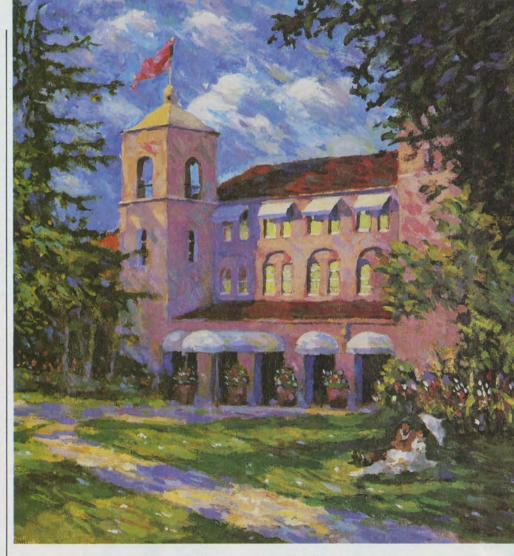
and

Fontainebleau! vêr voi schiude il pensier i vanni.

The French is direct; it says "my heart is filled with your image." The Italian (which, incidentally, involves four note changes to Verdi's phrase) might be rendered as "t'ward thee unfurls my thought its pinions."

And so on. Compare Philip's thin plain statement "Voici le jour" with the fatter mouthful "Già spunta il dì." Another point is that in French "Elisabeth" and "Carlos" carry the stress on the last syllable. Verdi used these names often, tenderly, almost motivically. In Italian, the names have shifted to another part of the phrase or else the music has been rewritten to accommodate "Carlo" and "Elisabetta" or "Isabella" (the translators used sometimes one, sometimes the other form of the heroine's name).

As a translator myself (of Don Carlos, among other works), I know only too well how impossible it is to carry over into another language exactly an image that a composer has fashioned with words and notes at once. There are good reasons for doing operas in translation, of course. (Verdi himself valued direct communication and favored performance in the language of the country.) But there seems to have been only one reason for doing Don Carlos-outside Italy-in Italian translation: that many singers feel happier, and perhaps sound better, in Italian. By that reasoning, Faust, Carmen, and Werther should also be done in Italian translation in our international opera houses.



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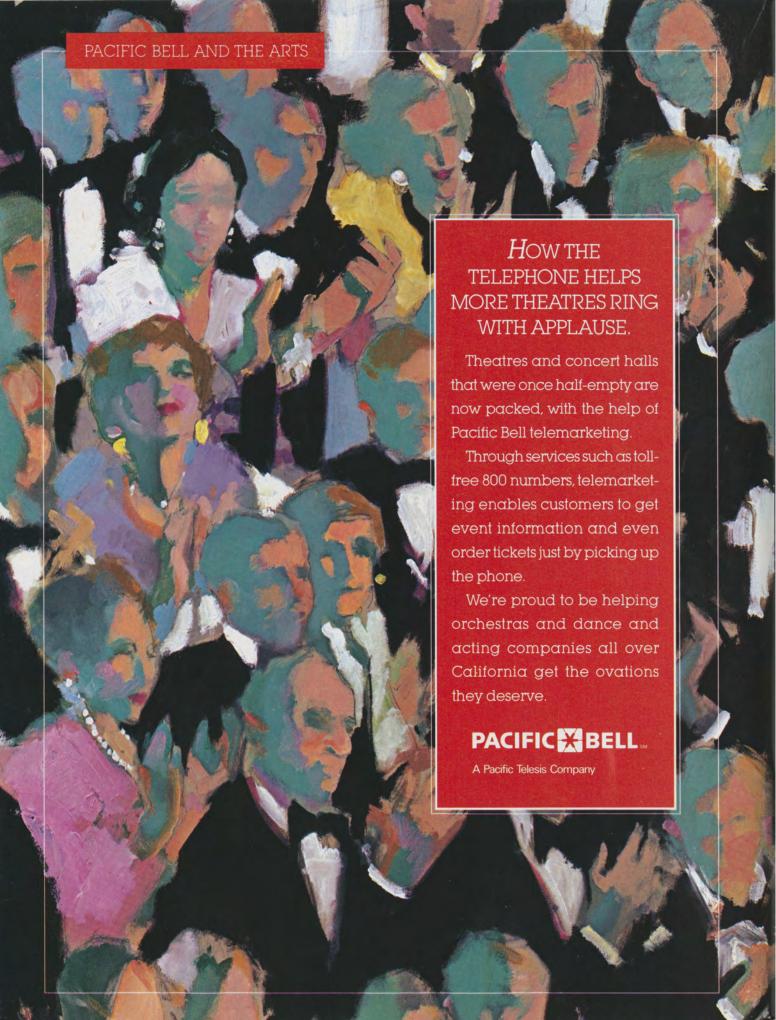
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DON CARLOS



Spanish soprano Pilar Lorengar, a favor-

PILAR LORENGAR

ite of San Francisco Opera audiences since her American debut here in 1964, is Elisabeth de Valois in Don Carlos, a role she has sung in Italian and German and now sings for the first time in French. Acclaimed in all of the world's principal opera houses, Miss Lorengar appeared here most recently as Mistress Ford in Falstaff last fall. Born in Saragossa, she started her career in the field of the Spanish zarzuela, producing a large number of recordings which are still highly popular in her native country. As recently as 1984, she appeared at Salzburg and San Francisco in programs of zarzuela arias with Plácido Domingo, scoring a huge success, and resulting in a Grammy Award-winning recording. One of the most highly honored and beloved singers at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, she was awarded the title of Kammersängerin in 1963, while in 1984, that company bestowed on her the rare appellation of Honored Member. While appearing at Berlin on a regular basis, Miss Lorengar developed her international career, singing at the Salzburg Festival, at Vienna, London, Paris, Brussels, Milan's La Scala, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Israel, Japan, Australia, etc. In her debut season with the San Francisco Opera, she appeared as Liù in Turandot, Desdemona in Otello, the Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro, and Micaëla in Carmen. Since then, she has been applauded here as Eva in Die Meistersinger, Elsa in Lohengrin, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, as Mélisande, Madama Butterfly, Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte and, in concert performances, Agathe in the 1985 Ring Festival Der Freischütz. Following her 1965 Metropolitan Opera debut in Don Giovanni, she has returned there in many leading roles, including Pamina in the 1966 Zauberflöte. She was also heard with the companies of Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Denver, Cincinnati, and Washington, D.C. Her 1985 credits include Tosca at the Sydney Opera House and Desdemona opposite Plácido Domingo's Otello in a unique perfor-



STEFANIA TOCZYSKA

mance in the Madrid football stadium before more than 40,000 people. Renowned around the world as a concert artist, Miss Lorengar has made a large number of song albums and complete opera recordings, among which are La Traviata, Don Giovanni, Die Zauberflöte, Madama Butterfly, Così fan tutte, La Bohème, Medea, The Bartered Bride and Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice and Iphigenie en Tauride. Among her honors, two unusual Spanish ones stand out, the Saragossa gold medal "Lazo de Isabel la Catolica" and a street that was named after her in her native city, bearing the name of "Calle de la Soprano Pilar Lorengar."

Polish mezzo-soprano Stefania Toczyska returns to San Francisco Opera as Princesse Eboli, a role which she sang for her debuts at both the Munich and Hamburg State Operas. She made her American debut here during the 1979 season as Laura in La Gioconda and Sara in Roberto Devereux and appeared again in 1981 as Amneris in Aida. Miss Toczyska studied at the conservatory in her native Danzig and began her professional career there in the title role of Carmen. In 1972 and 1973 she won prizes at the Toulouse and Holland vocal competitions. Since 1974 she has been a leading artist at the Danzig State Opera in such roles as Dalila in Samson et Dalila, Azucena in Il Trovatore and Leonora in La Favorita. She made her successful debut at the Vienna State Opera as Ulrica in Un Ballo in Maschera and has since appeared there as Carmen, Azucena, Princess Eboli, and Rosina in Il Barbiere di Siviglia. She first appeared at the Arena di Verona in 1980 opposite Luciano Pavarotti in La Gioconda and has been heard there and in Paris in the title role of Carmen. A regular guest at many of the leading opera houses in Europe, Miss Toczyska has been heard as Elisabetta I in Maria Stuarda in Zurich, and as Isabella in a new production of L'Italiana in Algeri staged by Ken Russell in Geneva. She portrayed Amneris and Laura in Barcelona, and is a frequent guest artist at the



DEBORAH VOIGT

Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera Munich, Hamburg State Opera and the Deutsche Oper Berlin. During the 1986-87 season, Miss Toczyska's engagements include appearances as Venus in Tannhäuser at Covent Garden, Azucena at Covent Garden and in Washington D.C., Adalgisa in Norma at Houston Grand Opera and Orfeo ed Euridice in Madrid. Her future plans include Adalgisa with the Opera Orchestra of New York and in December she will make a recording of Prokofiev's War and Peace as well as perform in a concert version of that opera. A frequent concert hall performer, Miss Toczyska has given recitals and concerts in most major European cities.

Making her San Francisco Opera debut as the Celestial Voice in Don Carlos, soprano Deborah Voigt also appears this season as Barena in Jenufa and a Lady-in-Waiting in Macbeth. A 1985 participant in the Merola Opera Program, she won the First Prize Schwabacher Memorial Award in the Opera Center's 1985 Grand Finals and began her professional operatic career in the fall of 1985 as Donna Anna in Western Opera Theater's national touring production of Don Giovanni. She is currently an Adler Fellow with the Opera Center and was seen as Leonora in the Showcase presentation of the American professional premiere of Hindemith's The Long Christmas Dinner. A native of Southern California and an alumna of California State University at Fullerton, Miss Voigt has won numerous vocal competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera Auditions and the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. She is a frequent concert soloist, having performed in Bach's St. John Passion, the Glorias of Vivaldi and Poulenc, Handel's Messiah and the Requiems of Mozart, Brahms and Verdi. She made her Bay Area concert debut in Shostakovich's Fourteenth Symphony with the Chamber Symphony of San Francisco. Upcoming engagements include the title role of Aida with the Stockton Symphony and Amelia in Un



SUSAN PATTERSON

Ballo in Maschera with the Riverside Opera.

Soprano Susan Patterson is Thibault in Don Carlos, Javotte in Manon and Marguerite in the student matinee performances of Faust. She made her Company debut this past summer as Inez in Il Trovatore and also appeared the same season as Mrs. Gobineau in The Medium. A native of Alabama, the young singer is a graduate of the universities of Samford and Florida State, and is currently working toward a doctorate at Indiana University where she studies with Virginia Zeani. Her college performance credits include roles in Tamerlane, La Fille du Régiment, Die Fledermaus and Così fan tutte. As a member of the 1985 Merola Opera Program, she appeared as Marguerite in Faust at Stern Grove and for Western Opera Theater's 1985-86 national tour portrayed Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni. Currently an Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, Miss Patterson sang Violetta in La Traviata with the Opera Center Singers in Palm Springs. She sang three roles in the Center's 1986 Showcase Hindemith double bill: Helen in There and Back and Lucia I/Lucia II in The Long Christmas Dinner. The recipient of several prizes and grants, including a Rotary Scholarship to study at the Verdi Conservatory in Milan, Miss Patterson was a Metropolitan Opera National semifinalist, a recipient of an educational grant from the Metropolitan Opera National Council, and winner of the Florence Bruce Award at the Opera Center's 1985 Grand Finals.

New York-born tenor **Neil Shicoff**, who made his Company debut in 1981 as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, returns to San Francisco Opera to perform the title role in *Don Carlos*. He made his professional operatic debut as Narraboth in *Salome* at Washington's Kennedy Center. Shicoff first bowed at the Metropolitan Opera as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* and has since performed there as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, the Duke in *Rigoletto*, the Italian Tenor in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Lenski



NEIL SHICOFF

in Eugene Onegin and in the title role of Werther. His recent European engagements have included Eugene Onegin and Roméo et Juliette, both in Paris; L'Elisir d'Amore, La Bohème, Faust and The Tales of Hoffmann in Hamburg; and Manon and Adriana Lecouvreur in Munich. The tenor's plans for the current season include appearances as Lenski in Eugene Onegin at La Scala; Roméo in Roméo et Juliette and his first performance of Des Grieux in Manon at the Metropolitan Opera; Hoffmann at Covent Garden and in Munich; and Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor in Chicago. Shicoff scored a great personal triumph at the 1978 Aix-en-Provence Festival when his portrayal of the title role of Werther was telecast throughout Europe. His rendition of the "Kleinzach" scene of The Tales of Hoffmann was seen on the internationally televised Metropolitan Opera's 100th Anniversary Concert. His portraval of Rodolfo at Covent Garden was also televised and has been recorded on video. Shicoff has made three albums including Macbeth, Rigoletto and, most recently, The Tales of Hoffmann. A frequent concert artist, Shicoff's orchestral engagements include Elijah with Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Boston and at Tanglewood, the Dvorák Requiem and the Verdi Requiem.

Baritone Alan Titus is Rodrigue in Don Carlos and Valentin in Faust. The New York native first appeared in San Francisco as Figaro in Spring Opera Theater's 1972 production of The Barber of Seville, and made his Company debut in 1975 as Papageno in Die Zauberflöte. He was seen here as Arlecchino in the 1983 Ariadne auf Naxos, the role of his 1975 Metropolitan Opera debut, and most recently in 1985 as Ford in Falstaff. He first attracted international attention when he created the role of the Celebrant in the 1971 world premiere of Leonard Bernstein's Mass at the opening of the Kennedy Center, and bowed the following season at New York City Opera, where he appeared regularly until 1985. He has participated in a large number of world premieres: Hoiby's Summer and Smoke (St. Paul, 1971),



ALAN TITUS

Henze's Rachel La Cubana (for NET), and Floyd's Bilby's Doll (Houston Grand Opera); as well as several American premieres in Santa Fe including: Britten's Owen Wingrave, Honegger's Antigone, and Reimann's Melusine. In his debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago Titus performed in Prokofiev's Love for Three Oranges. He made his European debut with Netherlands Opera in 1973 as Pelléas in Pelléas et Mélisande and has since appeared at the Hamburg Staatsoper as Amida in L'Ormindo, at the Paris Opera as Count Almaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro, in Düsseldorf with his first Don Giovanni, at Glyndebourne as Guglielmo in Così fan tutte and at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in Dido and Aeneas with Janet Baker, which was filmed for French television. He has also sung with the Frankfurt Opera, Scottish National Opera, and the companies of Strasbourg, Brussels and Marseilles. His television credits include "Live from Lincoln Center" telecasts of Madama Butterfly, Il Turco in Italia, La Cenerentola, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, The Merry Widow and most recently in the "Pavarotti Plus" telecast. Titus has recorded several albums including Don Pasquale with Beverly Sills, Bernstein's Mass, Haydn's Paukenmesse and Le Fedeltà Premiata, Leoncavallo's rarely heard La Bohème, and The Merry Widow, which won a Grammy Award as the best opera recording of the year. Most recently he sang the title role on a recording of Don Giovanni conducted by Rafael Kubelik.

Returning to the site of his 1975 American debut as Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, prominent English bass **Robert Lloyd** sings Philippe II in *Don Carlos*, a role for which he has been widely acclaimed, and Méphistophélès in *Faust*. Lloyd came to singing relatively late in life, having studied history at Oxford University. He received his training at the London Opera Center and at the Sadler's Wells Opera (now English National Opera) from 1969-72. For ten years he was a member of the Royal Opera at Covent Garden and became known as Britain's leading bass singer. Since 1982, Lloyd has taken his



ROBERT LLOYD

place in the front rank of international artists performing many of the major bass roles such as Boris Godunov, Sarastro in The Magic Flute, Fiesco in Simon Boccanegra, Méphistophélès, Procida in Les Vêpres Siciliennes, Philippe II and many others. In February of 1984, he performed the role of Rocco in a new Berlin production of Fidelio conducted by Daniel Barenboim, followed by La Forza del Destino in the same city. During the Glyndebourne Festival 50th anniversary celebrations in 1984, Lloyd sang the role of Seneca in Monte-verdi's L'Incoronazione di Poppea and his performance was recorded on video tape. Following his Glyndebourne appearances, he traveled to Los Angeles with the Royal Opera for performances of Turandot and The Magic Flute as part of the Olympic Games celebrations. In addition to his performances here in Don Carlos and Faust, his 1986 engagements include Il Barbiere di Siviglia at Covent Garden and Simon Boccanegra at the Glyndebourne Festival. A frequent guest artist with the major orchestras in Britain, he has also performed Act III of Parsifal with the San Francisco Symphony and was a soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Cleveland Orchestra, a performance which has also been recorded. Lloyd has made some 50 record albums, the most recent being Le Nozze di Figaro with Neville Marriner. He has appeared as Gurnemanz in the Syberberg film Parsifal and portrays Philippe II in the video recording of the 1985 Covent Garden production of Don Carlos. In addition to his performance career, Lloyd is known as a frequent B.B.C. radio broadcaster of documentary programs.

Canadian bass Joseph Rouleau makes his San Francisco Opera debut this season as the Grand Inquisitor in *Don Carlos*. He made his Canadian opera debut with the Montreal Opera Guild in *Un Ballo in Maschera* in 1951 and returned in 1956 to sing Philippe II in *Don Carlos*. His United States debut was with New Orleans Opera in 1955 as Colline in *La Bohème*, followed by the King in *Aida* and the Comte des Grieux in *Manon*. Rouleau's continued on p.48

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Don Carlos: Up Close and Personal

By DAVID LITTLEJOHN

The version of the Don Carlos story that Joseph Méry and Camille Du Locle concocted for Verdi's opera in 1867 is, by one scholar's count, the eighty-third known literary rendition of this quasihistorical legend. The first was a poem published in 1581, just ten years after the deaths of the real Don Carlos and his stepmother, Elisabeth of Valois; and seventeen years before the death of his father, King Philip II of Spain.

The best known, or at least best regarded of all these fictional versions (before Méry and Du Locle's) were those written by a Frenchman, an Englishman, an Italian, and a German. César Vichard, a diplomat-priest and pseudo-historian known as the Abbé de St. Réal, is usually blamed for beginning the whole antihistorical Don Carlos craze, with his "historical novel" of 1662. He was followed by the Restoration tragedian Thomas Otway, a contemporary and rival of Dryden's, whose play, based on St. Réal's novel, was first performed in 1676. Vittorio Alfieri, the celebrated Italian lover, traveler, and neo-classical dramatist, worked on his various versions from 1770 to 1787. And the six-hour long, passionately idealistic play Dom Karlos, Infant von Spanien (first edition 1787; other versions to 1805), by the German critic, historian. and playwright Friedrich von Schiller, spawned at least eighteen stage adaptations, thirty-two published translations, and eight operas-including Verdi's-by the time Prof. Frederick Lieder (the scholar I mentioned) stopped counting in 1930.

What is now regarded as the "scientific" writing of history (as opposed to nationalistic, partisan, moralizing, or idealistic approaches) is usually thought of as beginning with Leopold von Ranke

David Littlejohn is a writer, critic, and professor of journalism at U.C. Berkeley, who normally reviews the San Francisco Opera for the London Times. This fall, however, he is spending in Europe, checking out the competition.

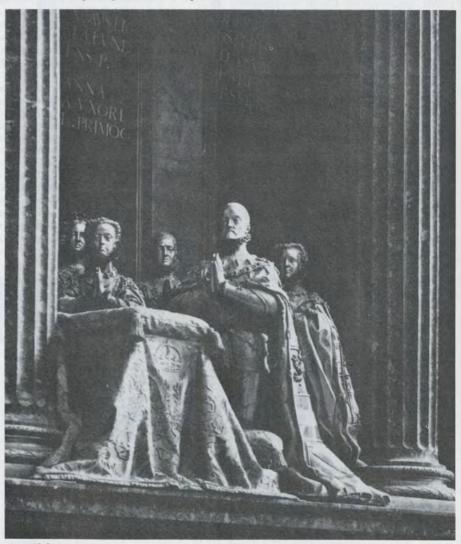
(1795-1886). He and his successors insisted that in order to be objective, history must depend entirely on *contemporary* sources. They therefore consulted mountains of archival materials, gathered thousands of facts and details, before beginning to write; and then tried to avoid imposing the values of their own time upon characters and events of the past.

The story that all these scholars have uncovered and pieced together is far more lurid and compelling than the simplistic,

unlikely version that Verdi set to music. As Fernand Braudel, the greatest living historian of the Spanish "siglo d'oro" (golden century) has written, the story of Don Carlos's tragic death "is more moving and cruel in real life than in any of the romantic legends."

Philip II of Spain, for forty-four years the absolute ruler of the richest empire in the world, married four times, each time

continued on p.52



King Philip's cenotaph at the Escorial near Madrid includes the entire Royal family (l. to r.) Marie of Portugal, Anne of Austria, Prince Don Carlos, Philip II, and Isabella (Elisabeth) of France.

A note from Sir John Pritchard and John Cox on the musical and dramatic considerations which have led to the "San Francisco" version of *Don Carlos*.

Beginning our approach from the Paris version of Verdi's great opera, we became aware that a rigid adherence to this one edition, while shedding valuable light on the characters of the story, also had disadvantages caused by the pressure of the 1867 Paris Opera that impelled the composer to musical sacrifices which involve the loss of some well-loved pages of the score. We therefore occupied ourselves with ascertaining how much of Verdi's own shortening into the Italian four-act version could be incorporated into the larger view demanded by the inclusion of the Fontainebleau act.

Rather to our surprise, we found that wherever we wished to make a fusion between the two versions, Verdi had very often "acted before us." It was clear from the start that the important choral scene at the beginning of Fontainebleau, with the appearance of Elisabeth immediately establishing her sympathy with the oppressed, must be included; thus, Fontainebleau, instead of merely giving us an early view of Elisabeth and Don Carlos in the usual duet, assumes a more "epic" character totally suitable to the majestic unfolding of the opera.

A further important addition clarifying the story is the inclusion of the festive off-stage chorus (Act II) when the exchange of masks between the Queen and Eboli explains Don Carlos's accidental declaration of love to the wrong woman—a somewhat debatable device in the four-act version.

The opening scene of Act III brings a real novelty—the inclusion before Eboli's "O don fatal" of an important musicopsychological encounter between herself and Elisabeth. The queen's horror at the revelation of adultery is well mirrored in Verdi's spare, distraught musical setting, and Eboli's outburst in the aria is at last given motivation. The prison scene dominated our deliberation for some months: how to include the famous "Lacrimosa" ensemble, Philippe's noble outpouring of grief at Posa's death, and tack onto it the public rebellion which is quelled by a surprising appearance (in the prison?) by the Grand Inquisitor. After much hesitation, we decided to prefer the "epic" conclusion of the great ensemble to bring down the curtain. We believe that Verdi, whose devotion to the melody of that ensemble was later enshrined in the Requiem, would pardon our temerity.

The exclusion of the Grand Inquisitor from that scene is compensated (and certainly raises him to overpowering stature) in the longer ensemble we have preferred for the final scene of the opera. The dramatic vengeance of the Inquisitors, the alignment of the King with them in abandonment of his son, is portrayed much more impressively than in the quick final gesture of the four-act version. We found that this ensemble, ending with the soft enigmatic chanting of the monks, would leave us with feelings of "pity and terror" inseparable from a grand opera in which all the human characters are doomed to irreparable loss.

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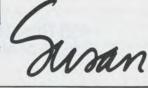
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Opera in five acts by GIUSEPPE VERDI

Text by JOSEPH MÉRY and CAMILLE DU LOCLE, after the play by FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER

(Opening scene in the critical edition by Ursula Günther. Used by arrangement with Associated Music Publishers, Inc., U.S. agents for G. Ricordi & Co., Milan.)

Don Carlos

(in French)

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Don Carlos Neil Shicoff A woodsman Mark Delavan* Elisabeth de Valois Pilar Lorengar Thibault Susan Patterson Comte de Lerme John David De Haan Philip Skinner A monk Rodrigue, Marquis de Posa Alan Titus Princesse Eboli Stefania Toczyska Philippe II Robert Lloyd A royal herald Kevin Anderson A celestial voice Deborah Voigt*

Inquisitors, courtiers, Flemish deputies, pages, soldiers, magistrates, monks

**American opera debut *San Francisco Opera debut

TIME AND PLACE: 1559-1568; France and Spain

Joseph Rouleau*

Candace Kahn

FRANCE

ACT I The forest of Fontainebleau

The Grand Inquisitor

Comtesse d'Aremberg

SPAIN

ACT II The monastery of San Yuste

Scene 1: The chapel of Charles V Scene 2: The monastery grounds

INTERMISSION

ACT III Valladolid

Scene 1: The Queen's garden

Scene 2: The Cathedral

[INTERMISSION]

ACT IV Madrid

Scene 1: The King's quarters

Scene 2: A prison

ACT V The monastery of San Yuste

Supertitles for *Don Carlos* underwritten by a generous grant from Chevron U.S.A.

Supertitles by Paul Moor.

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 four and one-half hours.

Opening night flowers by Ah Sam, San Mateo, courtesy of the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Opera Guild.

Conductor John Pritchard (September 5, 10, 13, 17, 20)

James Johnson (September 28; October 1)

Production
John Cox
Set Designer

Stefanos Lazaridis*

Costume Designers
Stefanos Lazaridis*
Sally Gardner**

Lighting Designer
Thomas J. Munn

Sound Designer Roger Gans

Chorus Director Richard Bradshaw

Chorus Preparation
Ernest Fredric Knell

Christopher Larkin

Musical Preparation Jeffrey Goldberg

James Johnson

Kathryn Cathcart

Susanna Lemberskaya Philip Eisenberg

Prompter Prompter

Philip Eisenberg

Assistant to John Cox

Robin Thompson

Assistant Stage Director Sharon Thomas

Stage Manager

Jerry Sherk

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First performance: Paris, March 11, 1867

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 16, 1958 (four acts)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 AT 7:00
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7:00
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 7:00
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 7:00
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 7:00
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 1:00
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT 7:00

Don Carlos/Synopsis

A state of war persisted between France and Spain from 1521 to 1559. In the peace negotiations between the two countries, a political marriage was proposed between Elisabeth, daughter of Henry II of France, and Carlos, only son and heir of Philip II of Spain. However, Philip had growing doubts about his son's psychological stability, and took steps to prevent his succession to the throne. His decision to marry Elisabeth himself could well have been part of this policy.

In the fictional framework of the opera, Don Carlos, like Tamino in The Magic Flute, has fallen in love with an idealized vision of his predestined bride. His father refuses him permission to join the Spanish delegation, whose purpose is to conclude the peace treaty and return to Spain with the Princess Elisabeth. Carlos, defying his father, accompanies

the delegation in disguise.

ACT I—Don Carlos sees Elisabeth offering comfort and hope to poor French peasants afflicted by the war. She promises to dedicate herself to their well-being. This confirms the image Carlos has of her. She soon returns with her page, having become lost in the forest. Carlos reveals his true identity and they fall in love. At this moment, the peace treaty is concluded, and the Spanish Ambassador and his entourage arrive, proclaiming Elisabeth Queen of Spain: Don Carlos's stepmother, not his wife. Reminded of her promise to the poor, she consents. Don Carlos sees his vision of happiness destroyed.

ACT II, Scene 1—Monks pray for the repose of the soul of Charles V, the greatest ruler of Spain, and Carlos's grandfather, who had abdicated and retired to their monastery. A mysterious monk warns Don Carlos that happiness is not to be found on earth and Carlos is convinced that the figure is Charles V himself. Rodrigue, Marquis of Posa, seeks Carlos in the monastery. They have been companions since boyhood, and their friendship is Carlos's only emotional support. Posa has allied himself with the cause of political freedom for Flanders, at that time a Spanish colony ruthlessly persecuted for its Protestantism. He sees a vital role for Carlos in the struggle. When Carlos confesses his agonizing love for his stepmother, Posa feels that now, more than ever, is the moment for Carlos to leave Spain for Flanders and lose himself in political activity. He suggests Carlos should seek the Queen's help in persuading the King to send him there.

Scene 2—While the King and Queen pray at the tomb of Charles V, the court ladies wait outside. Princess Eboli relieves the tedium by singing a mischievous song about a man who makes love to his wife by mistake. The Queen's return from prayer is followed by the arrival of Posa, who hands her letters from her mother and a secret note from Carlos, begging her to listen to Posa. He tells the Queen of Carlos's disturbed state of mind, which Eboli privately believes to be out of a suppressed passion for herself. The Queen grants her stepson an audience and Posa draws all her ladies away from the scene, thus breaking the Spanish court etiquette. Carlos is unable to control himself in the presence of Elisabeth, grows delirious and declares passionate love to her. For a moment, she is drawn into sharing his vision of what might have been, but remembers her situation and refuses to give him any hope. When the King finds her unattended, he coldly exiles her only French lady-in-waiting. The court sees this as a public humiliation for the Queen, while the King resents her open display of sorrow. The King asks Posa why he has never sought royal favor and is told it is because of Philip's abhorrent policy in Flanders, which Posa describes as a desert of ashes, a tomb. The King is unrepentant, but recognizes in Posa a man of truth and honor, and commands his service as a counselor. When the King voices suspicion of a liaison between the Queen and Don Carlos, Posa accepts the position, since it will help him to protect his friend. He recognizes welcome signs of humanity in Philip who warns him, in turn, to beware of the Grand Inquisitor.

ACT III, Scene 1—It is the eve of King Philip's coronation, one of several he held throughout his reign. Everyone is attending a ball except the King, who is at prayer. The Queen wishes to join him, but in order not to spoil the festive atmosphere, asks Eboli to wear her mask so that her absence will go unnoticed. Meanwhile, Eboli has sent an anonymous note of assignation to Don Carlos, who arrives to declare his passionate love, as he thinks, to the Queen. Eboli at first accepts his declaration for herself, but rapidly realizes the error. In a fury of humiliation and jealousy, she swears to reveal all to the King. Posa's threats fail to move her. Realizing that Carlos is now in mortal danger, Posa obtains from him incriminating papers which reveal his collusion with the Flemish freedom movement.

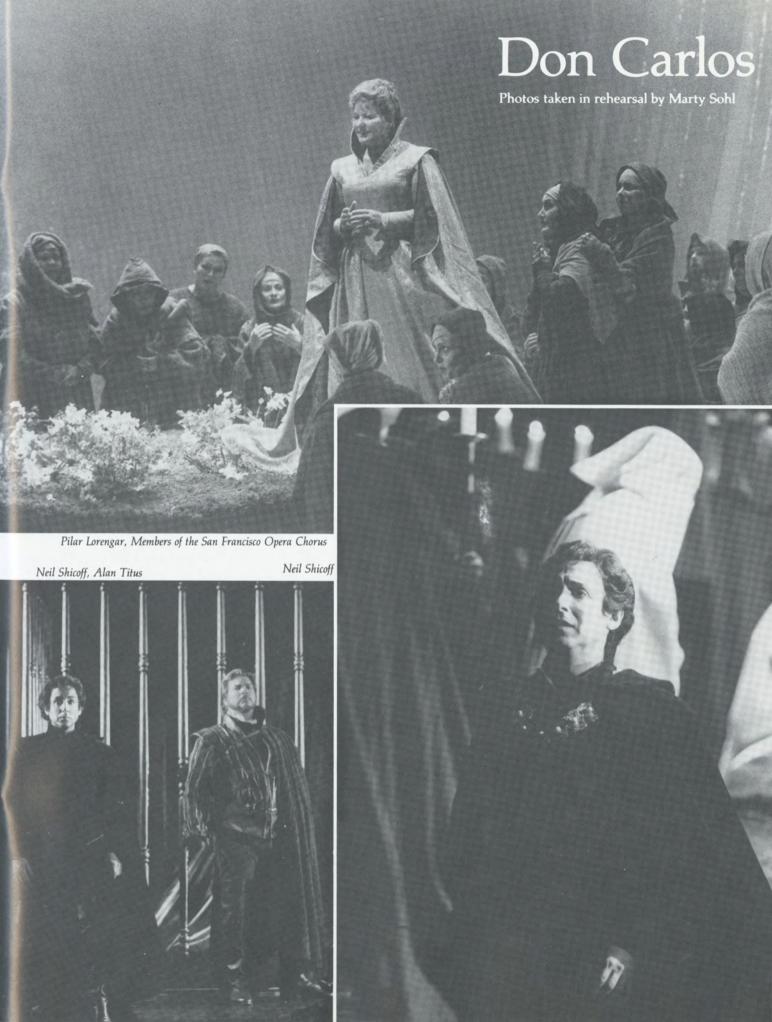
Scene 2—The coronation is to be celebrated by an auto-da-fé, at which several heretics are to be burned alive. Don Carlos interrupts the ceremony at the head of a delegation from Flanders with a public plea against persecution. The King dismisses them abruptly, at which Don Carlos draws the sword against his father and sovereign. No one in the shocked assembly will disarm him until Posa steps forward and does so.

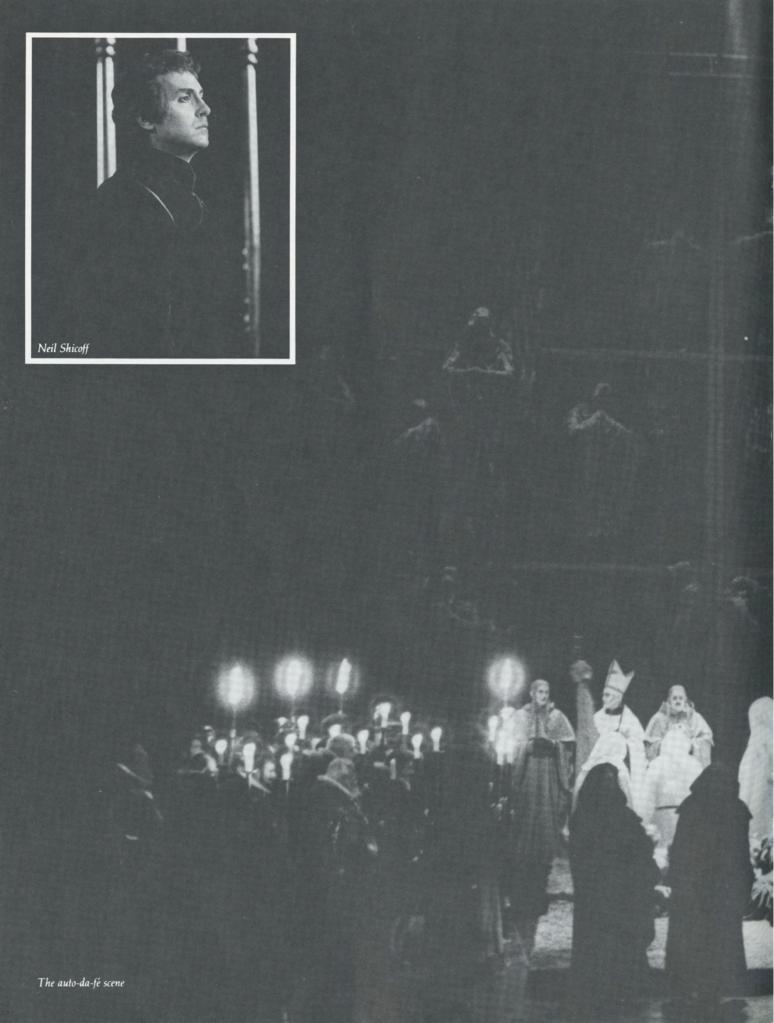
ACT IV, Scene 1—King Philip ponders the desolation of his life. His wife does not love him, and never did. The only sleep he can look forward to is the sleep of death. He summons the Grand Inquisitor, the supreme spiritual authority in Spain, to ask his advice about his son Carlos—should he take the ultimate sanction against him? God sacrificed his Son for the greater good and will absolve the King, says the Inquisitor. He adds that the Inquisition has noted the King's favor for Posa, whom it regards as a radical and heretic. The King protests and refuses to turn him over to the Inquisitor, but senses that eventually he will have to yield. Meanwhile, Eboli has been active against the Queen, stealing her jewel casket which contains a miniature of Carlos, and showing it to the King. A confrontation between Philip and Elisabeth eventually brings Posa and Eboli onto the scene. Eboli, full of remorse, confesses to Elisabeth the theft, her unrequited love for Carlos, and her previous adultery with the King. This last fact the Queen cannot forgive, and she dismisses Eboli from the court. Eboli curses her own fatal beauty which has led her so terribly astray.

Scene 2—Posa visits Carlos, who is now in prison. He explains that by allowing the Flemish papers to be found in his possession, he has transferred suspicion to himself. He knows death awaits him, but adds that dying for his friend is a worthwhile sacrifice. An unseen assassin shoots, and the dying Posa tells Carlos Elisabeth will see him one last time at San Yuste. King Philip arrives with the full court to rehabilitate his son, only to find him more unrepentant than ever following his friend's death. In removing protection from Posa, Philip has forever lost his only friend and his only son.

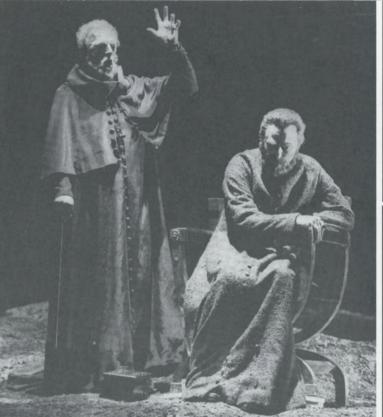
ACT V—Elisabeth calls on the spirit of Charles V to intercede for her in heaven. She recalls a happier time in France and expresses her lingering affection for Carlos. All she longs for now is death. Carlos arrives. Elisabeth demands that he should forget their love and remember Posa's death, and all it signifies. Carlos is now ready to sacrifice everything to the cause of Flemish liberty. The Inquisition is moving fast, however, and even as they say goodbye, the Grand Inquisitor and King Philip arrive to complete the process of the anathema and arrest for offences against the Catholic faith. At the critical moment, the spirit of Charles V appears and claims Don Carlos for God.

-John Cox









Joseph Rouleau, Robert Lloyd



Stefania Toczyska

Stefania Toczyska, Susan Patterson





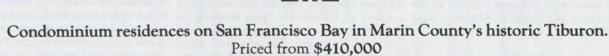


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JOSEPH ROULEAU

continued from p.37

international career was launched with his debut at Covent Garden in the 1957 productions of La Bohème and The Magic Flute. Since then, he has bowed at all the leading opera houses of Europe including those of Paris, Hamburg, Munich, Rome, Geneva, Strasbourg and many others. His travels have also taken him to South Africa, the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Chile and numerous festivals including those at Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Wexford and Glyndebourne. Rouleau has made several tours to Israel and the Soviet Union to perform in Boris Godunov, Faust, Il Barbiere di Siviglia and Don Carlos. 1984 marked his Metropolitan Opera debut as the Grand Inquisitor and he repeated the role there earlier this year as well as that of Ramfis in Aida. Other recent engagements have included La Forza del Destino in Calgary and Vancouver, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, La Bohème and Bizet's Les Pêcheurs de Perles in New Orleans, and Rigoletto in Montreal. His repertoire includes leading bass roles in Lucia di Lammermoor, Turandot, La Sonnambula, Simon Boccanegra, Don Giovanni, Billy Budd and Pelléas et Mélisande. Among Rouleau's many recordings are Semiramide with Joan Sutherland, Roméo et Juliette, L'Enfance du Christ, Hamlet, Stravinsky's Renard, a recital of French opera arias and Les Abîmes du Rêve, a song cycle written for Rouleau by J. Hétu. His television films include a CBC-TV documentary on his career and a video recording of Don Carlos. Among his numerous awards is the Order of Canada, which was conferred on him in 1977. In addition to his performing career, Rouleau is active as a professor of voice and director of the opera studio at the University of Quebec in Montreal since 1980.

Bass-baritone Philip Skinner undertakes five roles this season: a Monk in Don Carlos, Alcalde in La Forza del Destino, Méphistophélès in the student matinee performances of Faust, Zaretsky in Eugene Onegin, and a Doctor in Macbeth. He made his San Francisco Opera debut as Quinault in the 1985 Fall Season production of Adriana Lecouvreur, and appeared as



PHILIP SKINNER

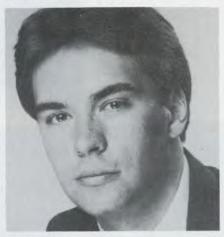
Ferrando in Il Trovatore during the 1986 Summer Season. Currently an Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, he appeared in the 1986 Showcase performances of Hindemith's There and Back and The Long Christmas Dinner. As a participant in the 1985 Merola Opera Program, he portrayed Méphistophélès in Faust and the title role of Don Giovanni, going on to tour with Western Opera Theater in the latter role. He has sung with Kentucky Opera, the Columbus Symphony, the Savannah Symphony, and at the San Antonio Festival in such roles as Timur and the Mandarin in Turandot, Escamillo in Carmen, Don Fernando in Fidelio, and the King of Egypt in Aida. A graduate of Northwestern University, Skinner received his master's degree from Indiana University, where he performed in several productions. His concert credits include Haydn's The Seasons, The Creation and Lord Nelson Mass, the last named being at the Spoleto Festival. This past summer he performed in the Mozart Requiem with the Columbus Symphony, Christian Badea conduct-

Tenor John David De Haan is the Comte 'de Lerme in Don Carlos and sings the title role in the student matinee performances of Faust. He made his Company debut as Arturo in the 1986 Summer Season production of Lucia di Lammermoor, and earlier this year was seen in the Opera Center's Showcase productions of Hindemith's There and Back and The Long Christmas Dinner, as well as Rossini's The Turk in Italy. He portrayed Don Ottavio in Mozart's Don Giovanni during Western Opera Theater's 1985-86 national tour. A native of Kansas, De Haan received his training at Union College and the University of Nebraska. He was first-place winner of the San Francisco Opera Center Auditions in Denver, a 1985 Merola Opera Program participant, and a 1986 Adler Fellow with the Center. His opera credits include the title role of Britten's Albert Herring, Tamino in The Magic Flute, and Jenik in The Bartered Bride. He is also an active concert artist and has recently appeared with the National Symphony at



JOHN DAVID DE HAAN

Kennedy Center and the Spokane Symphony. Upcoming engagements include Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* with Chicago Opera Theater and his San Francisco recital debut as part of the 1986-87 Schwabacher Debut Recitals.



KEVIN ANDERSON

Tenor Kevin Anderson is the Royal Herald in Don Carlos. The Illinois native made his San Francisco Opera debut during the 1985 Fall Season, appearing as a Servant in Lear and the Prince of Persia in Turandot, and returned last summer as a Messenger in Il Trovatore. A graduate of the University of Wyoming, he participated in the Merola Opera Programs of 1983 and '84, during which he appeared in productions of The Tales of Hoffmann, Madama Butterfly and Falstaff. He toured for two seasons with Western Opera Theater, portraying Goro in Madame Butterfly and Ramiro in La Cenerentola. He has also toured with the San Francisco Opera Center Singers as Nemorino in The Elixir of Love. For the Chautaugua Opera Festival, his credits include the roles of Little Bat in Susannah and the Tenor in The Impresario, and in 1979 he appeared as Toby in the Central City Opera production of The Medium. He was a member of the Santa Fe Opera Company Apprentice Program in 1982, and in 1984 he made his Michigan Opera Theatre debut with the company's 1984 residency tour, during which he portrayed Martin in Copland's The Tender Land. He has sung in the San



MARK DELAVAN

Francisco Symphony Pops Concert series, and his assignments with Pocket Opera have included Leicester in Maria Stuarda and Pluto in Orpheus in the Underworld. Anderson recently made his Carnegie Hall debut in a concert performance of Strauss' Capriccio, and made his debut at the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza in Vivaldi's Il Giustino. His Marin Opera credits include Romeo in Gounod's Roméo et Juliette and the role of Will Parker in Oklahoma!.

Baritone Mark Delavan makes his San Francisco Opera debut as a Woodsman in Don Carlos and also appears as Wagner in Faust, Valentin in the student matinee performances of Faust, a Captain in Eugene Onegin, and a Guardsman in Manon. Currently an Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, Delavan was a participant in the 1985 Merola Opera Program and performed the title role of Don Giovanni on Western Opera Theater's 1985-86 national tour. In the Center's 1986 Showcase series, he appeared as Roderick/Sam in the American professional premiere of Hindemith's The Long Christmas Dinner and as the Poet in Rossini's The Turk in Italy. He received his training at Grand Canyon College and Oral Roberts University, and has performed in The Mikado and The Daughter of the Regiment for the Charlotte Opera Association. For its touring affiliate, the North Carolina Opera Company, his credits include Papageno, Mephistopheles and Don Magnifico. He has also been an apprentice at Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony. Recent engagements include the Count in The Marriage of Figaro for the 1986 Carmel Bach Festival and Escamillo in a concert performance of Carmen with the Stockton Symphony. Upcoming assignments include Dr. Falke in Die Fledermaus for Marin Opera, the elder Germont in La Traviata for Sacramento Opera, and Amonasro in a concert performance of Aida with the Stockton Symphony.

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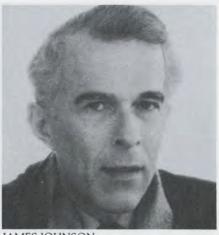
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SIR JOHN PRITCHARD In his first season as music director of San Francisco Opera, Sir John Pritchard conducts Don Carlos. He made his Company debut in 1970 with Così fan tutte and returned for Peter Grimes (1973 and '76). Don Giovanni and La Cenerentola (1974), Thaïs (1976), Idomeneo (1977), a reprise of Così (1979) and, last fall, Un Ballo in Maschera and Der Rosenkavalier. A protégé of Fritz Busch, Pritchard made his operatic conducting debut at Glyndebourne in 1951 with three Mozart operas: Le Nozze di Figaro, Così fan tutte and Don Giovanni. That same year he made his Vienna Staatsoper debut leading La Forza del Destino. He opened the 1952-53 season at Covent Garden with Un Ballo in Maschera for his first assignment with the company and conducted more than 80 performances of 11 operas in his first two seasons there. He has returned virtually every season since; among the historic performances he led there are the world premieres of Britten's Gloriana, Tippett's King Priam and The Midsummer Marriage, and the famous Visconti production of Don Carlos. From 1956 to 1962 he was musical director of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, which earned a royal charter during his tenure. He was musical director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra from 1962 to 1966, and in 1963 was appointed principal conductor and artistic counselor of the Glyndebourne Festival, of which he became music director in 1969. In 1978 he relinquished his Glyndebourne post to become chief conductor at the Cologne Opera, a position he continues to hold. In 1980 he became principal guest conductor with the BBC Symphony and since 1982 has been chief conductor of that organization. At the beginning of the 1981-82 season, concurrent with Brussels becoming capital of the European Economic Community, he was named music director of the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. Sir John is one of the most traveled of international conductors, and in the last year took the BBC Symphony on tours to Spain and Switzerland. Next January he will bring the same orchestra on a tour of the United States.



JAMES JOHNSON

Recently appointed special assistant to Sir John Pritchard, music director of the San Francisco Opera, James Johnson conducts the last two performances of Don Carlos. He made his Company conducting debut with performances of Madama Butterfly during the 1984 Fall Season and this past summer earned praise for conducting La Voix humaine. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he was music director in 1967 and '68 for the Turnau Opera, for which he conducted The Rake's Progress, Pagliacci and Weisgall's The Stronger. In 1968 he also led the first American stage performances of Busoni's Arlecchino for New York's Theater for Ideas. From 1968 to 1973 he was pianist and coach at the Metropolitan Opera, where he worked with such conductors as Cleva, Leinsdorf, Molinari-Pradelli, Davis, Varviso, Böhm and Krips. Johnson was conductor at the Opéra du Rhin in Strasbourg from 1973 until 1979, leading, among other works, Die Fledermaus, Gounod's Mireille, Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Eugene Onegin, Pagliacci, Schönberg's Erwartung and Ravel's L'Heure Espagnole. During this time he also served as musical assistant for stagings by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle. Since 1979 he has been a member of the musical staff of the San Francisco Opera, as well as assistant conductor for the opera companies of Lyons and Marseilles. For the last three years he has been engaged at the Théâtre Musical de Paris (Châtelet), where he most recently conducted Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle, given as part of the 1986 Rossini Festival.

John Cox returns to San Francisco Opera to direct Don Carlos. He made his Company debut with Strauss' Arabella in 1980 and returned during the 1982 Summer Season for The Rake's Progress. He began his professional career at Glyndebourne but was soon more active in legitimate theater, directing many plays and musicals around England. He maintained his connections with classical mime through productions at Sadler's Wells, the Wexford Festival and the Mime Theatre Ensemble, which he founded with composer Alexander Goehr, commissioning important experiments in new mime



IOHN COX

theater. In 1972 he was named director of production at Glyndebourne, where to date he has done more productions than any director since founder Carl Ebert. Simultaneously, he did productions for opera companies world-wide, including Vienna, La Scala in Milan, Amsterdam, Sydney, Stockholm and Brussels; in Germany at Cologne, Frankfurt, Nuremberg and Hannover; and in the United States at the Metropolitan Opera in New York as well as at Houston, Santa Fe and Washington, D.C. In July 1981 he was appointed general administrator of Scottish Opera, resigning from the company in June 1986. Directorial assignments continue there, but his next major engagement is a new production of Daphne in Munich in December.

Stefanos Lazaridis makes his San Francisco Opera debut this season as the designer of sets and co-designer of costumes for Don Carlos. Born in Ethiopia of Greek parents, he studied in Geneva and London, where he now makes his home. Lazaridis's career in opera was launched in 1970 with a production of Carmen directed by John Copley for the English National Opera. He has since designed many plays, ballets and operas throughout the world. As an Associate Artist with the English National Opera, his designs for them have included Katya Kabanova, Aida, Trovatore, Rusalka, Madama Butterfly and, most recently, the British premiere of Busoni's Doctor Faust directed by David Pountney, and The Mikado directed by Jonathan Miller. Other opera productions Lazaridis has designed include Nabucco, Rigoletto, Macbeth, The Flying Dutchman, Tristan and Isolde, Tannhäuser, Fidelio, Werther, The Bartered Bride, Prince Igor, Don Giovanni, Le Nozze di Figaro and Tosca, for theaters such as Covent Garden, Scottish Opera, Opera North Leeds, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Amsterdam, Houston, Stuttgart, Sydney, Opera de Nice, Aix-en-Provence Festival and Teatro Comunale Bologna. Exhibitions of his work have been held throughout Europe and in Japan, Mexico, Australia and New York. His future plans include Doctor Faust (Deutsche Oper



STEFANOS LAZARIDIS

Berlin), Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk (English National Opera), and a feature film based on the life of Shostakovich. The upcoming season will mark his debut as an opera director with productions of Carmen and Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex, both at Opera North Leeds. Lazaridis will also design the London premiere of Sondheim's Pacific Overtures and will be associated with Jonathan Miller's new theater company at London's Old Vic Theatre.



SALLY GARDNER

Sally Gardner makes her American opera debut as the co-designer of costumes for Don Carlos. The British-born designer trained at Hammersmith College of Art and Building and the Central School of Art and Design. During her professional career, she has created sets and costumes for such legitimate stage productions as Woyzeck, The Good Woman of Setzuan, Frozen Assets, The Lady's Not for Burning, Party Piece, The Devil's Disciple and The Private Life of the Third Reich. Her operatic costume designs include Peter Grimes at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, The Mikado in Copenhagen, The Greek Passion at the Welsh National Opera, and Macbeth, The Midsummer Marriage and Weill's Mahagonny Singspiel, all for the English National Opera. Miss Gardner's creations have also been seen at England's Young Vic, Old Vic, Chichester and Apollo Theaters.



THOMAS J. MUNN

Thomas J. Munn is the lighting designer for San Francisco Opera's 1986 Fall Season productions of Don Carlos, Jenufa, La Forza del Destino, Faust, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, La Bohème, Eugene Onegin, Manon and Macbeth. This past summer he was responsible for lighting Lucia di Lammermoor, Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci and La Voix humaine. In his eleventh year with the Company, he has been responsible for lighting over 80 productions for San Francisco Opera, including the lighting and special effects for all four of the operas of the 1985 Ring Festival. He has also designed the scenery as well as the lighting for Nabucco and Salome in 1982, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk in 1981, Roberto Devereux and Pelléas et Mélisande in 1979. and Billy Budd in 1978. In addition to his numerous design credits for the War Memorial stage, Munn has designed scenery and lighting for Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional theater, ballet and film. His television credits include San Francisco Opera productions of La Gioconda (for which he received a 1979 Emmy Award), Samson et Dalila in 1980, Aida in 1981 and the Pavarotti concert of 1983, in addition to Copland's The Tender Land for Michigan Opera Theatre, and the world premiere of Robert Ward's Abelard and Heloise for the Charlotte Opera, Recent projects include productions for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera and the Netherlands Opera, in addition to the scenery and lighting designs of Coppélia for the Hartford Ballet. Munn is consultant for the Muziektheater in the Netherlands, a new opera house scheduled to open at the end of September this vear.





Up close and personal continued from p.38

with a view to enlarging his empire: first, to the daughter of the King of Portugal, hoping to join the Portuguese empire with his own; second, to Queen Mary Tudor of England; third, to the daughter of the late King Henry II of France and Queen Catherine de'Medici; and finally to his own niece, the daughter of his Hapsburg cousin, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II.

Don Carlos was born in 1545, sole fruit of the first of these unions. The union may have been politically strategic, but it seems to have been genetically unwise. The parents of Princess Maria of Portugal (who died, at eighteen, four days after Carlos was born) shared two of the same parents as her husband's, which made them first cousins twice over, and gave Carlos four great-grandparents—one of whom had also married his own cousin—instead of the usual eight.

From then until his wretched death twenty-three years later, the heirpresumptive to the greatest throne in Europe was inevitably described by diplomatic correspondents in Madrid as an almost total loser: a miserable misfit, both physically and psychologically. This, clearly, is a part no tenor in his right mind would want to play. A British music critic, in fact, in his album notes for the Solti/ London recording, imagined a modern Don Carlos based on a realistic version of the prince's life, in which the star singer would have to play a pathetic, subhuman, sadistic, homicidal-maniac dwarf, "missing at least seven notes of his twelve-tone row."

The ambassadors from Venice and Vienna, reporting home when Carlos was in his late teens, described him in similarly unflattering terms. "Prince Don Carlos," declared Paolo Tiepolo to the Venetian Senate in 1563, "is very short of stature." (He weighed about eighty pounds at the time.) "His face is ugly and disagreeable. He has a melancholy complexion, perhaps because for three years he has suffered almost without interruption from malarial fever, sometimes with a loss of his wits—a misfortune all the more notable in that he appears to have inherited it from his grandfather [Emperor Charles V?] and his great-grandmother ['Mad Queen Joanna' of Castille]. After a rather long illness, and more specifically his most recent—which he is commonly believed to have survived thanks to a miracle—he has remained extremely feeble and languid,

even beyond his normal state of ill-health and weakness ... When he moved from childhood to puberty, he seemed to take no pleasure in any virtuous, honorable, or agreeable action—neither in study, nor arms, nor horsemanship; but only in



Elisabeth of Valois in a portrait by François Clouet, probably made just before 1560.

doing harm to others. Thus, when people he regarded as unworthy of his respect appeared before him, he would beat them with a whip or a stick. Before long, he absolutely insisted that someone be castrated. As far as one can tell, he loves no one; but has a mortal hatred for many people. He is delighted to receive gifts, and in fact solicits them; but he never gives any to others. In all things he displays a repugnance at doing anything useful, and the greatest inclination to destroy things. He is firm, even obstinate in his opinions. He speaks slowly and with difficulty, and his words often make no sense. Considering his age (seventeen), he understands very little of the world."

Baron von Dietrichstein, the representative from the imperial court at Vienna, described our hero in similar terms a year later. He has, wrote he, a misproportioned head, a long chin, a low forehead, a sunken chest, and a humped back. ("Nothing in him," he wrote to his Hapsburg master, "recalls the blood of the Hapsburgs.") One of his shoulders is higher than the other, and one of his legs is shorter than the other. He stammers. In some things, he has the mind of a sevenyear old. He has always been weak and sickly, but now he takes no exercise, and makes himself more sick by gross overeating: many people think he cannot live

long. He is totally undisciplined, and says whatever he wants. He seems to avoid women, and may be impotent. His father gives him nothing to do, the baron concluded, which angers him to the point of desperation.

Essentially "orphaned" when his mother died (his father was out of the country for most of his first fourteen years), Carlos was brought up first by his widowed aunt, Doña Juana (who had briefly been married to her double-first cousin, the crown prince of Portugal, and was later to lust for the hand of her nephew Carlos), and a succession of frustrated tutors. It is difficult to imagine his world-weary grandfather, the Emperor Charles V-who had retired to the Monastery of St. Yuste (Verdi's Act II.1 and Act V) when Carlos was nine, and who died there when he was elevenworrying enough about this sickly illmannered boy to return from the tomb to protect him. They appear to have met only once, over a period of about two weeks, in 1556. After this, the emperor never wanted to see his creepy grandson

During the Franco-Spanish wars of the 1550s, there had been some talk of a possible "peace treaty" marriage between Don Carlos and the Princess Elisabeth of France. But neither child is likely to have been aware of it at the time; such matters were arranged by parents and diplomats, and Carlos was apparently uninterested in females his own age, except to torment them. The 1559 peace treaty did, however, call for a union between Elisabeth and King Philip, recently widowed for the second time. They were duly wed at Guadalajara in 1560. It was here that the fourteen-year-old queen first met her fourteen-year-old stepson.

Elisabeth and Carlos did, by all accounts, become protectively fond of one another; but it is unlikely they broke into the rapturous love duet of Verdi's first act, at Guadalajara in 1560. Nor is it likely that King Philip, then all of thirty-two, and considerably more attractive than his son, bemoaned his bride's sad loveless stare at his gray hairs, as Verdi's Philip does in Act IV

From the age of fourteen to the age of nineteen, Carlos spent much of his time in bed with malarial fever, when he was not defying his tutors, roasting rabbits alive, or biting off pet turtles' heads. In April of 1561, at fifteen, he fell down a flight of



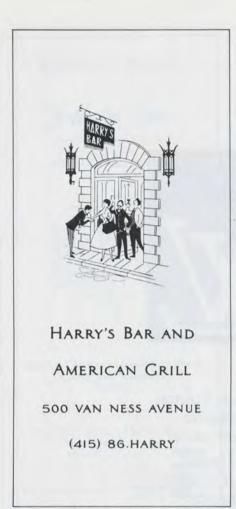
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MAISON FONDÉE EN 1854







stairs, perhaps while chasing a servantmaid (more favorable accounts have him falling off a horse), and suffered a head wound so bad he spent two months paralyzed, vomiting, delirious, and near to death. The King ordered parades of court doctors (including the celebrated Andreas Vesalius) to do their sixteenth-century best, as well as public prayers and penances all over Spain. Either bleeding, or a drastic brain operation, or a secret unguent, or the prayers and sufferings of 300,000 flagellants, or the miraculous touch of a preserved holy corpse saved Don Carlos's life. He was up and about by June 14-alas (as the ambassadors pointed out), none the better a human being, morally or physically, for his ordeal.

Despite the ambassador's warnings of his moral and congenital defects, at least four high-placed brides were proposed for Don Carlos, from the time he was eleven years of age. His own aunt Juana, ten years his senior, kept pressing her suit (supported by the Cortés, or assembly of nobles, of Castille) for ten years. Carlos's private response was that he'd sooner die; publicly, he told the Cortés to keep its nose out of his affairs. When Mary Queen of Scots was left a widow by Francis II of France in 1560, she and her French uncles also began to pursue Don Carlos, until they were advised to desist by Elizabeth I of England. Catherine de'Medici, the scheming and king-making queen mother in Paris, who had just married her fourteen-year-old daughter Elisabeth to King Philip, now offered her seven-year-old daughter Marguerite to Philip's son Carlos.

The most likely match, howeverbecause it best suited Philip's dynastic ambitions-would have been one with Carlos's cousin Anne of Austria, just four years his junior, eldest daughter of Philip's brother the Emperor Maximilian II. Around the age of nineteen or twenty, Don Carlos himself seems to have decided on cousin Anne. He sent her a costly diamond ring with his portrait engraved on it. She and her parents, pressed by other royal suitors, definitely favored Carlos, and kept after King Philip to agree. Philip, however, kept putting off the match-his son was still too young, he insisted, or too sick; or (he hinted) unable to sire children; or even likely to harm the princess. Not so, replied her parents: our Anne will calm and correct him.

In May of 1567, a barber, three doctors, and a pharmacist brewed an

aphrodisiac thanks to which Don Carlos was reported to have "proved his virility" on an unnamed female. Carlos borrowed huge sums of money to reward all six of them, and hastened to inform the Emperor's ambassador. However, wrote the Seigneur de Fourquevaulx to Catherine de'Medici, "despite the recipes these three doctors have made use of to render him capable of marriage, it's too late to hope for a lineage, because he will never have children, and he knows it very well."

This politic balking of the King—who by now clearly did not want this sickly, irascible creature in a position either to threaten or to succeed him—seems to have pushed Don Carlos, finally, into a violent antipathy for his father. Philip, "Le Roi Prudent"—proud, pious, and proper; a devious, hard-hearted workaholic with an empire to run, was ashamed of his son's stupidity, his laziness, his wretched excesses. Don Carlos hated his father for his disdain, for postponing his marriage indefinitely, and for giving him nothing whatever to do.

Evidence mounted of his violence and disorder. He beat his servants, threatened them with death, threw one of them out the window. He nearly stabbed the president of the Council of Castille. He ran riot in the city streets at night, made crazy bets and extravagant purchases, borrowed hundreds of thousands of ducats. He locked himself in his stables and beat twenty-three horses near to death. When some water fell on his head from a house, he ordered the house burned to the ground. Devoted old tutors and confessors begged him (in letters that survive) to mend his ways, become reconciled with his father, to cease certain unmentioned "terrible acts"-or else "the Holy Office will have to become involved."

At twenty-one, Don Carlos had assumed that he would be sent to pacify and rule over the rebellious Spanish Netherlands, especially after an orgy of Protestant vandalism in 1566. When the Duke of Alba was sent instead-the highest nobleman in the land-Carlos threatened to kill him as well. Through 1567, the King kept pretending he was about to leave for the Netherlands himself, planning to take Don Carlos with him. But it all seems to have been a ruse, since he found one excuse after another for delay. By late 1567, King Philip was too dismayed by Carlos's state either to take him to the Netherlands (let alone have him "rule" there); marry him to his



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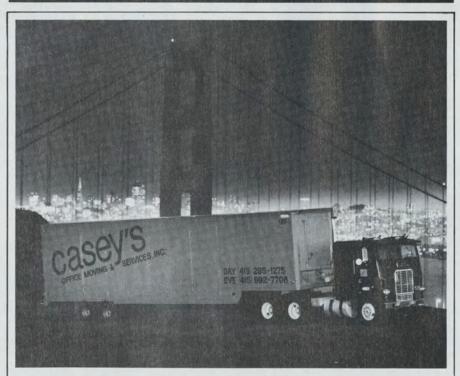
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cousin Anne; or leave him at home alone as regent of Spain.

If Philip was growing desperate about his mad son, his son was growing even more desperate under his father's repressive control. Finally, he began making plans to escape.

In December, he wrote several noblemen in secret (promising them favors after he became king) to ask if they would accompany him on his flight. A few of them told the King. On Christmas Eve, he asked his trusted uncle Don Juan of Austria ("my best friend in the world") for help, promising to make him King of Naples. Don Juan, after agonizing for a day, told his half-brother Philip. Two days later, confessing his sins prior to his Christmas season communion, Don Carlos admitted to his confessor that he "wanted to kill someone." Denied absolution until he either abjured his hatred or confessed further, he admitted that it was his father he wanted to kill. His confessor, like a good Spanish courtier, also reported to the King. Philip now had all the evidence he needed to do what (according to the Venetian ambassador) he had wanted to do for the past three years.

On January 18, Don Carlos revealed to his Uncle Juan his sudden decision to flee the country at once. The King, informed, made his move. About 11 A.M., armed and in armor, accompanied by his chief adviser the Duke of Eboli (husband of you-know-who) and four other gentlemen, two aides, and thirteen guards, he entered his son's rooms, seized his weapons, sealed the windows, dismissed his attendants, and ordered him confined to a single tower room under continuous guard.

"What is this?" the Prince is supposed to have said to his father. "Your majesty wants to kill me?"

(Depending on how one interprets the King's designs, the proper answer may well have been "Yes.")

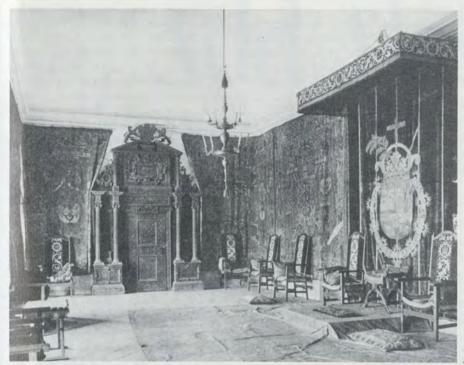
"If your majesty does not kill me, I will kill myself." Don Carlos tried to throw himself into the flames of his own fireplace, but was stopped by one of the King's attendants.

"If you kill yourself," said the King, "it will be the act of a madman."

"I am not mad. I am desperate, because of the evil way your majesty has treated me."

"Henceforth I treat you not as a father, but as a King."

So, at least, was this scene reported



King Philip's throne room at the Escorial.

the next day by the French ambassador, who was not there; a scene, moreover, which the King had forbidden those present to describe.

In order to get his own version and explanation of these events into circulation before anyone else's, the King ordered that no mail or persons were to leave Madrid until he had written and sent his own letters to people of influence all over Europe—the letters that were discovered in 1843. He ordered his subjects not to talk of the matter; ordered his own ambassadors to give no further explanations; and refused to entertain inquiries regarding his son's arrest. He announced no long-range plans for the now prisonerprince, whose servants were dismissed and whose horses were sold. His stepmother was forbidden to weep; his uncle Don Juan was forbidden to wear mourning. Since his name was not to be mentioned at court, by February the various ambassadors were reporting home that Don Carlos was already a non-person, "as good as dead."

Rumors, of course, at once began to fly. The most prevalent held that Don Carlos had threatened to kill the King (which he had not); and that he had turned Protestant, or was at least in league with the Flemish rebels (for which there is no tangible evidence).

In order not to threaten or succeed his

father, Don Carlos now had either to be declared incompetent by the Cortès of Castille, several other authorities, and the Pope—which the King knew was unlikely to happen; be kept a prisoner indefinitely; or die.

Fortunately for the King, and perhaps for Spain, he conveniently did the latter, fading out in the odor of great piety on July 24, 1568, after six months of palace arrest under rigorous terms. His meat was cut for him, so he would never touch a knife. His window and fireplace were barred. (He was allowed to see Mass being said in the next room through a grille.) He was permitted no mail and no visitors, no books except prayer books. One of the King's men was always in his room, to report any word he said. Don Carlos tried first to starve himself to death; then, with more success-according to the official version—to over-eat and freeze himself to death at once. He is supposed to have walked about naked. slept on ice, then eaten a whole spicy three-partridge paté en croute at once, followed by several gallons of ice water. He collapsed with violent indigestion, and never recovered. His father refused, and his mother and aunt were forbidden, to visit him as he died.

It may be asserted that much of this "objective" account of the life and death of the real Don Carlos still depends on

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None of the men who were in Carlos's chamber-cell at the time of his arrest, or at the time of his death, has ever written an account of what he saw, so far as we know. King Philip's copious, self-serving diplomatic correspondence is not to be absolutely trusted. (To the Pope, he writes like an unctuous Defender of the Faith; to his brother the Emperor, like a distraught and miserable father.) To this day, historians debate endlessly on the true character of this most devious of sovereigns, and the real reasons for his deeds.

Given the Gothic-novel circumstances of Carlos's imprisonment and death, Philip's own insistence on ambiguity and secrecy, and his reputation (especially in Protestant countries) as a bloodthirsty tyrant, it is only natural that most of the contemporary public, most historians, and virtually all literary redactors of the story took it for granted that King Philip ordered the murder of his son.

Four of the earliest "historians" of sixteenth century Spain had Don Carlos killed by (a) slow poisoning over weeks; (b) a dose of poison in his soup; (c) strangulation; (d) suffocation; and (e) decapitation. One branch of the legend insists that the head of his corpse, now sealed up in his tomb in the Escorial, is clearly severed (or missing) from the body-though inspections of his remains in 1795 and 1812 failed to bear this out. In Prof. Lieder's list of literary versions, Don Carlos is by turns strangled, poisoned, or shot by the King's orders; stabbed (in the Queen's arms) by the King himself; a suicidesometimes by the King's command—who either cuts his veins in his bath (St. Réal, Otway, Campistron, Le Motte Fouqué), takes poison, or stabs himself (Ximines, Polidori, Alfieri, Schiller in prose); is a victor over his father; is reconciled with his father; is miraculously cured; dies of a fever from his own excesses (Canizares, Schaeffer, and perhaps reality); is crushed to death when his prison is blown to bits; falls to his death when a villain cuts the rope on which he is escaping from his cell; is turned over to the Inquisition, presumably to be tortured and killed (Soumet, Mercier, Schiller in verse, some productions of Verdi); or-this is unique to Verdi's first librettists-is somehow "saved" by the ghost of Charles V from the hands of the Inquisition.

Real life, and its recorded history, run their own complex courses. Literature

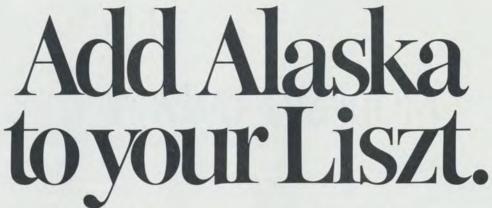
and legend, even when drawn from history, lead lives of their own. There was a real Don Carlos, Prince of Asturias; born 1545, died 1568. But there is also a legendary literary Don Carlos, who has been reborn, with his whole surrounding cast of characters, dozens and dozens of times. In this sense, he is like Antony and Cleopatra, Eloise and Abelard, Richard III, Joan of Arc, Mary Queen of Scots; like Abraham Lincoln, Florence Nightingale, Winston Churchill, perhaps even John Kennedy. People seem to have more need of, or at least taste for the legendaryliterary versions than of their often awkward and artless originals.

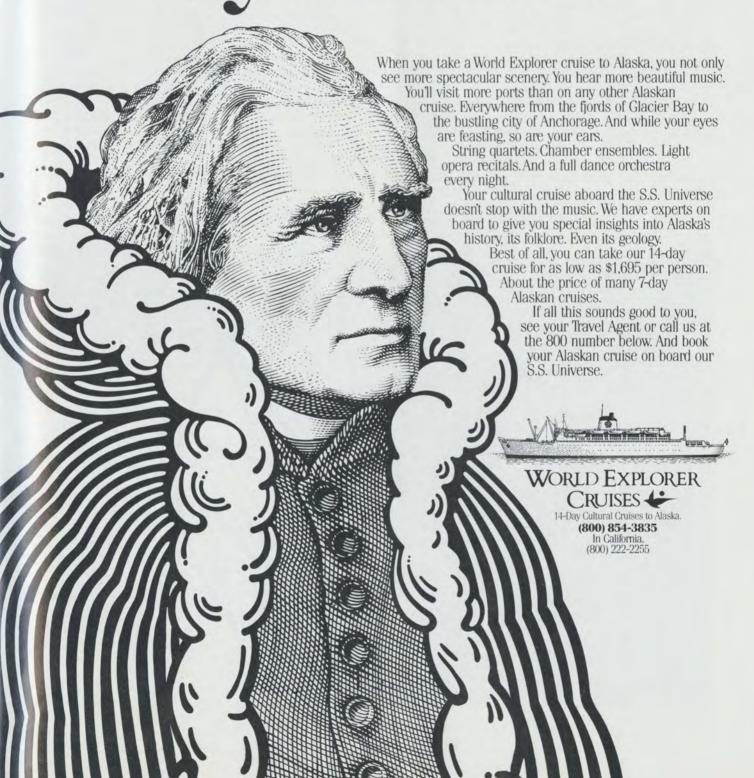
St. Réal's *Don Carlos* is wonderfully seventeenth-century French, suffused with subtle sexuality, with tenderness and gallantry and intrigue. Otway's and Alfieri's stripped-down versions fit neatly into one 24-hour neoclassical day. Schiller's play is stridently liberal, passionately independent, inflated with all the high ideals of its author and his brave new political world.

Verdi's *Don Carlos* is, frankly, nineteenth-century operatic. In his opera, people meet so they can sing beautifully together; events are staged for theatrical effects; much of the action fits Paris conventions of the decade. And yet the whole is pulled together by the ideas *Verdi* cared most about: frustrated love, paternal feelings, the challenging of church and state tyranny by heroic individuals.

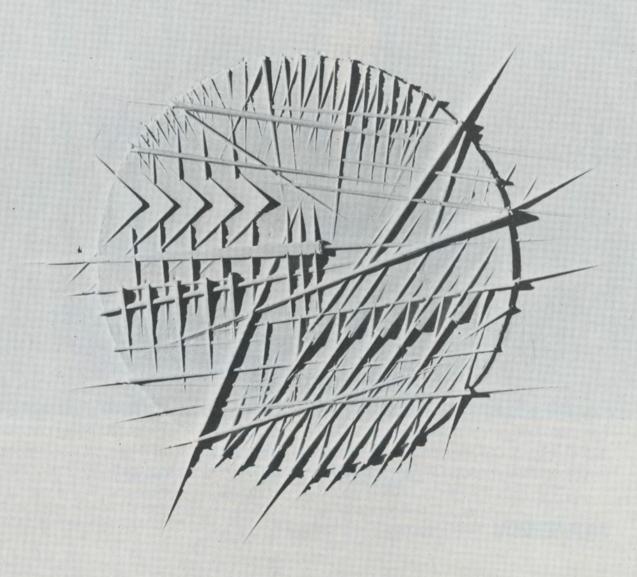
Verdi's *Don Carlos* is full of anachronisms, of historical impossibilities. Historically, it is wrong on almost every major point: the character of Don Carlos, his relation to the Queen, his attitude towards the rebels, the whole Eboli/jealousy business, the role of the Inquisition. Decades are condensed, characters are transposed.

A participant in the 1979 Verdi Congress said of the real Don Carlos, "he was a prince of lunatic tendencies whose only historical importance was that his miserable story was made use of by poets and playwrights." That, I think, goes too far. I agree with Fernand Braudel that Don Carlos's actual life and death, insofar as we can reconstruct them, are at least as compelling as any of the romantic legends. But there is something fascinating in tracing one long thin line of cultural history, by seeing the ways in which great and lesser artists, over three hundred years, have felt obliged to reshape and improve on historical reality.





MODESTO LANZONE'S



Company Profiles: Dale Wibben

This on-going series of interviews introduces our readers to a cross-section of San Francisco Opera Company members who never get to take a curtain call, but whose activities are very important in the process of making opera happen.

When it comes to the conundrums of opening night couture, the most fashion-conscious woman in the opera audience has nothing on Pilar Lorengar. In addition to singing the role of Elisabeth de Valois, in French, for the first time in her career, the Spanish soprano has to negotiate five changes of gown. "That's a dress an hour," sighs San Francisco Opera Costume Shop's cutter Dale Wibben. If that realization is sobering, it's simply because how those gowns look, and how Lorengar looks in them, is strictly Wibben's business.

As a Costume Shop cutter it is his job to translate a designer's costume sketches into stageworthy garments. The process regularly entails making a muslin mockup and, from there, drawing a pattern, cutting the fabric, assembling the pieces, and finishing it all into a garment. The word "sewing" never crosses his lips. These are not ordinary dresses, after all, but costumes. The word he uses is "building."

The reason comes clear in his description of an admittedly difficult piece: Brünnhilde's gold wedding cape from the second act of Götterdämmerung. "It took my best stitcher three weeks, eight hours a day, just to hem under little squares of appliquéd gold and machine them onto pieces of silk three-eighths of an inch apart," he explains. "While she was doing that, another stitcher and I were working on the collar, which was a series of braids and ropes and metallic laces, all ruched and smocked and macraméd in Celtic patterns. And the piece had a very curious understructure. It had to come off and on several times during the scene, and it had to be perfectly balanced, so no matter which character put it on her ['her' being Eva Marton], it would go on straight. We put in five solid weeks on that dress-and it was a dead simple dress, actually.

"The director and designer saw the piece as a kind of mammoth golden fleece, which Brünnhilde was dying under the weight of. Well, Miss Marton was not about to die under the weight of anything,

and it was making it lightweight that made it so time-consuming and expensive. Otherwise, it could have been made in the Crafts Shop, with real jewels and lengths of gold chain that could have been riveted in place. But we had to use the lightest, shiniest things we could find—all hand stitched. Miss Marton was quite fond of it when it was done."

Having worked with the company only a little more than three years, Wibben already knows the regular artists well enough to guess how they will react to designs. When the delicate art of negotiating comes into play, he says, "The buck seems to stop here. My assistant and I deal directly with artists during fittings. When they ask for major changes in the costumes we've built, for whatever rea-

son, we're left to hash out what's possible, how many changes can be made to the dress that exists, and how much material—and time—is left. Sometimes it ends up involving Jenny [costume director Jennifer Green], who holds the purse strings that determine what is possible, in terms of both material and time.

"But in all, I've been lucky, since most of the fittings have been successful. Fortunately, all the things I've heard over the years about what opera stars are like to deal with haven't proved to be true. It's not been a problem."

For one thing, he does not have to worry about artists fudging on their measurements. "We don't get them from the artists. We get them from one company or another, or we measure the



Dale Wibben at work on Pilar Lorengar's Don Carlos costume, one that will be seen in the fifth act.

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Dale Wibben of the San Francisco Opera Costume Shop.

artists ourselves. And in many cases you can go on what the artists have worn in the past. One of the first prima donnas I had to deal with was Leontyne Price, as Aida. The measurements we had on her were seven years old, so I got up all of the dresses from downstairs that had been created for her over the years, and we put them all on the form, so I could tell what her figure had been doing over the years.

"You get very keen at seeing what kinds of lines keep repeating themselves. If you notice that nothing has trains, regardless of period, you know that the singer doesn't like them. Same with necklines. And you can look in old programs to see what artists look particularly good in. For Price, we built from those kinds of considerations—and were incredibly lucky. She virtually walked into all the dresses, with no major changes needed.

"And in a sense, measurements mean nothing, because they don't reveal how tight artists like their costumes. Some singers, particularly mature ones, seem to like tight-fitting costumes, for support. It gives them something to sing against. And younger, thinner singers seem to like their clothes very loose. And we have one artist who is very thin—but has a five-inch rib expansion when she sings. So you have to do elastics and all kinds of clever pads to fill out her dresses—because otherwise they just look too big on her."

Wibben, who at 28 is remarkably young to have been in his profession ten years, let alone to have reached his current station, was trained at Chicago's Goodman School of Drama. He has done considerable work in the legitimate theater, including several years at the internationally renowned Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Although he hasn't forsaken the idea of theater work forever, he is glad to have made a switch to opera, "because just about everything

we do here is a period piece, and that's what I'm best at.

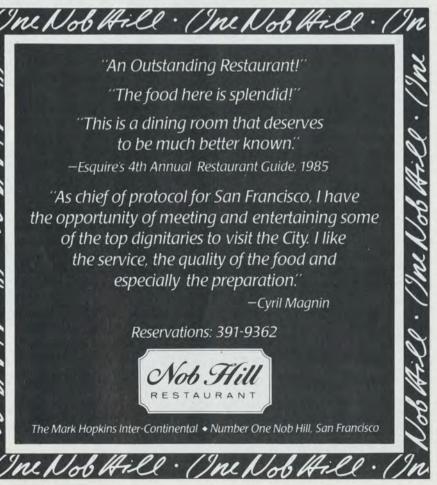
"I have to research whatever period the show's in. In fact, in opera, we have to research the periods even harder, so we can 'bump up' certain design elements so that a costume still reads as period after we've reduced it for a singer. Most artists are incredibly good about what they'll wear, but because of relatively short rehearsal time, and very short fitting time, a lot of period details have to go by the wayside. Face it, it can be intimidating to suddenly find yourself in a dress boned up to the throat with lace sticking out and sleeves that drag. Artists tend to whittle away at those kinds of costumes-sometimes rather literally."

Wibben's interest in period costume at first seems incongruous, since, in terms of fashion, his own period is so clearly N-O-W. "Mr. McEwen still refers to me as 'the punk one,'" he says somewhat sheepishly. "I guess it didn't help that my hair was three different colors when I went to soprano Ruth Ann Swenson's wedding. I don't mean to make it a problem when I do fittings, and I try to dress appropriately for situations I can anticipate. But overall I've found that when people think you look 'artistic,' they relax, more convinced that you're going to take trouble over the way they look." His feeling for period clothes is also manifested in his own, admittedly large, wardrobe, by his predilection for antique clothes. He does not own a three-piece suit, and his several tuxedos are from the '20s, '30s, and '40s. "I suppose I should get a regular one," he says bemusedly.

But it's hardly as though he has no room to be innovative on the job. "It's a priority in this shop as Jenny runs it that costumes are no heavier than they have to be," he says. "For Don Carlos, we've done some interesting things, in terms of making single-layered, quilted petticoats with hoops and horsehair at the bottom, to get them as full as possible while keeping them light. And adding a layer of fabric so we can bone the bodices of dresses themselves, so that women don't have to wear corsets as well as dresses."

Other shortcuts are made purely to make garments affordable. "For Don Carlos," he continues, "ideally, all of the skirts— and keep in mind, all the chorus women's dresses are different—would be cartridge-pleated, which is a beautiful technique for hand-doing all of the gathers in the waistband. It also takes five



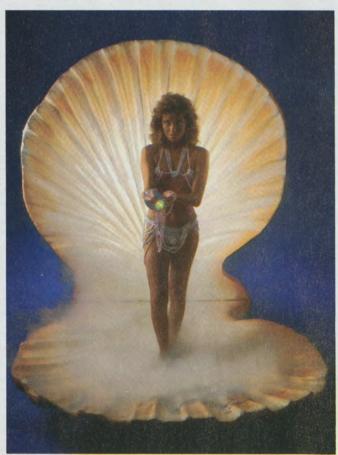


hours per. As it is, the waistbands are flatpleated, gathered up, and put on a piece of grosgrain—in 20 minutes. And the audience is none the wiser. Two-thirds of this job is getting the show up on time, under budget, with people in clothes that fit."

The payoff, for Wibben, is being able to go all out on particular shows, such as last season's Orlando. Somehow, almost magically, or so it seems to the occasional visitor, out of the almost Dickensian circumstances of the Costume Shoplocated on the Tenderloin stretch of Market Street, between World of Pants and Magic Dollar ("SF T-shirts, \$1.99")come confections like "Valerie Masterson's gowns. She had three, and each must have been made of 90 to 100 yards of fabric, all Chinese silks, Indian sari silks, and sequined Indian scarves. Handbeaded pieces were irregularly set into those dresses. No two sections of her dresses were the same; no two sleeves

Brünnhilde's Götterdämmerung wedding cape, seen in San Francisco Opera's 1985 Ring Festival, came into being courtesy of the deft fingers of Dale Wibben and his Costume Shop colleagues.





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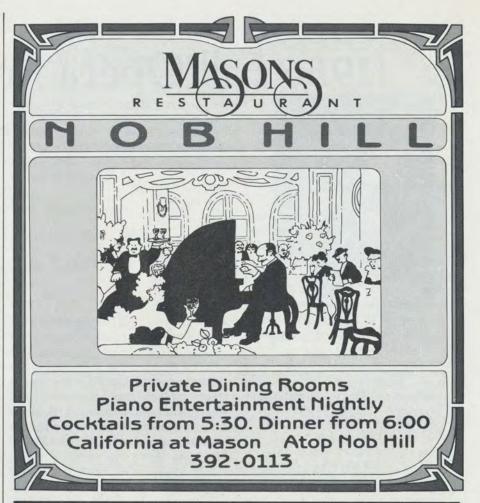
matched; no one side of a skirt was the same as another. And the material was all assembled into hooped dresses with eightfoot trains made of panels no bigger than eight inches wide. Just building the fabrics to make those dresses took weeks, and we were able to put eight or nine weeks total into the clothes for that show. Now those were expensive dresses!"

Although that is not an everyday situation at the opera, "The standards in this company are very high," Wibben says. "Even though we don't always have the time or money to turn out the clothes we'd like to, things come off very nicely here, in comparison to other companies in this country. We make costumes that are as light as possible, as close as possible to what the designer wants, and that are completely launderable—the virtue of which comes clear every time we have to work with old dresses from stock, some of which are pretty rank. And we also make clothes that are as alterable as possible. Of course you can leave as much seam allowance as you like, but there is a point past which you can't let a garment out without distorting it. But since I've been here, I've gotten distressingly good at knowing exactly where you can put a seam to make a garment alterable without distorting it. But gratefully, we often can make costumes for principals that aren't that alterable. They're one-off gowns, made for one woman, one show."

There are, of course, emergencies—all part of the game. "After the final dress rehearsal of Sonnambula," he recalls, "the director asked for a different dress, of a completely different design, for Miss Von Stade's final scene. That dress was built between dress rehearsal and opening, and Miss Von Stade never saw it until she wore it. When she showed up in her dressing room that night, she tried it on, approved it, and we finished it while she was putting her makeup on. I've become alarmingly good at batting out an 18th-century bodice in a morning, when I have to."

The problems are obvious. "The tedium of opera," he says, scarcely looking up from his work, "is both in the scale and the constancy of it. There's just so much of it all the time." But as obvious are the reasons for daily braving the squalor of Market Street: "I've gotten to do some really incredible clothes here," Wibben adds, looking proudly at the Don Carlos 80wns.

—Timothy Pfaff



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1986 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 INSIGHTS		Jenůfa Dale Harris	0/10	Macbeth James Keolker	11/14
	pera Insights held in the Herbst Thea-		9/10	James Reoker	11/14
tre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness		Faust	1,5,000	SONOMA COUNTY CHAPTER	
Ave., in San Francisco. All informal dis-		Francesca Zambello	9/25	Previews held at various times and loca-	
cussions begin at 6 p.m.; doors open at		Die Meistersinger			
5:30 p.m. Series subscription for Guild		William Huck	10/16		
nembers is \$12; Non-Guild members 515. Individual tickets may be purchased		Eugene Onegin			further information,
		James Keolker	11/6		charge for receptions
at the door for \$5. For fur	the door for \$5. For further informa-				e call (707) 539-7157.
tion, please call (415) 565-6	432. Programs	Macbeth James Keolker	11/20		, 10:30 a.m. preview;
are subject to change.		*******			12:30 p.m. luncheon
Sir Charles Mackerras	9/22	SOUTH PENINSULA			lta Vista, Santa Rosa
Francesca Zambello	10/6	Previews held at the P.	alo Alto Senior		ita vista, bailta 105a
Mirella Freni and Thomas	Allen 11/14	Center, 450 Bryant, at 8 p.m. Series Jenufa 9/11, 10:30 a.m.		, 10:30 a.m. preview;	
CAN ED ANCICCO OPER		registration is \$22 (students \$11); single		Dale Harris	12:30 p.m. luncheon
SAN FRANCISCO OPER	A	tickets are \$5 (students		Depot Ho	
GUILD PREVIEWS		information, please call (4	15) 941-3890.	241 First S	Street West, Sonoma
MARIN		Don Carlos		Die Meistersinger	10/8,
Previews held at Park School	ol Auditorium,	George Martin	9/3	William Huck	5:30 p.m. reception;
360 E. Blithedale, Mill V.	alley; refresh-	Jenůfa			7 p.m. preview
ments served at 7:30 p.m.,		Dale Harris	9/9	1000 Buckeye Rd., Ken	
p.m. Series registration		Die Meistersinger	~ ~	E Oursin	10/20
previews (\$20 for students and seniors).		William Huck	10/7	Eugene Onegin James Keolker	10/29,
Single tickets are \$5 (\$4 fo			10//	James Rediker	5:30 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. preview
seniors). For further infor	mation, please	Eugene Onegin James Keolker	7714	IA	Vild Oak Saddle Club
call (415) 388-6982. Don Carlos		The state of the s	11/4		hite Oak, Santa Rosa
George Martin	9/4	Manon			
Jenufa	2/4	Michael Mitchell	11/11		, 10:30 a.m. preview;
Dale Harris	0/11	Macbeth	2004	Michael Mitchell	12:30 p.m. luncheon
	9/11	James Keolker	11/18	247 5 4 6	Depot Hotel
Die Meistersinger	4.0/0	SAN JOSE OPERA GUI	LD	241 First Stre	eet West, Santa Rosa
William Huck	10/2	Previews held at the		Macbeth 11/13	, 10:30 a.m. preview;
Faust		Center for the Arts, 1540			12:30 p.m. luncheon
Francesca Zambello	10/9	in Saratoga, at 10 a.m. Ser			St. Francis Vineyards
Eugene Onegin		public at a cost of \$4 per	lecture; \$2 for	8450 Son	oma Hwy, Kenwood
James Keolker	10/30	students and senior ci		JUNIOR LEAGUE O	DED A DDEVIEWS
Manon		charge to San Jose Opera			
Michael Mitchell	11/6	and members of Montal		All Junior League opera previews held in Herbst Theatre in the Veterans Building	
Macbeth		information, please call (4	08) 741-1331.		San Francisco. Lec-
James Keolker	11/13	Don Carlos			on and there is no
		George Martin	9/5		for further informa-
NORTH PENINSULA	Cl 1 C	Jenufa		tion, please call (415)	
Previews held at St. Andre		Dale Harris	9/12	Don Carlos	
El Camino Real at 15th Ave., San Mateo,		Die Meistersinger		George Martin	9/3
at 7:30 p.m. Series registration is \$32 for 6		William Huck	10/10	Jenufa	-
previews; single tickets are \$6. For further information, please call (408) 735-3757 or		Eugene Onegin		Dale Harris	9/9
(415) 343-7251.	0,700 0707 01	James Keolker	10/31		212
Don Carlos		Manon	10,01	Die Meistersinger William Huck	10/8
George Martin	9/2	IVIUIUII		VVIIIIaili Fluck	10/8

11/7

9/2

Michael Mitchell

George Martin

Eugene Onegin James Keolker	10/29
Manon Michael Mitchell	11/5
Macbeth James Keolker	11/12

NAPA OPERA LECTURE SERIES

"Adventures in Opera", now in its 14th year, is a course which accompanies the Saturday and Sunday series at the San Francisco Opera. The lectures will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Napa First Methodist Church, Centennial Hall, 4th and Randolph, in Napa. Ernest Fly will again teach the course. Cost for the entire series is \$20; individual lectures are are \$3. For further information, please call (707) 224-6162.

Le Nozze di Figaro	9/4
Jenůfa	9/11
Don Carlos	9/18
La Forza del Destino	9/25
Die Meistersinger	10/2
Faust	10/16
Eugene Onegin	10/23
La Bohème	10/30
Manon	11/6
Macbeth	11/13

OPERA EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL PREVIEW SERIES

Previews of the operas of the 1986 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 St., between Scott and Divisadero, at 7:30 p.m. Admission to the series of 4 opera previews is \$20; individual admission at the door is \$6. For further information, please call (415) 526-5244.

Don Carlos	9/4		
Jenufa	9/11		
Faust	9/18		
Macbeth	11/13		

SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES

Under the sponsorship of the S.F. Community College District, Robert Finch will give eight free lectures. They will be held at 10 a.m. in the Downtown Community College Center, 800 Mission (at Fourth), Room 325. For further information, please call (415) 431-3437.

Jenufa	9/5
La Forza del Destino	9/12
Faust	9/19
Die Meistersinger	9/26
La Bohème	10/3
Eugene Onegin	10/10
Manon	10/17
Macbeth	10/24

HILLBARN THEATRE

Semi-staged dramatic readings of plays that served as inspiration for operatic masterpieces will be held in the Green Room of the Hillbarn Theatre, 1285 E. Hillsdale Blvd., in Foster City. Performances on Friday and Saturday are at 8:30 p.m.; Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for individual performances, \$16 for the complete series. For information and reservations, please call (415) 349-6411.

Don Carlos/Schiller 9/5,		13,	21
Don Alvaro, or the Force of I	Destiny/		
Duke de Rivas	916,	14,	19
Faust/Goethe	917,	12,	20

MERRITT COLLEGE OPERA LECTURE SERIES

Merritt College is offering a course, Introduction to Opera (Music 16), with emphasis on the operas of the Fall Season, on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, beginning September 9. The enrollment fee is \$15. Classes will be held at the College, 12500 Campus Drive, Building R, Room 125, in Oakland. For further information, please call (415) 436-2410.

ROBERT GOODHUE'S FALL OPERA COURSE

Ten classes on all of the fall operas are offered, and there is a choice of three series: Mondays at 6:30 p.m at 13 Columbus Ave.; Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Mason Gatehouse; and a Saturday afternoon series (with one Thursday evening session) at the YWCA, 620 Sutter St. Cost for a series of 10 previews is \$80; individual previews are \$12. For further information, please call (415) 956-1271.

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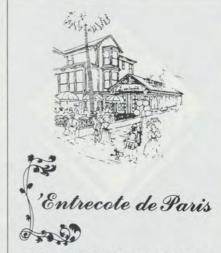
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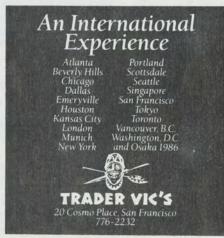
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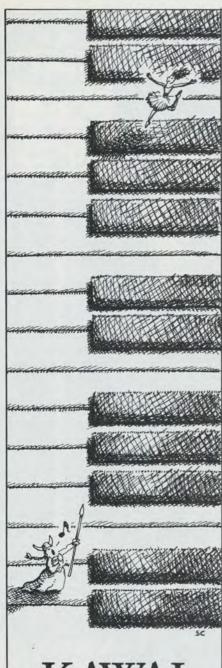






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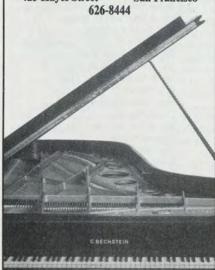
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Sennheiser Listening Devices

In order to increase the enjoyment of opera for hearing-impaired members of the audience, the War Memorial Opera House has recently installed a new Sennheiser Listening System. Wireless headphones and induction devices (adaptable to hearing aids) are available at the north end of the main lobby. A rental fee of \$2.00 is requested, in addition to an ID deposit, such as a drivers license or major credit card. The devices can be used in any seat in the Opera House.



Opera House Tours

Sponsored by the San Francisco Opera Guild, tours of the War Memorial Opera House will be conducted every half hour from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the following dates: Sunday, November 9 Wednesday, November 19 Sunday, November 23 Thursday, December 4 Saturday, December 6 The cost is \$2 for Guild members (limit 2 tickets per member); nonmembers \$5. For further information, please call (415) 565-6432.



If You Drive To The Opera . . .

... and park in the Performing Arts Garage, remember that you can avoid some of the traffic congestion by using the Gough Street entrance to the facility (between Fulton and Grove).



Services

Bus Service Many operagoers 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 north-bound 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: 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.

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.

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

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

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) 864-3330. 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.

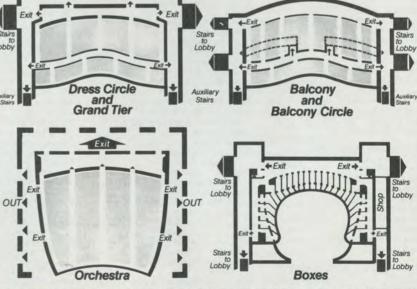
Management reserves the right to remove any patron creating a disturbance.

For lost and found information, inquire at check room No. 3 or call (415) 621-6600, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. For the safety and comfort of our audience all large parcels, backpacks, luggage, etc., must be

checked at the Opera House cloakrooms. **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.

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.

San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center War Memorial Opera House



Patrons, Attention Please! 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. (Refer to diagrams.)

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