Die Entführung aus dem Serail (The Abduction from the Seraglio)

1990

Thursday, September 27, 1990 7:30 PM Wednesday, October 3, 1990 7:30 PM Sunday, October 7, 1990 2:00 PM Tuesday, October 9, 1990 8:00 PM Saturday, October 13, 1990 8:00 PM Tuesday, October 16, 1990 8:00 PM Friday, October 19, 1990 8:00 PM

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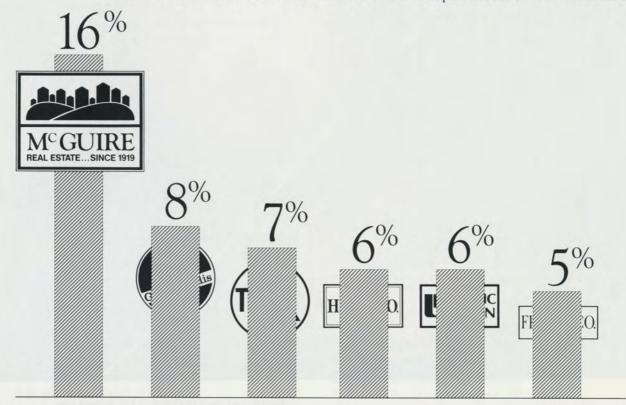
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San Francisco Opera

Lotfi Mansouri, General Director

Die Entführung aus dem Serail (The Abduction from the Seraglio)

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- 52 Remembering John Pritchard by Timothy Pfaff Originally scheduled to conduct this year's performances of Mozart's Singspiel, the late San Francisco Opera Music Director is the subject of a memorial tribute.
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COVER

Dadd, Richard, 1819-1887 Fantasy of the Egyptian Harem, 1865

Watercolor, 101/8X71/16 in.

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England

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1990 SEASON Vol. 68, No. 6



From the President and the Chairman of the Board

Welcome to the 68th Fall Season of San Francisco Opera. Our first season of opera in the 1990s offers much that is new, including a new president of the Opera Association Board of Directors. Both of us have served on the board for a number of years, and it is most exciting to be involved as this great Company reassesses its past and prepares for a promising future.

We on the board are not always highly visible to our audiences. What appears on our stage, however, is; and this year, there is an unusually high number of productions new to San Francisco Opera audiences: seven of our eleven fall season productions have not been seen here before. The economics of opera production being what they are, we could never have such an abundance of new productions without some very creative planning on the part of our administration. Opera is the most laborintensive, and therefore expensive, of all the performing arts; no American opera company could possibly afford to build seven new productions in one year in today's fiscal climate.

We have built three new productions in our San Francisco Opera shops this year, which in itself is an impressive

figure, and two of them have been made possible through deeply appreciated donations. Our new production of Mozart's The Abduction from the Seraglio was underwritten by a generous grant from the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, and San Francisco Opera gratefully acknowledges the generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Gorham B. Knowles and The Edward E. Hills Fund to underwrite our new Die Fledermaus.

Opera companies can save considerable amounts of money by creating a new production together, and that is what we have done with Berg's Wozzeck, in tandem with the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto. For helping us cover our end of the costs of this joint venture, San Francisco Opera extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Paul L. and Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.

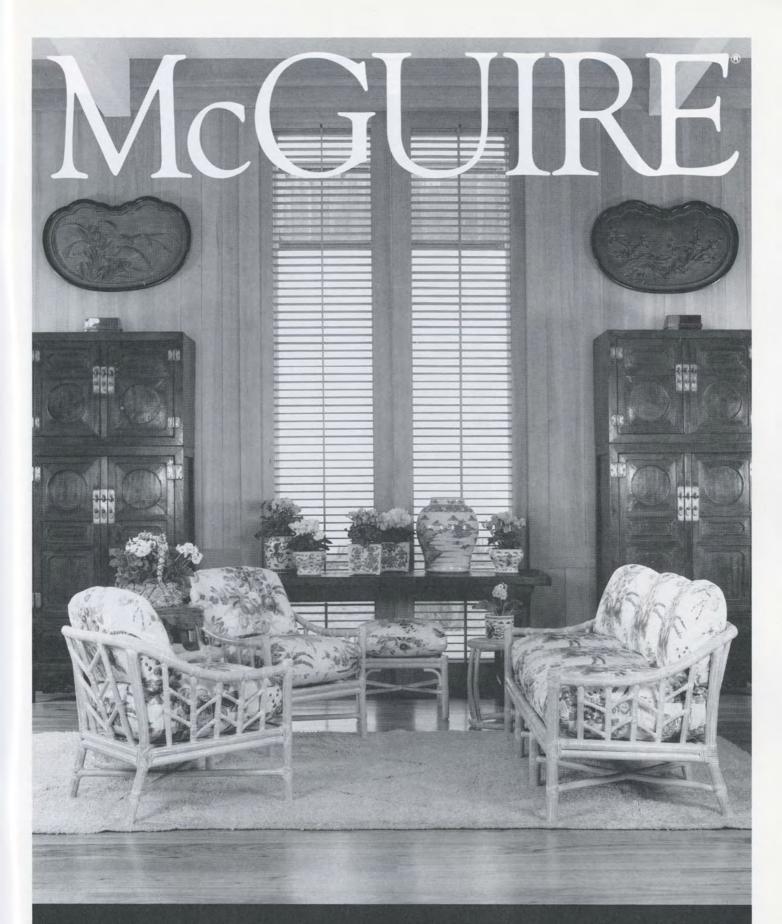
Even our own productions that we revive do not come free; the costs in refurbishing a production are surprisingly high, and San Francisco Opera gratefully acknowledges a generous gift from Maria Manetti Farrow to underwrite our revival of Pagliacci. Our other revived productions owe their original creation to the generosity of previous donations: Rigoletto was made possible by

a gift from James D. Robertson, Khovanshchina by a gift from the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation, and Un Ballo in Maschera by a gift from an anonymous friend of San Francisco Opera. To all of the benefactors whose generosity made this bright new season possible, our deepest and warmest thanks!

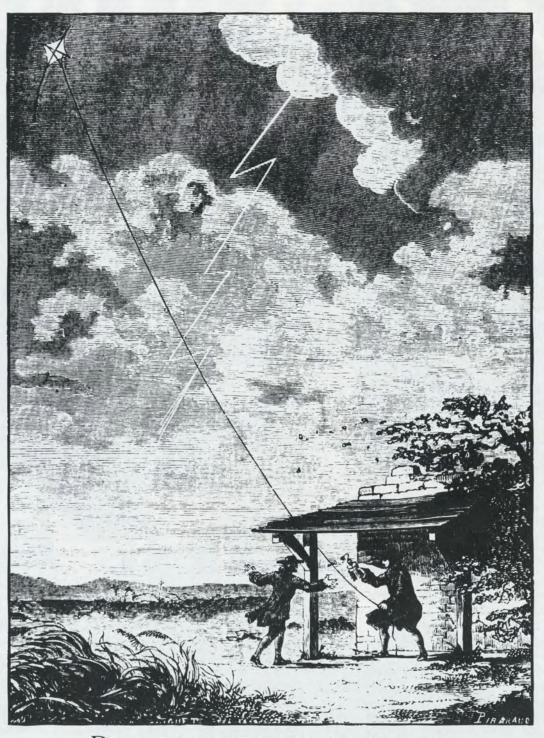
In addition, we acknowledge our governmental funding sources, including the National Endowment for the Arts and the California Arts Council. We also extend our appreciation to the Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. The continued support of Mayor Art Agnos and Chief Administrative Officer Rudolf Nothenberg has been extremely gratifying. And of course, we extend our appreciation to the San Francisco Opera Guild and the War Memorial Board of Trustees for their ongoing support.

With the continuing support of the above-mentioned individuals, foundations, corporations and governmental agencies, we anticipate an exciting operatic experience as we explore the treasures of our repertoire in the 1990s.

> Reid W. Dennis, Chairman Thomas Tilton, President



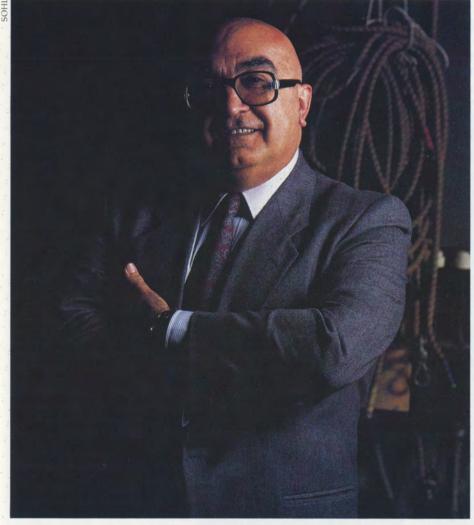
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General Director's Message

Another fall season is upon us, and once again I take delight in welcoming you back to San Francisco Opera. There are many new elements to this fall season, many more than usual, and our regular subscribers as well as our new audience members will find themselves on an adventurous exploration of new repertoire, new productions of familiar repertoire, and exciting debuts by a number of artists.

To begin with, an amazing seven of our eleven productions are new to San Francisco. Three of them represent Company premieres: Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (previously staged by Spring Opera, but never before a part of our regular fall season), Massenet's Don Quichotte and Monteverdi's The Return of Ulysses to his Homeland. Another opera receiving a new production, Suor Angelica, hasn't been performed in the War Memorial Opera House since 1952, while Capriccio, also new, has been part of only one previous fall season, in 1963. Khovanshchina has also been seen only once before, when the current production was unveiled in 1984.

The number of artists joining us for the first time this season is also impressive—so much so that it would be impossible to list everyone here: five conductors, two directors, five designers and nearly 20 singers will be making their San Francisco Opera debuts this fall, while several returning artists will be undertaking new roles for the first time.

In short, there are many wonderful discoveries to be made this season, and I am extremely pleased that you will be here to make them along with us. The art form we call opera is nearly 400 years young, and it grows fresher, more vital and exciting every year. San Francisco Opera welcomes you as together we celebrate the liveliest of the performing arts.

San Francisco Opera

Lotfi Mansouri, General Director

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(CANCELLED)	Tuesday, Sept. 18, 8:00 (0 Wozzeck	CANCELLED) Berg	
Puccini g, Petersen,	Wednesday, September 19, 7 Suor Angelica and	:30 Puccini	
	Pagliacci Leoncavallo		
Aunn	Thursday, September 20, 8:00 Rigoletto Verdi		
Leoncavallo	Friday, September 21, 8:00† Wozzeck	Berg	
unn	Suor Angelica	0 Puccini	
lly from Maria		Leoncavallo	
te the revival i.	Sunday, September 23, 2:00 Wozzeck Berg		
(CANCELLED) with the	Tuesday, September 25, 8:00 Rigoletto) Verdi	
Berg vorth, Kale**,	Wednesday, September 26, 7 Wozzeck	30 Berg	
edbetter, hitfield	Thursday, September 27, 7:30 New Production Die Entführung aus dem Serail Mozart Patterson, Parrish, Fortuna, Guo; Moll, Streit*, Magnusson*, Hoffmann*, Li, Graber Michael*/Wadsworth*/Lynch*/Long*/ Arhelger		
lly 1t from the is Foundation			
(CANCELLED) Puccini	San Francisco Opera gratefully acknowledges a generous grant	from the L.J.	
Leoncavallo	underwrite this production.		
(CANCELLED) Berg	Friday, September 28, 8:00 Suor Angelica	Puccini	
:00		Leoncavallo	
en, Fortuna, 1gan, Skinner,	Saturday, September 29, 2:00 Wozzeck Berg		
er, Graber* Munn	Sunday, September 30, 2:00 Rigoletto	Verdi	
ly made D. Robertson.	Tuesday, October 2, 8:00 Suor Angelica	Puccini	
00 Puccini	and Pagliacci (Tonio: Timothy Noble)	Leoncavallo	
	Puccini g, Petersen, andell*, laycomb*, Munn Leoncavallo guerra, unn lly from Maria te the revival i. (CANCELLED) with the Berg worth, Kale**, edbetter, hitfield lly th from the is Foundation (CANCELLED) Puccini Leoncavallo (CANCELLED) Puccini Leoncavallo (CANCELLED) Berg :00 Verdi en, Fortuna, igan, Skinner, er, Graber* Munn ly made D. Robertson.	WozzeckPuccini g, Petersen, andell*,Wednesday, September 19, 7 Suor Angelica andJaycomb*,PagliacciMunnThursday, September 20, 8:0 RigolettoMunnFriday, September 21, 8:00† WozzeckLeoncavallo guerra,Friday, September 21, 8:00† WozzeckunnSuor Angelica and PagliacciIly from Maria te the revival i.Sunday, September 23, 2:00 Wozzeck(CANCELLED) with theTuesday, September 25, 8:00 RigolettoBerg worth, Kale**, edbetter,Wednesday, September 26, 7 WozzeckNew Production bitfieldDie Entführung aus dem Ser New ProductionIly at from the is FoundationSan Francisco Opera gratefully acknowledges a generous grant J and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.(CANCELLED) PucciniFriday, September 28, 8:00 Suor Angelica and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.(CANCELLED) achnowledges a generous grant J and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.(CANCELLED) achnowledges a generous grant J and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.(CANCELLED) BergFriday, September 28, 8:00 Suor Angelica and MozzeckSunday, September 28, 8:00 BergSunday, September 29, 2:0WozzeckSunday, September 30, 2:00 RigolettoUnnRidgeltoDate form the and PucciniTuesday, October 2, 8:00 Suor Angelica and PucciniDiaPagliacciDiaSunday, September 30, 2:00 RigolettoMunnRigoletto	

†ADDED PERFORMANCE

Leoncavallo

990 Sea	ason			
7, Sept. 18, 8:00 k	(CANCELLED) Berg	Wednesday, October 3, 7:30 Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Mozart	
day, September 1 igelica	9, 7:30 Puccini	Friday, October 5, 8:00 Rigoletto	Verdi	
i	Leoncavallo	Sunday, October 7, 2:00 Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Mozart	
ay, September 20, 0	Verdi	Tuesday, October 9, 8:00 Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Mozart	
September 21, 8:0 k	00† Berg	Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 Rigoletto	Verdi	
y, September 22, ngelica	8:00 Puccini	Thursday, October 11, 8:00		
i Contombor 22-2	Leoncavallo	San Francisco Opera Premiere Don Quichotte Massenet Ciesinski, Mills, Cowdrick; Ramey, Trempont, Petersen, Wilborn*, Travis Rudel/Roubaud**/Morgan/Arhelger		
September 23, 2 k	Berg			
7, September 25, 8 0	Verdi	This production is owned by the Ly Opera of Chicago.	ric	
day, September 2 k ay, September 27,	Berg	Friday, October 12, 7:30 Rigoletto	Verdi	
duction führung aus dem	Serail Mozart	Saturday, October 13, 8:00 Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Mozart	
on, Parrish, Fortu Magnusson*, Hof		Sunday, October 14, 2:00 Don Quichotte	lassenet	
/Wadsworth/Ly r		Tuesday, October 16, 8:00 Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Mozart	
icisco Opera gratef edges a generous gro ry C. Skaggs Found	ant from the L.J.	Thursday, October 18, 7:30 Don Quichotte	lassenet	
ite this production. September 28, 8:0		Friday, October 19, 8:00 Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Mozart	
ngelica	Puccini	Saturday, October 20, 8:00 Don Quichotte	lassenet	
i y, September 29,	Leoncavallo	Sunday, October 21, 2:00		
k	Berg	Production new to San Francisco Co-produced with the Royal Opera	,	
September 30, 2	Verdi		Strauss	
7, October 2, 8:00 ngelica	Puccini	Te Kanawa, Schwarz, Grist; Olsen*, Shimell, Hagegård, Braun, Sénéchal, Estep, Travis Barlow**/Cox/Pagano/Versace**/ Caniparoli/Munn		
i Timothy Noble)	Leoncavallo			
PERFORMANCE		Sets from Théâtre de la Monnaie,	Brussels	

Pagliacci

Tuesday, October 23, 8:00 Don Quichotte Massenet	Saturday, November 10, 1:00 Family Matinee		
Wednesday, October 24, 7:30 Capriccio R. Strauss Friday, October 26, 8:00	Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr. Racette, Williams, Keen, Mills;Estep, McNeil, Villanueva, Travis, Rideout Summers*/Mansouri/Skalicki/Bosquet/		
Don Quichotte Massenet	Tomasson/Munn San Francisco Opera gratefully		
Saturday, October 27, 8:00 Capriccio R. Strauss	acknowledges a generous gift from the Opera Guild to underwrite this Family Matinee performance.		
Sunday, October 28, 2:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi Dunn*, Dahl, Curry*; Mauro, Fondary, Storojev*, Skinner, Ledbetter, Petersen	Saturday, November 10, 8:00 Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr. Sunday, November 11, 2:00 Capriccio R. Strauss		
Arena/Ewers/Conklin/Morgan/Munn			
This production was originally made possible by a gift from an anonymous friend.	Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi		
Tereder Orteles 22 0.00	Friday, November 16, 8:00 Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr.		
Tuesday, October 30, 8:00 Capriccio R. Strauss	Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr. Saturday, November 17, 8:00		
Wednesday, October 31, 7:30 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi	Khovanshchina Mussorgsky Zajick, Fortuna; Ghiaurov, Myers, Treleaven*, Howell, Noble, S. Cole,		
Friday, November 2, 8:00 Capriccio R. Strauss	Ledbetter, Skinner, Villanueva Simonov*/Frisell/Benois/Carvajal/Munn		
Saturday, November 3, 8:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi	This production was originally made possible by a gift from the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.		
Sunday, November 4, 2:00 New Production	Sunday, November 18, 2:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi		
Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr. Holleque* (November 4, 8, 10, 16), Gustafson (November 24, 25, 27, 30), Kilduff, TBA, Mills; Lopez-Yañez*,	Tuesday, November 20, 8:00 Khovanshchina Mussorgsky		
Hagegård (November 4, 8, 25, 27), Baerg (November 10, 16, 24, 30), Nolen, Adams*, Rideout, TBA Rudel (November 4, 8, 10, 16)/ Summers (November 24, 25, 27, 30)/	Friday, November 23, 8:00 San Francisco Opera Premiere Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi von Stade, Graham [*] , Bower [*] , Cowdrick, Williams, Mills; Hampson [*] ,		
Mansouri/Skalicki/Bosquet*/ Tomasson*/Munn	V. Cole, Lewis, Patterson, Cox, Estep, Rayam*, West*, Wilborn, Petersen Bernardi/Hampe/Pagano/Munn		
San Francisco Opera gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Gorham B. Knowles and The Edward E. Hills Fund to underwrite this	This production is owned by the Cologne Opera.		
production.	Saturday, November 24, 1:00 Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr.		
Tuesday, November 6, 8:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi	Saturday, November 24, 8:00 Khovanshchina Mussorgsky		
Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 Capriccio R. Strauss	Sunday, November 25, 1:00 Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi		
Thursday, November 8, 7:30 Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr.	Sunday, November 25, 8:00 Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr.		
Friday, November 9, 8:00 Un Ballo in Maschera Verdi	Tuesday, November 27, 8:00 Die Fledermaus J. Strauss, Jr.		

Wednesday, November 28, 7:30 Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi

Thursday, November 29, 8:00 Khovanshchina Mussorgsky

Friday, November 30, 7:30 **Die Fledermaus** J. Strauss, Jr.

Saturday, December 1, 1:00 Rigoletto Verdi Hong*, Keen, Petersen, Fortuna, Mills; Pons, Li, Doss*, Skinner, Estep, Villanueva, Ledbetter, Graber Robertson/Asagaroff/Ponnelle/Munn

Saturday, December 1, 8:00 Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi

Sunday, December 2, 2:00 Khovanshchina Mussorgsky

Tuesday, December 4, 8:00 Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi

Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 Khovanshchina Mussorgsky

Thursday, December 6, 7:30 Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi

Verdi

Friday, December 7, 7:30 Rigoletto (Same cast as December 1)

Saturday, December 8, 8:00 Khovanshchina Mussorgsky

Sunday, December 9, 1:00 Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria Monteverdi

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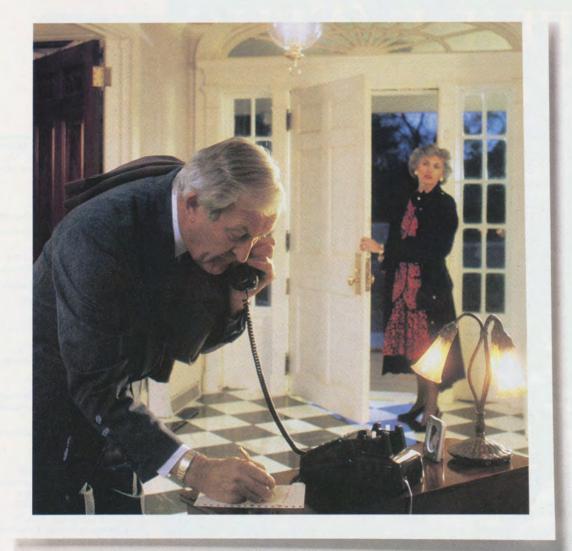
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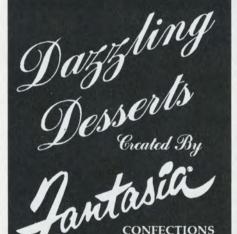
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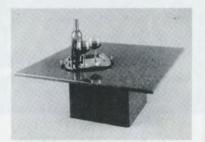
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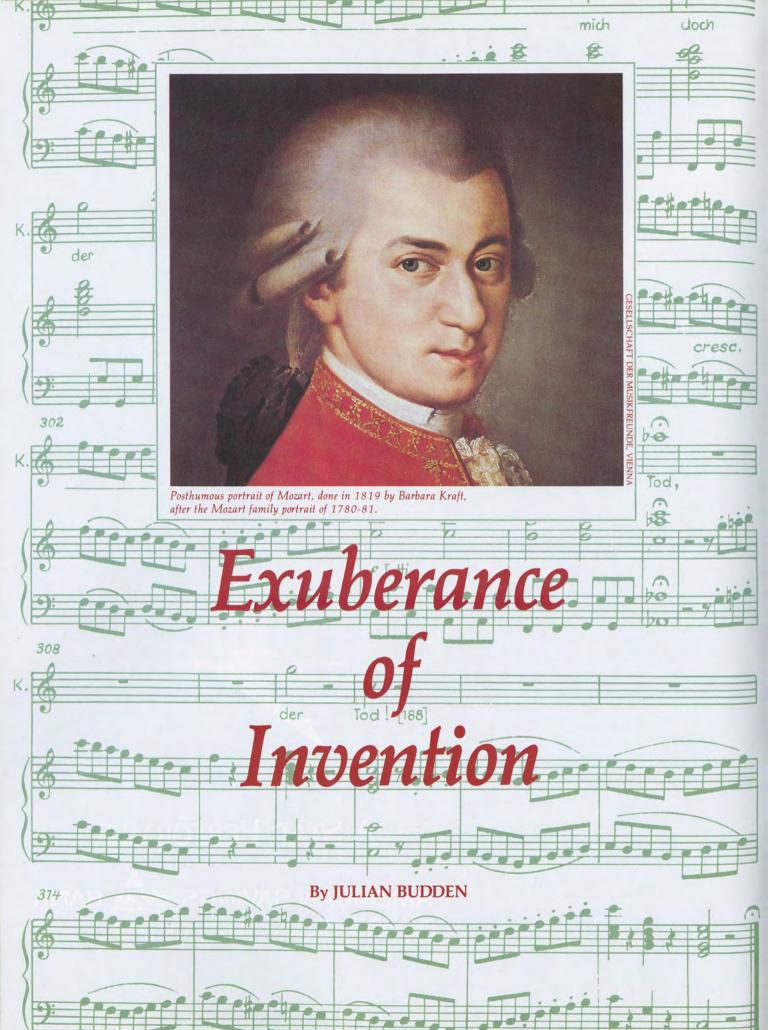
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If stage works in eighteenthcentury Vienna had been subject to copyright laws, as they were in Paris, would Mozart have finished up in a pauper's grave? Probably not. The proceeds from *Die Entführung* alone would have been sufficient to save him. Of all his operas, it was the most widely performed during his life time; indeed, it was the only one that he was ever to see in print. The Emperor Joseph II might have objected to its "too many notes"; but within a year of its first production in Vienna in 1782, it had

established itself as a classic of German opera, or *Singspiel*, as it was then called. Modeled partly on English ballad opera, partly on French opéra comique, Singspiel was first intended as a play interspersed with songs. Composers such as Dittersdorf and Umlauf had developed its musical style; but it was left to Mozart to give it genuine operatic stature. As artistic director of the Weimar Theater, Goethe recalled in 1787 how, as soon as Mozart appeared, "all our efforts to keep Singspiel modest and simple were doomed; *Die Entführung* blasted them all." With it, one might say, German opera came of age.

Not that Mozart was ever, like Weber, his younger kinsman by marriage, a dyed-in-the-wool nationalist. He was no less disposed to put his full strength into the Italian genre. Singspiel, however, offered the attraction of what amounted to virgin territory. During his stay in Mannheim in 1777, where German opera was fostered by Electoral decree, he heard a performance of Ignaz Holzbauer's ambitious *Günther von Schwarzburg*, which he hugely enjoyed ("... very beautiful, too good for the libretto," he wrote to his father; "it is wonderful that so old a man has so much spirit, for you can't imagine how much fire there is in that music."). He was no less favorably impressed with Georg Benda's "duo-drama," *Ariadne auf Naxos*, which consisted entirely of spoken declamation against an orchestral background ("... I think most operatic recitatives should be treated in this way, and only sung now and again when the works can be perfectly expressed by the music."). Indeed, after he returned to

Julian Budden, internationally renowned musicologist, is the author of a landmark three-volume series, The Operas of Verdi.

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Salzburg the following year, Mozart experimented with this very device in an unfinished German opera which he wrote to a libretto by the Salzburg court trumpeter Andreas Schachtner, of which five completed numbers were published posthumously under the title Zaide. Like Die Entführung to come, it too is based on an Oriental subject, taken, according to the scholar Alfred Einstein, from a Singspiel by one Joseph von Friebert, Kappel-Imeister at Passau, entitled Der Serail: oder die unvermutete Zusammenkunft in der Sclaverei zwischen Vater, Tochter und Sohn [The Seraglio: or the unexpected encounter in slavery between father, daughter and son]. Doubtless the story of a father, daughter and son enslaved to a tyrannical master had a special appeal to the Mozart family; and who knows whether-had the opera been completed and performed in Salzburg-the composer's break with the Archbishop might not have occurred sooner and even more dramatically than it actually did.

When Mozart settled in Vienna, the auguries for a performance could not have been more propitious. In 1778, the Emperor Joseph II, then co-ruler with his mother, Maria Theresia, had banished Italian opera from the Burgtheater and set up in its place the National Singspiel with a repertoire consisting of native works, together with translations of French opéras comigues and Italian opere buffe. Mozart at once offered Zaide, only to have it turned down by Gottlieb Stephanie, the resident "dramaturg," who promised instead a better libretto on a related subject. This would be Die Entführung, based on the Singspiel Belmont und Constanze by Christian Bretzner, given the previous year in Berlin to music by Johann André. "Based on" is a euphemism; since for practical purposes the libretti are identical, save for a few changes, mostly suggested by Mozart himself. In due course, Bretzner would publish a petulant notice complaining of the mishandling of his drama by "one Herr Mozart" and reserving for himself the right of legal action. Needless to say, no action was taken. There were limits to the extent to which even Bretzner was prepared to make a fool of himself, since stories about escapes from oriental harems could be traced back as far as the time of the Crusades. Among the literary ancestors of Die Entführung are John Dryden and Isaac Bickerstaff.

Happily for posterity, Mozart's letters



to his father allow us an unusually penetrating insight into the opera's genesis. Where else, for instance, do we find a more precise statement of his operatic credo? "My view is that in opera the poetry must be in every way the obedient daughter of the music." (Gluck and the young Wagner would have disagreed, but no matter.) "Why do Italian comic operas please everywhere-in spite of their miserable libretti?... Just because there the music reigns supreme and when one listens to it, all else is forgotten ... The best thing of all is when a good composer, who understands the stage and is talented enough to make sound suggestions, meets an able poet, that true phoenix; in that case, no fears need to be entertained about the applause even of the ignorant." Stephanie was certainly no"phoenix" but he was ready enough to go along with Mozart's ideas. His original text began with a monologue for Belmonte, followed by a brief song for Osmin about the need to keep one's womenfolk under lock and key; then came a dialogue between him and Belmonte (all strictly as in Bretzner). At Mozart's insistence the monologue was turned into an arietta, to be set as a major-key variant of the overture's central episode, while the dialogue was turned into a duet. The

Ludwig Fischer (1745-1825), the first interpreter of the role of Osmin.

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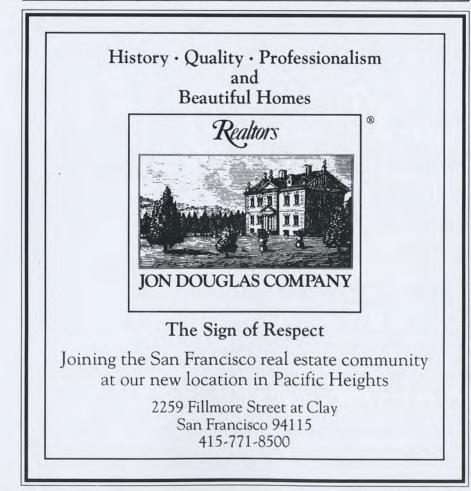
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profondo Ludwig Fischer ("... the Archbishop told me that he sang too low for a bass," Mozart wrote, "and ... I assured him that he would sing higher next time.") who would later achieve minor fame as the composer of the song "In cellar cool" ("In tiefem Keller"). Being a great favorite with the Viennese public, he would need to be accommodated with two full-length arias over and above Stephanie's and Bretzner's scheme. Of the first of these ("Solche hergelaufne Laffen"), Mozart wrote: "I have explained to Stephanie the words I need ..., indeed I had finished composing most of the music for it before Stephanie knew anything whatever about it ..." In working out the aria, he went on, "I have, in spite of our Salzburg Midas (i.e. Archbishop Coloredo) allowed Fischer's beautiful deep notes to shine. The passage 'Drum beim Barte des Propheten' is in fact in the same tempo as what has gone before, but in quicker notes; and as Osmin's rage gradually increases there comes, just when the aria seems at an end, the allegro assai, in a totally different meter and in a different key; this is bound to be very effective. For just as a man in a towering rage oversteps all the bounds of order, moderation and propriety and completely forgets himself, so must the music also forget itself. But since passion, whether violent or not, must never be expressed in such a way as to excite disgust and since music, even in the most terrible of situations, must never offend the ear, but must please the listener, or in other words must never cease to be music, so I have chosen a key foreign to F (in which the aria is written) but one related to it—not the nearest D minor, but the more remote A minor." For Mozart the classicist, therefore, moderation in all things was the rule. He took particular pleasure in Belmonte's first extended aria, "O wie ängstlich, o wie feurig." "Would you like to know how I have expressed it-and even indicated his throbbing heart? By the two violins playing in octaves. This is the favorite aria of all who have heard it, and it is mine also. I wrote it expressly to suit Adamberger's voice. You feel the trembling, the faltering-you see how his

creator of Osmin was the great basso

(Opposite) Costume sketches for the first performance of The Abduction from the Seraglio, 1782.





Gottlieb Stephanie (1741-1800) in an engraving, made after a portrait by Joseph Lange.

throbbing breast begins to swell; this I have expressed by a crescendo. You hear the whispering and the sighing—which I have indicated by muted first violins and a flute playing in unison with them."

He gave particular attention to the ending of the first two acts. Of the terzetto which closes Act I: "It opens quite abruptly-and because the words lend themselves to it, I have made it a fairly respectable piece of real three-part writing. Then the major key section begins at once pianissimo-it must go very quickly-and wind up with a great deal of noise, which is always appropriate at the end of an act. The more noise the better, and the shorter the better, so that the audience may not have enough time to cool down with the applause." The present finale to Act II was entirely Mozart's idea. "At the beginning of Act III there is a charming quintet (a slip—he meant quartet) ... but I should prefer to have it at the end of Act II. In order to make this practicable, great changes must be made, in fact an entirely new plot must be introduced." (An exaggeration, this, even if from here on the divergences from Bretzner's original are more marked than before.) Curiously, even so dedicated a Mozartian as the late Edward Dent, author of the first viable English translation of Die Entführung, finds fault with both finales. The Act I terzetto he considers "a very spirited piece of Mozartian music but much too self-consciously developed. If it was a purely instrumental concert piece we should admire its economy of material and its ingenious development of two or three short and incisive themes. But on the stage this means that two or three short exclamatory phrases are repeated ... over and over again The words will not bear it, all the less since they in every case suggest stage action." Of the Act II quartet he observes that "the situation is very much the same as in the second act of Figaro, where the Count, after a scene of furious jealousy, begs for forgiveness and is reconciled to the Countess; but in Figaro this moment of affection is quite short and very soon interrupted by the entry of Figaro, which begins the real business of the concerted finale. Here the reconciliation is the end, and it makes a very poor curtain; obviously Bretzner was right and the meeting of the lovers for the first time should have led on to the concerting of Continued on page 50

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ARTIST PROFILES

DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL



SUSAN PATTERSON

Soprano Susan Patterson sings Constanze in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a role in which she was highly acclaimed at this summer's Aix-en-Provence Festival. A 1986-87 Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, she has performed a number of roles with the Company: Inez in Il Trovatore (1986), her debut; Mrs. Gobineau in The Medium (summer 1986); Thibault in Don Carlos (fall 1986); Marguerite in the student matinee performances of Faust (fall 1986); Violetta in one student matinee performance of La Traviata and Chloe in The Queen of Spades (1987); Anne Trulove in The Rake's Progress and the First Flower Maiden in Parsifal (1988); and, last fall, Angelica in Orlando Furioso. As a member of the Merola Opera Program and Western Opera Theater, she sang roles ranging from Helen in There and Back and Lucia I/Lucia II in The Long Christmas Dinner (both by Hindemith), to Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni. Since scoring a major success in her European debut as Violetta in La Traviata with the Welsh National Opera, she has repeated the role at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Atlanta Opera. She has also performed Musetta in La Bohème in Atlanta, Rosalinde in Die Fledermaus with Marin Opera, all three soprano roles in Les Contes d'Hoffman in Palm Beach, and Constanze at the Carmel Bach Festival. Recent operatic appearances include her return to Europe as Countess Adele in Le Comte Ory at the Netherlands Opera; her Canadian debut with the Vancouver Opera as Gilda in Rigoletto; and Donna Anna in Don Giovanni for Opera Pacific. Miss Patterson is a popular concert performer and has most recently



CHERYL PARRISH

appeared as soloist in Szymanowski's Stabat Mater and Mahler's Second Symphony with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, as well as in Handel's Messiah with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Honolulu Symphony. Future engagements include her debut at Milan's La Scala in Cherubini's Lodoïska conducted by Riccardo Muti, a repeat of Mahler's Second Symphony with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Constanze in Nice and with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. The soprano is a graduate of the universities of Samford and Florida State, and is currently working toward a doctorate at Indiana University.

Cheryl Parrish returns to San Francisco Opera as Blonde in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a role in which she has been acclaimed at Dallas Opera, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and the 1984 Opera Center Showcase production at Herbst Theatre. The native of Texas made her Company debut in 1983 in Ariadne auf Naxos and La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein, and was heard in the summers of 1984 and 1985 in Siegfried. She sang the role of Sophie in both Werther and Der Rosenkavalier in the fall of 1985, and was most recently here in 1987 as Papagena in The Magic Flute and as Marzelline in Fidelio. A Merola Opera Program participant in 1981 and '82, she toured with Western Opera Theater in 1982 as Gilda in Rigoletto and in 1984 was awarded an Adler Fellowship. In 1986 she was featured in the "Live from Lincoln Center" Pavarotti Plus telecast. Miss Parrish has subsequently appeared with numerous opera companies and orchestras, includ-



MARIA FORTUNA

ing the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Toronto Symphony and San Francisco Symphony. Highlights of recent opera seasons include her European debut at the Zurich Opera as Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier; as well as debuts with Miami Opera as Ophelia in Thomas's Hamlet; at the Canadian Opera Company, Artpark and at Opera Pacific as Adele in Die Fledermaus; at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival as Serpetta in Mozart's La Finta Giardiniera; and at Chautauqua Opera as Marie in The Daughter of the Regiment. This past season saw the soprano as Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier at both Florence's Maggio Musicale and at Santa Fe Opera; Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro at Miami Opera and Michigan Opera Theater; in the title role of Naughty Marietta in her debut at New York City Opera; the title role of The Ballad of Baby Doe at Michigan Opera Theater and Dayton Opera; and as Norina in Don Pasquale at San Diego Opera. Future commitments include a return to the Canadian Opera as Sophie in a new production of Der Rosenkavalier, a role she repeats at San Diego Opera along with Sister Constance in Dialogues of the Carmelites. The recipient of numerous prizes and awards, Miss Parrish won the Sonia Parr Award and Bronze Medallion in the 1986 Rosa Ponselle Competition.

Soprano Maria Fortuna, who made her San Francisco Opera debut last fall in Die Frau ohne Schatten, sings the First Alms Sister in Suor Angelica, Countess Ceprano in Rigoletto, a Member of the Quartet in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, and Emma in Khovanshchina. She was a

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YANYU GUO

1989 member of the Merola Opera Program and is currently an Adler Fellow with the Opera Center. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Marcia Baldwin and Jan DeGaetani. The Niagara Falls native received her Master of Music Degree from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she began her studies with her present teacher, Marlena Malas. Roles she has performed include Pamina in The Magic Flute, Anne Trulove in The Rake's Progress, Amelia Goes to the Ball, Il Segreto di Susanna, Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi, and the Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro. She made her debut with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis as the Mermaid in Weber's Oberon, and sang with Arkansas Opera Theatre in Argento's Postcard from Morocco. Miss Fortuna has been a soloist with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra in Bruckner's Te Deum and Verdi's Quattro Pezzi Sacri. Recent appearances include Anna in Nabucco and the Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro with Long Beach Opera, and The Young Lady in the Opera Center's 1990 production of Reimann's The Ghost Sonata.

A 1990 Merola Opera Program participant, mezzo-soprano Yanyu Guo makes her first appearance with San Francisco Opera as the Second Alms Sister in Suor Angelica. The native of Beijing, China, studied at the Beijing Central Conservatory and continued her studies in the United States at the Eastman School of Music and at the Juilliard School. She has won prizes and awards from the Baltimore Competition, the Chile International Competition, and the Sullivan Foundation. She has appeared with the Opera Orchestra of New York, the Ashland Opera Festival, Chattanooga Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Carolina,



KURT STREIT

and at the Spoleto Festival. Roles she has performed include Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, the title role of *La Cenerentola*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*. She also sang in a concert at the Martin Brothers Winery with the 1990 Merola Opera Program. Miss Guo's concert performances include appearances in *Elektra* with Christian Badea and the Columbus Symphony, Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex* with Robert Craft at Alice Tully Hall, and the Verdi Requiem with the New York Choral Society at Carnegie Hall.

Kurt Streit makes his first appearance with San Francisco Opera as Belmonte in Die Entführung aus dem Serail. A member of the Merola Opera Program in 1986, the American tenor studied at the University of New Mexico with Marilyn Tyler, and was an apprentice at Santa Fe Opera and Texas Opera Theater. His early professional engagements included appearances with the opera companies of Dallas and Milwaukee (Skylight Opera), and the symphonies of Houston and Sacramento. Streit is currently under a four-year contract with the Hamburg State Opera, singing the repertoire of Mozart, Donizetti and Rossini. Since his Hamburg debut he has sung at the Glyndebourne ('88 and '90), Aix-en-Provence ('89) and Schwetzingen ('87) festivals, and has performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de France, Leningrad Philharmonic, Hamburg State Orchestra, and the English Chamber Orchestra. He has also appeared at the opera houses of Vienna (Staatsoper), Munich, Brussels, Düsseldorf and Leipzig. This summer he sang the role of Tamino in the Peter Sellars production of The Magic Flute for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, and made his debut at the BBC Promenade con-



LARS MAGNUSSON

certs. The young singer has recorded Gluck's *Echo et Narcisse*, as well as *Così fan tutte* (Ferrando) with the Berlin Philharmonic led by Daniel Barenboim. Future commitments include a recording of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and three new productions of *Così*: Glyndebourne (1991), the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and the Geneva Opera (both in 1992).

Swedish tenor Lars Magnusson appears for the first time with San Francisco Opera as Pedrillo in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, the role in which he made his highly successful debuts at the Metropolitan Opera earlier this year, at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden in 1987, and which he has been invited to sing in Monte Carlo, Nice, Strasbourg, Brussels, and at the Vienna State Opera. He was born in Gothenburg and began his career there as soprano soloist in the cathedral boys choir. He graduated with a degree in music from the University of Gothenburg and attended the Opera School in Stockholm for three years until 1982, when he was engaged as principal tenor at the Royal Opera House. Magnusson has sung a variety of roles with this company, such as the Italian Singer in Der Rosenkavalier, but has more recently established himself with such major tenor roles as Lensky in Eugene Onegin, the Duke in Rigoletto, Alfredo in La Traviata, and David in the recent Götz Friedrich production of Die Meistersinger. His engagements this season included David in Die Meistersinger in Paris, his first assumption of the role of Rodolfo in La Bohème in Stockholm, and a tour with the Stockholm Royal Opera to Finland and the U.S.S.R. Future assignments include Die Meistersinger in Vienna, Marseilles, and a new production at the Met, as well as Der Fliegende Holländer in Geneva. The tenor has also performed as soloist in concerts in New York, Washington, D.C., Drottningholm and Stockholm.



KURT MOLL

Renowned German bass Kurt Moll portrays Osmin in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a role in which he has been acclaimed in the major opera houses of the world, and which he has recorded under the baton of Karl Böhm. He made his United States stage debut with San Francisco Opera in 1974 as Gurnemanz in Parsifal, and sang King Marke in Tristan und Isolde that same year, returning in 1985 as Baron Ochs in Der Rosenkavalier and in 1988 to reprise the role of Gurnemanz. He began his career with the Cologne Opera, of which he became a member at the age of 20. He was next invited to Aachen, where he added such roles to his repertoire as Sarastro in Die Zauberflöte and Daland in Der Fliegende Holländer. He sang his first King Marke and Ramfis in Aida in Mainz, where he stayed for one year before becoming a member of the Wuppertal Opera for five years. His career took on international dimensions after he bowed with the Hamburg Staatsoper in 1969, followed by debuts at Paris, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg and Bayreuth. Moll made his La Scala debut as Osmin in 1972 and the following year made his first appearance at Covent Garden, where he sang Kaspar in Der Freischütz. Today, he sings in all the world's major opera houses as well as with the major orchestras as a concert soloist. He makes his home with his wife and three children in Hamburg, where his recent performances have included Boris Godunov, Fidelio, Turandot, Die Meistersinger, La Bohème, Wozzeck, Lohengrin, Lucia di Lammermoor and Don Giovanni. Other recent engagements include Parsifal, Die Zauberflöte, Der Rosenkavalier, Daphne, Guntram and the Ring cycle in Munich, Der Rosenkavalier and Die Entführung aus dem Serail at Covent Garden, Der Rosenkavalier, Die Walküre and Tannhäuser in Vienna, Parsifal in

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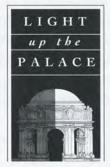
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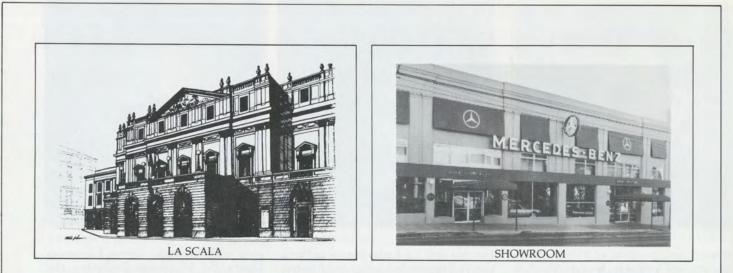
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Opera in three acts by WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Libretto by JOHANN GOTTLIEB STEPHANIE Adapted from the text by Christoph Friedrich Bretzner for an earlier opera, Belmont und Constanze

Die Entführung aus dem Serail (in German)

Conductor Hermann Michael*

Production Stephen Wadsworth*

Set Designer Thomas Lynch*

Costume Designer William Ivey Long*

Lighting Designer Joan Arhelger

Chorus Director Ian Robertson

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CAST

(in order of appearance)	
Belmonte	Kurt Streit*
Osmin	Kurt Moll
Pedrillo	Lars Magnusson*
Constanze	Susan Patterson
Blondchen	Cheryl Parrish
Pasha Selim	Frank Hoffmann**
Two Turkish Women	Maria Fortuna Yanyu Guo
Two Turkish Men	Hong-Shen Li Micah Graber

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TIME AND PLACE: 18th century; Pasha Selim's estate in Turkey

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The performance will last approximately three hours.

Die Entführung aus dem Serail/Synopsis

Turkey. Eighteenth century. Belmonte, a young Spanish nobleman separated by pirates from the woman he loves, journeys towards the Orient to find her. His search has brought him to the lands of the Pasha Selim, for he has reason to believe that his Constanze was sold as a slave to this wealthy, powerful man. Here in the world of Islam—a world eighteenth-century Europe imagined to be barbaric and faintly ludicrous, if exciting—four Westerners find one another, themselves, and a new appreciation of the East.

ACTI

At the estate, Belmonte encounters the Pasha's favorite servant, the dour Osmin, who rudely dismisses his overtures and scares him away. Shortly after, Belmonte finds his own manservant Pedrillo, who confirms that Constanze, her English chambermaid Blondchen, and he are now indeed property of the Pasha. Furthermore, says Pedrillo, he has become gardener to the Pasha, a cultivated man whose building and landscaping achievements are renowned. He enjoys unusual freedom on the grounds, as well as the hatred of Osmin, to whom the Pasha has given his sweetheart Blondchen as a gift. When Belmonte hears that the Pasha loves and has been pursuing Constanze, he feels anxiety and doubt, uncertain if she has remained faithful to him. Servant and master make a plan to abduct Constanze and Blondchen that night and escape by ship.

When the Pasha and Constanze return from a boating excursion, Belmonte sees Constanze at last—from a crowd of servants—and witnesses her distress as the Pasha offers her his love. She tells the Pasha she has loved once and has been happy through that love, and she is granted one more day to accept the Pasha's advances. Otherwise he may use force. Later, Pedrillo introduces Belmonte to the Pasha as a talented architect, but Osmin still will not allow Belmonte into the palace—because he suspects Belmonte of having come to steal women away from the harem. Belmonte must remain outside the walls.

ACT II

Osmin orders Blondchen to love him, as he has every reason to expect that a woman belonging to him should. Blondchen is appalled. She will not accept that women are wares to be traded and explains that Western women prefer to be courted with tenderness, kindness and humor. This Osmin cannot accept, though he is enchanted by Blondchen. Blondchen tries to comfort Constanze and, understanding that her mistress' distress hinges on an attraction to the Pasha, encourages her to make a choice. Constanze, with only one night left to stall the Pasha, mourns her separation from Belmonte and feels anxious and despairing. When the Pasha comes at sunset to speak his heart again, she rejects him and his notion that women could ever be forced to love. When he speaks of the tortures she—and even he—may suffer if she rejects him, she asks for his pity and ultimately stands up to him boldly. Blondchen is moved and wonders at Constanze's strength: if Pedrillo were not around she isn't sure she could resist an appeal from the heart, even one expressed in the Moslem manner she so deplores. Constanze's steadfastness impresses the Pasha deeply: he wonders momentarily if she might find her strength in a hope of escape.

Pedrillo tells Blondchen that Belmonte has found them, and she is filled with joy. Pedrillo says that he will put Osmin to sleep with drugged wine, that they will escape at midnight, and meanwhile that Constanze may speak to Belmonte in the palace park soon, after dark. He then screws up his courage and succeeds in getting Osmin to drink long and heartily. Constanze and Belmonte are briefly but happily reunited in the park. Both Belmonte and Pedrillo confess their jealous fears to Constanze and Blondchen, and both women are confused and hurt. But all four talk it through and find their balance again. They praise love, then separate to await the hour appointed for the abduction.

ACT III

Belmonte and Pedrillo meet under Constanze's window just before midnight. A ladder is brought, Pedrillo sings a serenade, and at length the women appear. In the midst of the escape, Osmin weaves around the corner to find the ladder (the four lovers have hurriedly hidden). He sends up a great alarm, and the escapers are captured in flight. Osmin, outraged by their perfidy, particularly Blondchen's, promises them torture and death. The Pasha, awakened by the noise, is as hurt by Constanze's treachery as Osmin is by Blondchen's. Belmonte tells the Pasha that he is from a noble family that will pay handsomely for his release. His name is Lostados.

This name is not new to the Pasha. He suffered the great humiliation of his life—loss of love and homeland—to a cruel man called Lostados. This was Belmonte's father. The Pasha asks Belmonte what his father would do if he were in the Pasha's position now. The four captives are bound and left alone as Pasha, Osmin and guards go to prepare their torture. Only now does Belmonte understand the nature of true love and the purity of Constanze's devotion, when she tells him slowly how death cannot stop their love-it can only free them to love peacefully. Belmonte is amazed by her resolve and sees that together with her he can welcome even death. This is the real end of his long search for love. The Pasha returns and forgives them, because he will not repay ill with ill, and because he loves Constanze. He frees both pairs of lovers and sends them home, causing Osmin great anguish. Osmin storms away, unable to share the Pasha's magnanimity. Taking their leave, the four lovers-Constanze, Belmonte, Blondchen and Pedrillo-express their respect and gratitude for the gift the Pasha has given them.

-Stephen Wadsworth

Die Entführung aus dem Serail

Photos taken in rehearsal by Larry Merkle

Kurt Moll, Cheryl Parrish

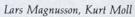


Cheryl Parrish, Lars Magnusson

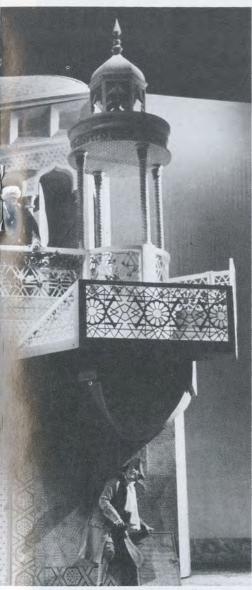


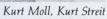
Susan Patterson













Kurt Streit



Kurt Streit, Susan Patterson



Susan Patterson, Frank Hoffmann





Frank Hoffmann

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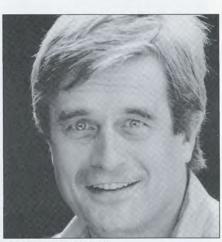
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FRANK HOFFMANN

Continued from page 37

Barcelona, Tristan und Isolde in Madrid, and Le Nozze di Figaro in Salzburg. An acclaimed recitalist in Europe, he made his North American recital debut in 1984 at Carnegie Hall and has appeared at Herbst Theatre as part of the San Francisco Performances series. His astounding discography, which includes well over 75 recordings, includes Parsifal, Der Fliegende Holländer, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Die Walküre, Tannhäuser, Tristan und Isolde and Der Rosenkavalier, under such conductors as Herbert von Karajan, Georg Solti, Carlos Kleiber, Leonard Bernstein, Rafael Kubelik, Bernard Haitink, Colin Davis, James Levine and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

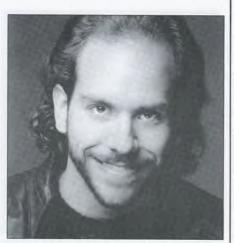
Actor Frank Hoffmann makes his United States debut with San Francisco Opera as Pasha Selim in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a role in which he has been acclaimed at the Salzburg Festival, Vienna Staatsoper, Munich Staatsoper, and in Geneva, Switzerland. Born in Dresden, he began his theatrical career as a production assistant and actor at the Heidelberg Theater, with additional study at the Otto-Fakkenberg-Theater School in Munich. After numerous engagements at theaters in Graz, Basel, Dortmund and Cologne, he was appointed a permanent member of the renowned Vienna Burgtheater in 1967 and has appeared at the Salzburg Festival, Zurich Schauspielhaus, Munich's Residenztheater and Bad Hersfeld Festival, among others. He appeared in the Giorgio Strehler production of Spiel der Mächtigen at the 1973 Salzburg Festival, and later that year he received the Grand Hersfeld Prize for Best Actor for his work in Zuckmayer's Schinderhannes. As a member of the Burgtheater, Hoffmann



HONG-SHEN LI

has appeared as Brick in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew, Temple Guardian in Lessing's Nathan der Weise, Leicester in Schiller's Maria Stuart, Professor Liebig in Heldenplatz, and in the title role of Wedekind's Marguis von Keith. He also played the title role of Verschwörung des Fiesco zu Genua at the Zurich Schauspielhaus. The actor has had numerous roles in Austrian and German television productions, and was co-star with Jean-Paul Belmondo in the 1981 movie As der Asse (Ace of Aces). In 1986, he was the recipient of the Honorary Cross for Art and Science from the Republic of Austria.

Tenor Hong-Shen Li, a 1990 Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, portrays the Duke of Mantua in Rigoletto, and also appears in Die Entführung aus dem Serail and Capriccio. He made his debut with the Company last fall as Goro in Madama Butterfly, and also sang in Idomeneo, Aida and Lohengrin. A native of the People's Republic of China, he received his initial musical training while studying under a five-year Highest Fellowship Scholarship at the Central Conservatory of Beijing and traveled throughout Asia and Eastern Europe with the Art Ensemble of Beijing. He continued his studies at the Juilliard School, where he appeared as Benedict in Berlioz's Beatrice and Benedict. As a member of the 1987 Merola Opera Program, he performed the role of Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi, and returned to the Merola Program in 1988 to sing Lindoro in The Italian Girl in Algiers. During Western Opera Theater's 1988-89 tour he portrayed Goro in Madame Butterfly and, with the Opera Center Singers,



MICAH GRABER

sang Count Almaviva in the 1989 Barber of Seville. Li's recent engagements include the Duke of Mantua in the Stockton Symphony's concert version of Rigoletto, a debut with the San Diego Opera in Die Zauberflöte, participation in the farewell gala for soprano Régine Crespin in Paris, and the role of the Colonel in the Opera Center's Showcase production of Reimann's The Ghost Sonata.

Bass Micah Graber sings four roles in his first appearance with the Company: an Usher in Rigoletto, a Member of the Quartet in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a Servant in Capriccio, and the Second Strelets in Khovanshchina. A 1990 Adler Fellow with the San Francisco Opera Center, he was a 1989 Merola Opera Program participant and portrayed Sparafucile in Rigoletto and Zuniga in Carmen, the latter a role he repeated during the 1989-90 Western Opera Theater national tour. He recently appeared as Falstaff in the Merola Opera Program's production of The Merry Wives of Windsor, and was a soloist in the San Francisco Symphony Pops Series under the baton of Victor Borge. Graber holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance/opera from Bowling Green State University, where he performed nine operatic roles and was named Outstanding Vocalist in 1988. A former apprentice with Des Moines Metro Opera in 1986 and Santa Fe Opera in 1987, he has appeared with the Ohio Light Opera as Old Adam in Ruddigore, Massakroff in The Chocolate Soldier, and Matteo in Fra Diavolo, and recently made his debut with Toledo Opera in The Magic Flute and Madame Butterfly. Graber will make his debut with Skylight Opera next year as Osmin in The Abduction from the Seraglio.

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HERMANN MICHAEL

Hermann Michael makes his San Francisco Opera debut conducting Die Entführung aus dem Serail. The West German native's career has developed in that country as well as in Italy, where he has directed the Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano and Trent since 1977. He came to the attention of Herbert von Karajan when he won First Prize in the first Guido Cantelli Conducting Competition in 1961, and subsequently became the maestro's assistant at the Vienna State Opera. He later conducted in Vienna, Hamburg, at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, and in other major opera houses throughout Europe. His schedule also included engagements with leading European orchestras, among them the Berlin Philharmonic, London Philharmonic and the RAI orchestras of Milan, Turin and Santa Cecilia. In 1970 Michael took the position of general director of the Bremen Opera, which he held until 1978. He made a highly acclaimed U.S. debut in 1984, conducting Tannhäuser at the Seattle Opera, where he has since returned to lead the entire Ring cycle in 1987, and Die Meistersinger last year. In addition to several guest appearances with the Seattle Symphony, he made his New York debut in 1988 at the Mostly Mozart Festival. Recent engagements include his first visit to the Glyndebourne Festival, where he conducted Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice, and his Metropolitan Opera debut with Die Fledermaus.



STEPHEN WADSWORTH

Maestro Michael's current engagements include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the orchestras of Toronto, Minnesota, Atlanta, Buffalo, Seattle, San Diego and Phoenix, as well as with the New World and New York Chamber symphonies. He will return to Seattle Opera next summer for another complete *Ring* cycle.

Stephen Wadsworth's first assignment for San Francisco Opera is directing his new production of Die Entführung aus dem Serail, a Company premiere. One of opera's most versatile talents, he is also a librettist, teacher and translator. This season, he celebrates the Mozart bicentenary with new productions of Don Giovanni at Seattle Opera, The Marriage of Figaro at Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and La Clemenza di Tito for Houston Grand Opera and at the 1991 Edinburgh Festival for Scottish Opera. He collaborated as librettist with Leonard Bernstein on the opera A Quiet Place, which was cocommissioned by Houston Grand Opera, Milan's La Scala and the Kennedy Center. Wadsworth is Artistic Director of Skylight Opera Theater, an ensemble music theater company in Milwaukee where he has directed works by Weill, Britten and Handel, as well as a repertory cycle of Monteverdi's three surviving operas- Orfeo, The Coronation of Poppea, and The Return of Ulysses. He has also directed at the Vienna State Opera, Milan's La Scala, the Netherlands Opera,



THOMAS LYNCH

and regularly for Seattle Opera, where he staged Jenufa, Der Fliegende Holländer, and last year's critically acclaimed production of Gluck's Orphée et Eurydice. This season's assignments include new productions of Fidelio for Scottish Opera, The Coronation of Poppea and Billy Budd for the Canadian Opera Company, and The Rape of Lucretia at the Skylight. Wadsworth is also the author of The Telephone Show, Close Harmony Holidays and Bernstein Revued, An Opera in Three Acts—all written for the ensemble at the Skylight-and he collaborated on Betsey Brown, which received its premiere at the 1989 American Music Theater Festival. A respected teacher of acting, he has taught at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Chautauqua Institution, as well as at leading conservatories in the U.S. and abroad. As a former editor of Opera News and columnist for Saturday Review, he has written extensively about music and performers. In 1992, Wadsworth plans to take a sabbatical from opera in order to write, teach, and direct a play.

Thomas Lynch makes his San Francisco Opera debut with the set designs for *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. He is currently represented on Broadway with *The Heidi Chronicles*, for which he was nominated for a 1989 Tony Award. His work on and off-Broadway includes the musical *Tintypes* and *Driving Miss Daisy* (also seen on



London's West End). He is currently engaged in designing sets for the new musical Kiss of the Spiderwoman, to be directed by Harold Prince. Lynch's designs for opera include the premiere of Leonard Bernstein's A Quiet Place for the Vienna State Opera, Simon Boccanegra for Netherlands Opera, Der Fliegende Holländer and Orphée et Eurydice for Seattle Opera, as well as Alcina and The Marriage of Figaro for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Additional credits include designs for the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and the La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego. The graduate of Yale College and the Yale School of Drama has twice won the Joseph Jefferson Award for his designs at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago.

Costume designer William Ivey Long makes his San Francisco Opera debut with this new production of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. His opera designs include Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Wadsworth's *A Quiet Place*, which was produced at Houston Grand Opera, the Kennedy Center, Milan's La Scala and the Vienna Staatsoper; Liviu Ciulei's production of *Wozzeck* for the Welsh National Opera; and *Postcard from Morocco* for the Washington Opera. He has won praise on Broadway for the costume designs for John Guare's current hit play Six Degrees of Separation, as

JOAN ARHELGER

well as for Lend Me a Tenor (Tony nomination, Drama Desk/Outer Critics Circle awards), Tommy Tune's Nine (Tony/ Drama Desk/Joseph Maharam Distinguished Design awards), The Tap Dance Kid, Smile, The 1940's Radio Hour, Eastern Standard, Mass Appeal, The End of the World and Passione. His numerous off Broadway credits include the costumes for Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You, True West, After the Fall, The Marriage of Bette and Boo, Laughing Wild, Italian American Reconciliation, Wenceslas Square, and Hamlet with Kevin Kline. His designs have been seen in dances created by Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor, David Parson, Dan Wagoner and Peter Martins. Long's costumes have also been seen on television: the American Playhouse production of Ask Me Again, James Lapine's Table Settings for HBO, and Leonard Bernstein's Mass on PBS. Additional credits include the costume designs for Robert Wilson's Hamletmachine, the Pointer Sisters' national tours, Patti LaBelle in Tommy by The Who, and for Mick Jagger's outfits for the Rolling Stones' Steel Wheels tour.

San Francisco Opera Associate Lighting Designer Joan Arhelger created the lighting schemes for the Company premieres of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and *Don Quichotte*. Since joining the SFO in 1983, she has been responsible for the lighting of La Traviata, La Sonnambula, L'Elisir d'Amore, Anna Bolena, Werther, Der Rosenkavalier, The Medium, Le Nozze di Figaro, Tosca, Fidelio, Maometto II and Manon Lescaut. She also served as lighting supervisor for the entire 1986 Summer Season. Her opera credits in lighting design include productions for Wolftrap Company, and the opera companies of Louisville, Fort Worth, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Omaha, Seattle, Anchorage, and repertory seasons with the Kansas City Lyric Opera and the Central City Opera. Her work has been seen locally in Bill Irwin's In Regard of Flight (featured on the PBS Great Performances series), and with numerous dance companies, including the Bay Area Dance Coalition's "Dancemakers '82" Festival in Herbst Theatre. A student of Gilbert Hemsley, Miss Arhelger served as assistant lighting designer for American presentations by the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, the Stuttgart Ballet, the Bolshoi Opera and the Berlin Opera. For five seasons, she was the resident lighting assistant for Washington Opera at the Kennedy Center.



Mozart in 1789 in a silverpoint etching by Doris Stock.

Continued from page 32

the plot for their escape—it is not an end but a beginning." Here, it would seem, the good professor has fallen victim to the anachronistic view that requires the action of an opera to approximate as closely as possible that of a spoken play. What Mozart has done is to confer on the still immature Singspiel the musical architecture of Italian opera buffa, which regularly demanded an ensemble of principals for its central finales. No matter if such finales end in an impasse like the terzetto of Die Entführung. We can assume that Belmonte and Pedrillo forced their way into the Pasha's garden in the teeth of Osmin's obstruction, just as we can take for granted that Don Giovanni escaped from his accusers at the end of the ballroom scene, without knowing precisely how. Likewise, an extended mid-point finale in which principals meet each other for the first time represents a tradition that would last well into the nineteenth century, precisely because it made for a satisfying musico-dramatic structure. If Singspiel writers were as yet ignorant of that rule, it merely shows how much Mozart had to teach them.

But of course, like all composers of the time (and later ones), he was obliged to make concessions to star singers. "I have sacrificed Constanze's aria a little to the flexible gullet of Mlle Cavalieri-'Trennung war mein banges Los und nun schwimmt mein Aug' in Tränen.' I have tried to express her feelings as far as an Italian bravura aria will allow"-which, in the allegro section to which he refers, is not much. He would make even greater sacrifices to her gullet in the second act, following her impassioned G minor lament ("Traurigkeit ward mir zum Lose") with a display piece embellished with flute, oboe, violin and cello concertanti ("Martern aller Arten"). Here indeed is a problem for the producer, given an introduction of sixty bars during which no credible action is possible. (In his justly famous Salzburg Entführung of the 1960s, Giorgio Strehler cut the Gordian knot by lowering the curtain for its entire duration). The truth is, however, that all eighteenth-century "drammi giocosi," of which Die Entführung is a German equivalent, were expected to include "parti serie" performed by aristocratic characters in full vocal panoply; and it was some time before Mozart acquired the secret of conveying a distinct personality by means of coloratura virtuosity—e.g. the posturing of Fiordiligi and the vengeful fury of the Queen of the Night. Constanze remains a somewhat generic prima donna, Belmonte a conventional jeune premier, whose three extended arias (not counting his solo in the introduction) do little to advance our knowledge of him. Both he and his beloved, however, rise to genuine heroism in their Act III duet "Meinetwegen sollst du sterben," one of the musical jewels of the score, whose recitative and andante can be set beside the finest achievements of the composer's maturity.

Indeed, if Belmonte and Constanze strike us as somewhat faceless, this is due mainly to the immense skill with which Mozart succeeds in characterizing the rest of the cast, each limned in a series of incomparable vignettes: the lively resourceful Pedrillo nerving himself for the fray ("Frisch zum Kampfe"), getting Osmin drunk in a roisterous Turkish duet-"per i signori viennesi" ("Vivat Bacchus!"), serenading the two women as a signal that all is ready for the escape with an enchanting piece of "invented" folk music ("Im Mohrenland gefangen war"); Blonde, the pert, high-spirited young maid, a self-proclaimed Englishwoman "born to freedom" ("You know that I'm an out-and-out Englishman," Mozart wrote to his father on hearing that Admiral Howe had raised the siege of Gibraltar), and thus able to run rings round the heavy-handed stupidity of Osmin. Each of her arias radiates spontaneity and charm, the second ("Welche Wonne, welche Lust") borrowing its main theme from the finale of an earlier oboe concerto (K.314). Note, too, how she preserves her individuality in the Act II guartet with a triplet counter-rhythm of her own, a device which Sullivan must have deliberately copied in the quartet "In a contemplative fashion" (The Gondo*liers*). But the ripest creation of the opera is Osmin, a richly comic character on the order of Verdi's Falstaff or Richard Strauss' Baron Ochs. "A rude churl and a sworn foe to all strangers," is how Mozart described him; and he is indeed the epitome of all those boorish, obstructive jacks-in-office whose theme-song was surely written by Donald Swann and Jeremy Taylor:

Job's worth, job's worth; it's more than my job's worth.

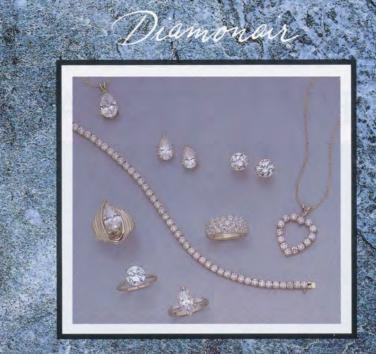
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Doubtless Mozart himself had suffered from this type in the service of the Archbishop, but with the mastery of the true artist, he transforms him, much as Wagner transforms Beckmesser, into an almost lovable figure of fun. We cannot even regard him as the villain of the piece; his rages are too comical.

Perhaps the most significant change to Bretzner's plan, as operated by Mozart and Stephanie, regards the dénouement. A detail common to both pieces, which frequently escapes notice in Die Entführung due to the traditional cuts made in the spoken dialogue, is the fact that Pasha Selim (as in Zaide, a speaking role), far from being a "birthright" Mussulman, is a Spanish nobleman who had been converted to the faith of Islam—in other words a renegade Christian, who may thus be expected to show all the more zeal in the persecution of his former religious associates. In Bretzner, this is abruptly reversed by the discovery that Belmonte is his long-lost son-a typical eighteenth-century moment of recognition, which, we may take for granted (though it is never clearly stated) would have led to Selim's re-conversion. In Mozart's opera, the Pasha finds that Belmonte is the son of his worst enemy, the man who dispossessed him of his lands and forced him into exile. But instead of following his instinct, which is to subject the lovers to a lingering death by torture, he resolves to give them a lesson in true enlightenment, sending them home with his blessing, as Goethe's barbarian King Thoas sends home his enemies, Orestes, Pylades and Iphigenia. Selim thus reveals himself as the forerunner of Sarastro, in whose sacred halls vengeance is unknown. In Die Entführung, Mozart the Freemason is already pre-figured.

"Too many notes," the Emperor said; and one can see what he meant. For so slender a plot, *Die Entführung* bears an unusual weight of music. Exuberance ofinvention is a characteristic of youthful genius; and this opera is above all a young man's work. Indeed, Weber was surely right when he maintained that it has a pristine freshness which Mozart never quite recaptured in the far greater works which succeeded it. Few of us would have it otherwise.



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REMEMBERING JOHN PRITCHARD



By TIMOTHY PFAFF

Among the last recorded words of Sir John Pritchard was a poignant, simple, and characteristically elegant utterance: "Mozart is keeping me alive." Speaking by telephone from San Francisco to stage director John Cox in England, the late (first, and so far only) Music Director of San Francisco Opera expressed in typically well-chosen words what music lovers on both sides of the War Memorial Opera House proscenium (and, indeed, on both sides of the Atlantic) sensed: that last season's new production of Mozart's Idomeneo would be the maestro's final musical testament from the podium-a situation, however tragic, about which there was something irrefutably right. In his Opera magazine tribute to Pritchard, who died of lung cancer at Seton Medical Center in Daly City on the morning of last December 5 (a little more than a week after the final Idomeneo), Cox wrote appreciatively of "this private arrangement between kindred spirits"-Mozart's and Pritchard's-that "survived an earthquake. Idomeneo, with which [Pritchard] secured his fame as an opera conductor, returned frequently and with renewed greatness throughout his creative life," Cox concluded. "It provided its fitting signature."

Pritchard's first work on *Idomeneo* came in his early years with the Glyndebourne Festival, when he assisted Fritz Busch in the preparation of the opera for the 1951 festival. In an interview just prior to his assumption of the music directorship at San Francisco Opera in 1986, Pritchard deemed "bringing *Idomeneo* back into the Mozart canon ... one of the greatest achievements of Glyndebourne. I shall always think of it with gratitude. In 1951 it was a unique event. Now *Idomeneo* is played in all the big houses; it's part of our Mozart life."

Timothy Pfaff is a music critic for the San Francisco Examiner, West Coast correspondent for London's Financial Times, and editor of Historical Performance, the journal of Early Music America. (Below) During a Glyndebourne Festival rehearsal of Capriccio in 1973, John Pritchard is seen in an animated exchange with Kerstin Meyer, Elisabeth Söderström and (with backs turned) Håkan Hagegård and director John Cox.

(Opposite) Maestro Pritchard in 1987 in the lobby of the War Memorial Opera House.

Pritchard played a central role in making it so. He was the conductor of the first complete recording of the opera, in 1956, with the Glyndebourne musical forces and a cast of eminent Mozartians including Sena Jurinac and Leopold Simoneau. As fate would have it, his last recording, for London-Decca, also was *Idomeneo*, with Luciano Pavarotti in the title role.

His painstaking—in every sense of the word-work on the Company's 1989 Idomeneo was the definition of a labor of love. Double hip replacements in the few preceding years, the remedy for a disabling arthritis, had already slowed his daunting pace. In the grueling weeks of rehearsal before the premiere, the advancing illness that was soon to claim him, necessitated, in guick succession, a cane and then a wheelchair. The act of sheer will that brought him to the podium for performances recalled that of the late Herbert von Karajan in his last years before the public. For all that, it was a convulsion of nature, not Pritchard's infirmity, that brought about the one Idomeneo cancellation, last October 17. Pritchard was on the podium for the post-earthquake October 22 matinee at Masonic Auditorium.

Tellingly, Mozart provided the frame for Pritchard's long association with San Francisco Opera, which spanned nearly two decades. He made his local debut in 1970, leading a production of Così fan tutte, and made his final appearance of the Kurt Herbert Adler era with a 1979 revival of that production. In addition to vet another Così in 1973, Pritchard led the 1974 Don Giovanni and the Company premiere of Idomeneo in 1977. His other contributions in that first decade were memorable performances of Peter Grimes (1973, 1976), Rossini's La Cenerentola (1974) and Massenet's Thaïs (1976). He returned in the 1980s for Un Ballo in Maschera and Rosenkavalier (1985), Don Carlos (1986), Salome and Fidelio (1987), Manon Lescaut, Parsifal and Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk (1988) and Idomeneo (1989).

By his own account, Pritchard was as much the recipient as the purveyor of



operatic magic in his first decade with the Company. An alliance, forged in his first season here, with a young protégé of Adler's, was soon to rival any of the fabled associations of his long career in opera, which, over more than 40 years, included formative working relationships with the likes of Fritz Busch, Vittorio Gui, Benjamin Britten, Maria Callas, and Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, to name but a few from the various walks of Pritchard's life in opera.

"I knew Kurt Adler before I came here," Pritchard once recalled, "but he came to greet me when I arrived. He pulled me into the elevator that takes one to the sacred precincts of the fourth floor, where his office was. Just as the door was closing—there was the smallest of gaps—a tall, slender black boy slipped through, with the greatest of ease. That was Calvin Simmons. Adler informed me that he would be my assistant for *Cosi*, and thus began this unforgettable relationship.

"I cannot think of a moment when Calvin and I did not look at a score with the same vision. Yet his perspective was individual because it was always informed by his scintillating humor. I loved that. And to hear him play from an orchestral score, particularly one by Mozart, was remarkable—because he thought in terms of the stage. His concern was not getting things right in his fingers; he was taking in every aspect of what the conductor and singers were doing. His dark eyes flashed.

"After the experience of only two seasons, I asked him to join the team at Glyndebourne. His impact there was the same as it was everywhere. It was his way to visit staff members in departments that had no direct bearing on the music, and, of course, they all became devoted to him. He first conducted on the Glyndebourne tours, with the cadet team, and had great success, and then he conducted in the main season as well. His memory is treasured there."

Memory and association being as potent and mysterious as they are, one may never know the extent to which the Simmons link to these two geographically remote operatic worlds influenced Pritchard's decision to assume the music



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Rehearsal for San Francisco Opera's 1976 production of Peter Grimes: (L. to r.) Prompter Philip Eisenberg, Maestro Pritchard, and pianist Warren Jones.

directorship here. Glyndebourne, Pritchard's first important artistic affiliation, was, beyond any doubt, also his longest and deepest. The San Francisco post was his last major commitment. Yet Pritchard himself allowed that there was a connection. "The special position San Francisco has for me is largely due to my friendship with Calvin. I would say that," he mused on the eve of his music directorship. Additional proof was to be found, British style, in the pudding. In the 1980 fall season, not long before his tragically premature death by drowning, Simmons conducted a Shostakovich Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk of astounding brilliance and maturity-and cauterizing intensity. Almost as if in tribute to his late protégé, Pritchard led a 1988 Lady Macbeth that represented some of his most tautly energized and interpretively daring conducting here-and, on recorded evidence, arguably anywhere.

Throughout his career, Pritchard was as blessed in mentors and colleagues as he was in protégés. He rose quickly through the ranks at Glyndebourne, where he began as a repetiteur in 1947, becoming chorus master two years later and, the following year, an assistant conductor. In that capacity he worked with two conductors he counted among his most formative influences, Fritz Busch and Vittorio Gui.

Busch, a Glyndebourne founder and one of the eminent Mozartians of his day, taught Pritchard the Mozart scores that were his special provenance at the festival — and, by Pritchard's own account, a good deal more. Pritchard remembered his time with Busch as "a short periodtoo short, because of his tragic death at the age of 61. But it was full of red meat. I have never met another musician who combined the most exacting standards with a sense of humor to which I could relate so perfectly. And then there was his love of the art of living. I learned, if I could put it so frivolously, as much about good wine from Fritz Busch as I did about The Marriage of Figaro. I now feel that it is a danger for conductors to become too blinkered, keeping their eyes riveted on a score. In doing so, they don't remember to live. Music must be a part of the whole business of life. That Busch taught me."

Busch unwittingly gave Pritchard his Glyndebourne conducting debut, when a sudden indisposition forced the elder musician to withdraw from a performance of *Don Giovanni* and Pritchard deputized. A similar experience devolved from Pritchard's association with Gui, who taught him the Italian repertory, "including, at my request, the operas of Bellini." In 1952, Gui asked Pritchard to step in for him as the conductor of a Covent Garden *Norma*—with Maria Callas in the title role and a young soprano named Joan Sutherland as Clotilde. The Royal Opera then engaged Pritchard for all the Callas *Normas* the following season.

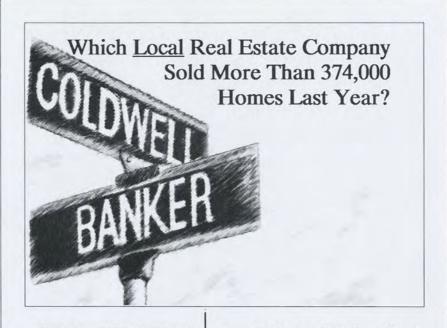
In 1969 Pritchard succeeded Busch and Gui as Glyndebourne musical director, a post he held until 1978. By the time he relinquished that directorship, he had conducted all the Mozart operas in the Glyndebourne repertory, the British premiere of Henze's Elegy for Young Lovers, and a host of other operas from L'Incoronazione di Poppea to Pelléas et Mélisande.

"I will always see John as a figure in a Sussex landscape," added John Cox in his memorial tribute for Opera. "Glyndebourne suited him perfectly. He had a taste for the simple excesses of life, and here he could pursue the art of music and the art of living down a single Epicurean track. Apollo and Dionysos alternated in easy company with him, and if at times he clove more nearly to the one, his service of the other was thereby enriched." In a companion Opera tribute, Glyndebourne chairman George Christie observed: "JP (as he was always known) was a sybarite in the best sense (and, for all I know, in other senses, too). He liked the good things in life—without shame."

Pritchard's own memory of Glyndebourne was of "a great theater to forget the cares of the operatic world, and I stayed for many years in that wonderful place. I left on my own, feeling that it was time that I stopped being so protected. I decided that it was time that I took to the rough and tumble — and it is — of the rest of the operatic world."

He took to that larger operatic world with his signature appetite. By the time he assumed the music directorship in San Francisco, he had conducted at almost every major opera house in the world. He appeared at Covent Garden nearly every season of his professional life, leading, over the years there, the premieres of Britten's *Gloriana*, Tippett's *Midsummer Marriage* and *King Priam*, and new productions of *Carmen*, *Il Tabarro* and *Suor Angelica*, *Benvenuto Cellini*, and, as recently as 1987, a new *Norma*.

His success in a new production of *Arabella* and a celebrated Mozart cycle (which, in the end, ran to seven of the operas, in Jean-Pierre Ponnelle productions) led him to be named chief conductor, then music director, of Cologne Opera (the latter a post he continued to hold while music director here). There he added a number of the larger Strauss and Wagner operas to his ever-growing repertory. He further served as music director of the Brussels Monnaie, re-1990 Season



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At the 1985 press conference, then General Director of the San Francisco Opera Terence McEwen introduces the Company's first Music Director, Sir John Pritchard.

opening the new opera house there with *Der Rosenkavalier* in November of 1986. He once accepted a compliment on a South Bank performance of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* by pointing out that he had conducted it more often than *La Traviata*.

Then there were the recordings, ranging from Joan Sutherland's first *Lucia* and *Traviata* to Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*. Pritchard also was a recital record conductor favored by sopranos from Elisabeth Schwarzkopf to Kiri Te Kanawa. His non-operatic recordings only hint at the extent of his work as the conductor of symphonic as well as operatic music.

In addition to wide-ranging guest conducting, again throughout the world and across a broad range of the orchestral repertory, Pritchard held chief conductorships of three British orchestras, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (1957-63), the London Philharmonic (1962-66), and the BBC Symphony (1982-89). "Both in the opera house and the concert hall," wrote Max Loppert in his Pritchard obituary in the Financial Times, "his willingness to tackle a wide repertory, from Monteverdi and Cavalli to Stockhausen and Elliott Carter, was facilitated by astonishing natural gifts of musicianship. A famously quick memorizer of scores, who could solve problems of scoring and balance with an insider's understanding, he was admired by orchestral musicians everywhere, and his close sympathy with soloists, whether instrumental or vocal, lent him

special renown as an accompanist."

Like many another conductor of his energy, talent, and enthusiasm, Pritchard had a tendency to overextend himself, particularly in later years. "It is probably true to say that his enormous natural talent sometimes let him down," wrote Glyndebourne's Christie. "The scores he conducted held no fear for him. As a result he was able to take things in his musical stride when his attention was diverted by other pressures. Criticism tended in such instances to be leveled against him for failing to take his musical commitment seriously enough; and he could therefore be variable in performance. But at his best he vied with any conductor anywhere." Added Cox: "When he eventually left Glyndebourne his career, albeit a near frenzy of global activity, seemed at times rudderless. I remember being with him once in New York when he counted up to five—or was it seven?-homes he had in various parts of the world, owned or rented. He had in fact become the Wanderer among major conductors."

(By the time he assumed the music directorship in San Francisco, he had sold the 1602 Jacobean house that had been his principal home while he was at Glyndebourne. He still maintained "a small apartment in Monte Carlo" and had just found a new principal residence, "a beautiful, isolated house 18 kilometers in the foothills of the Alps behind Nice, where I've moved the books and records and antiques from various residences around the world. It's home now." His Bay Area *pied-à-terre* was in Sausalito.)

Pritchard conducted to mixed reviews, here and abroad, throughout his career. ("Critics are one thing," he said in his first interview with me, not always the most flattering of his critics, looking directly into my eyes yet without wavering from his characteristically gentle, softly accented tones. "One suffers that all over the world.") Perhaps Loppert said it best. In his obituary, after level-headed praise for Pritchard's manifest talents, he continued: "In spite of all this it was not always the case that a Pritchard performance was marked by energy. It is not difficult to recall those evenings where a certain indolence of manner made itself felt. Equally, no-one who had the good fortune to hear Pritchard on the right night-in the already-mentioned Glyndebourne Mozart performances, for instance, or the festival performances of Strauss' Capriccio (1973) and Intermezzo (1974), or when conducting a Proms concert of Bellini's I Capuleti e i Montecchi (1988)—is likely to forget it."

Similarly, there may never be an answer to whether Pritchard was the right man at the right time to be San Francisco Opera's first music director. The amount of time he was able to carve from his busy international schedule to supervise the Orchestra—with the care, attention, and rigor he himself proposed—was not as much as he, and others, had hoped.

But there can be no doubt that his impact on the Company over the better part of two decades was major, and that he has left an enormous reserve of affection in his wake. Indeed, the personal esteem in which he was held throughout the world far outstripped even the high honors of his native government, which made him a Commander of the British Empire in 1962 and knighted him in 1983.

Singers had extravagant praise for his personal and professional support, both from the pit and from the heart. Helga Dernesch spoke for countless of her colleagues in an interview shortly after his death. "I saw him for the last time exactly a year ago," Dernesch recalled while rehearsing last summer's Ring, "when we did a BBC studio recording of Phaedra, a song cycle on Racine composed by Iain Hamilton. He was the most pleasant person to be with, because he was very gentlemanly, very polite. There was never a rude word or uncontrolled reaction to something with which he disagreed. With a smile on his face, he tried to talk to you and make himself clear. I saw him often on the social level, and he was the most pleasant person to work and be with. I will never forget his sweet voice. There was something musical about his speech. From the pit he gave every cue, always watching carefully everything that was happening on the stage. He carried you on his hands. I miss him very much."

To listen to Christie and Cox, there will be even more reason to miss Sir John Pritchard on the occasions of this season's productions of Die Entführung aus dem Serail and Capriccio, both of which he was originally slated to conduct: "I remember a performance he gave of Die Entführung at Salzburg in the 1960s-the Strehler production with Wunderlich, Rothenberger and Corena," Christie wrote for Opera. "Entführung is not Mozart's greatest masterpiece, but JP convinced every person on stage, in the pit and in the auditorium, that it was." "Without a doubt our happiest collaboration was the 1973 Capriccio at Glyndebourne," added Cox, "and in the closing scene he captured from a basis of deep personal experience the exquisite torment of the passionate intellect mediating between art and life. He particularly endorsed the genial irony of the close—in the face of an insoluble problem, eat supper."

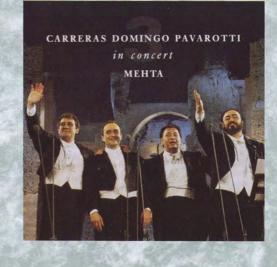


Maestro Pritchard at the Proms.

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By JOHN SCHAUER



SOHL

Some composers have earned their place in the musical pantheon by creating one sublime masterpiece. Mention Georges Bizet, and one immediately thinks of *Carmen*.

Others are recognized as supreme masters of one genre, such as Frédéric Chopin's incomparable solo piano music, or Hugo Wolf's lieder.

And then there's Mozart. One doesn't ask which musical form he completely mastered; one tries in vain to think of one he didn't. Other composers, no matter how great, all seemed to have their Achilles' heels. Beethoven's MissaSolemnis has been called "a magnificent failure"; Bach, it would seem, never truly understood vocal technique; and Schumann has been charged with orchestrating his symphonies as if he were composing for the piano. But Mozart, perhaps alone among western composers, was kissed by all the good fairies at his birth, and effortlessly produced flawless masterworks without half-trying.

John Schauer is staff writer for San Francisco Opera.

The tortuous process of drafting, revising, making false starts, backtracking and recomposing, in the manner made famous by Beethoven's "sketchbooks," apparently was foreign to Mozart. His wife, Constanze, said in her memoirs that her famous husband "wrote down music in the same way as he wrote letters." The musicologist Erich Hertzmann elaborates, saving that Mozart "was able to compose while playing billiards, of which he was so fond, or while traveling in a stage-coach. Nothing could distract him. ...[Mozart] could compose music faster than his pen would write... He copied the music from an imaginary score which he knew by heart."

Music theoreticians delight in holding up Mozart as the *ne plus ultra* against which everyone else must be measured. Perhaps if Mozart's music were not quite so sublime, we might have greater respect for his contemporaries such as Salieri and Dittersdorf. Articulating just why and how Mozart's music is so much better, however, is difficult. In the words of Paul Henry Lang, "The elements of Mozart's greatness are beyond analysis and discussion." It is just as well; for it is the sheer enjoyment, and not just the proof, of the pudding that is in the eating.

It seems appropriate, then, that the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death will be observed in San Francisco not with the publication of a musicological *Festschrift* or pompous eulogies, but with a celebration of the man's music, an exploration of his era, and his impact on all the performing arts. Under the title "Mozart & His Time," our Mozartian heritage will be explored from May 22 through June 30, 1991, by an unprecedented collaboration of 42 San Francisco arts organizations, the largest assemblage of groups ever to participate in a single-theme arts festival in the city's history.

The impetus for this mammoth undertaking came from San Francisco Opera General Director Lotfi Mansouri, who started talking about his dream for a citywide Mozart festival in early 1988, when he arrived in town to prepare for his appointment as general director. "I want to work out a wonderful Mozart festival called 'Mozart and His Times,' " he was quoted at the time as saying. His plan was to "get A.C.T., the Symphony, the Ballet, and go through the literature, through the theater, through dance, and bring this wonderful cross-section of artistic endeavors under one theme, one umbrella, so they can feed into one another... It's like presenting the audience with a feast of incredible variety, and tasting one thing might stimulate them to want to taste another one, so that they are enriched with a much larger palette."

When Mansouri approached the directors of the other major arts organizations, his idea fell on fertile ground. Managed by committees staffed by the four largest participating organizations (American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Opera, and the San Francisco Symphony), (Below) Evelyn Cisneros and Jim Sohm in San Francisco Ballet's Menuetto, set to Mozart's Divertimento in D Major, K.334, and choreographed by Helgi Tomasson.

(Opposite) Thomas Stewart, Kevin Langan and men of the S.F. Opera chorus in a scene from Mozart's Magic Flute, taken at the San Francisco Opera in 1987. Sets are by famed artist David Hockney.



SOHL

"Mozart & His Time" will present an astonishing array of events divided into six broad categories: Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Theater, Humanities, and New and Unusual.

The festival will officially open on May 22 with a gala concert that will begin in Davies Symphony Hall and conclude in the War Memorial Opera House—the first time that the resident companies of the two largest facilities in the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center will jointly present a single performance event.

San Francisco Opera's contribution to the festival will include stagings of three Mozart operas: a new production of *Così* fan tutte directed by Harry Kupfer in his Company debut, plus revivals of *Le Nozze* di Figaro and *The Magic Flute*. In addition, the Company premiere of *Lucio Silla* will be presented in a semi-staged concert at the Masonic Auditorium, and the Opera Center will perform *La Finta Giardiniera* at Stern Grove as its 1991 Showcase production.

Additional Mozart operas will be performed by Pocket Opera, including *The* Marriage of Figaro; Yanked from the Harem, Donald Pippin's translation of Die Entführung aus dem Serail; and a Mozart surprise to be announced, as well as Rossini's The Barber of Seville, which was based on part of the Beaumarchais "Figaro" trilogy.

Other vocal presentations will include concerts by the San Francisco Boys Chorus, with soloists from the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the San Francisco Girls Chorus, with Philharmonia Baroque. Under the auspices of Instituto Pro Musica de California, the vocal group Coro Hispano de San Francisco and its Orguesta de la Mision will perform the 20th-century premiere of major works by Mexican and South American contemporaries of Mozart. From the other side of the Atlantic. Museo ItaloAmericano will present Italian songs by Mozart sung by sopranos Sara Ganz and Randall Wong, with fortepiano accompaniment by Elaine Thornburgh.

In the realm of instrumental music, the choices will be many. The San Francisco Symphony will offer two weeks of sub-



Scene from Act III of San Francisco Opera's current production of Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro.

scription concerts featuring the Mozart Requiem and Sabine Meyer performing the Clarinet Concerto, as well as two weeks of concerts under conductor Roger Norrington with violinist Thomas Zehetmair. They will also present two performances of the Guarneri String Quartet in all-Mozart programs.

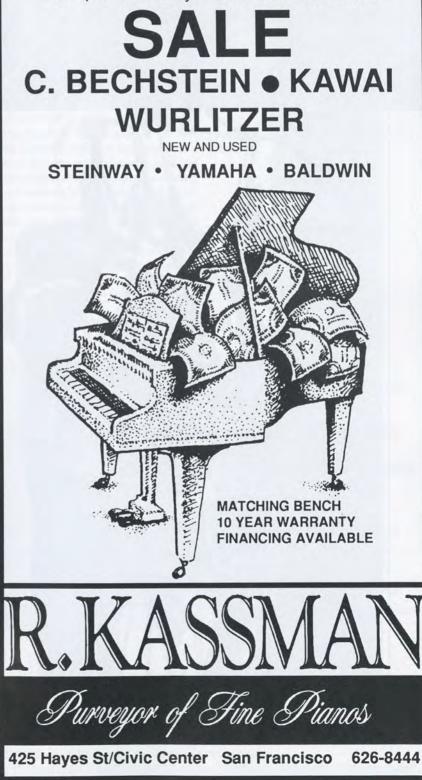
Additional chamber music presentations will include the Artaria String Quartet recreating one of the famous chamber music soirées at which Mozart performed with his colleagues Franz Joseph Havdn, Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf and Jan Ignatius Vanhal. The Chamber Symphony of San Francisco has planned a "Mozart in Paris" concert of music he wrote during his 1778 visit to the City of Lights, while the Grace Cathedral Concert Series will feature "Mozart in the Cathedral," with music he composed for the churches of Austria. The San Francisco Conservatory of Music will present Chamber Music West in a showcase of music by Mozart and his contemporaries, San Francisco Performances will present the Tokyo String Quartet in two all-Mozart evenings in Herbst Theater, and the San Francisco String Consort will perform music of Mozart's time for organ, orchestra and voices in the setting of Notre Dame des Victoires church. Further off the beaten path will be a rare opportunity to hear a copy of an 18th-century pedal piano-a nearly extinct instrument of which Mozart was the most famous exponent-performed by John Khouri under the auspices of Old First Concerts. And, of course, Midsummer Mozart, under the direction of George Cleve, will present its traditional summer season of music by the master.

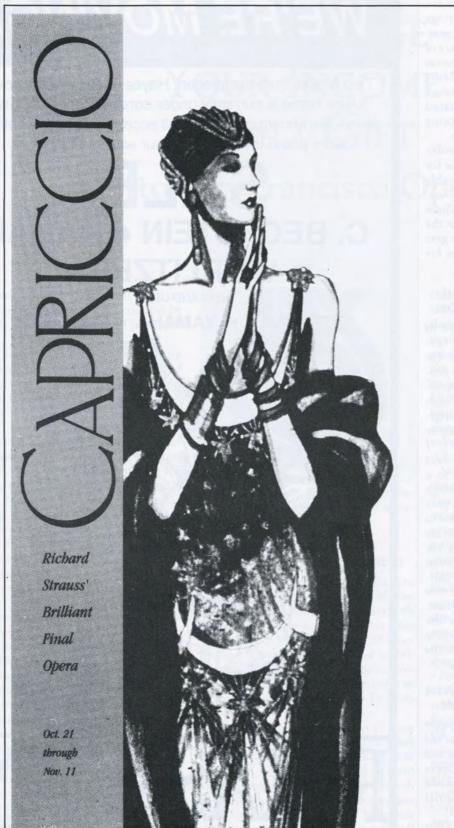
Did someone mention dance? San Francisco Ballet will present two evenings of ballets set to Mozart's music, while Dance Through Time will give us a view of the terpsichorean tastes of Mozart's era in a presentation entitled "Wolfi, the Other Mozart," with the assistance of the Artea Chamber Orchestra and decorative artist Gale Laurence. In a more modern vein, the San Francisco Institute of Choreography will devote its June Showcase to dances in a variety of styles by contemporary choreographers, set to Mozart's music.

A similar span of time, from Mozart's day to our own, will be covered by theatrical presentations. American Conservatory Theater will conclude its 1990-91 season with a new production of

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Beaumarchais's comedy *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, in a new translation by Joan Holden, artistic director of the San Francisco Mime Troupe. Magic Theatre will present its first commissioned play, by James Keller, with the imposing title of *Mozart's Journey to Prague: With Detours, Diversions and an Epilogue in New York.* Based on an 1855 novella by Eduard Mörike, the play will be directed by Albert Takazauckas.

STEINER

Outside the world of performing arts, a broad spectrum of organizations will make their own special contributions to the "humanities" category of "Mozart & His Time." Both the Asian Art Museum and The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco will identify pieces in their collections dating from Mozart's time, along with special presentations. City Guides will conduct walking tours of San Francisco showing what was transpiring in this part of the world-specifically the Presidio and Mission Dolores-while Mozart was still alive. At The Exploratorium, Charles Amirkhanian will host an installment of the "Speaking of Music" series devoted to "an evening with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart," at which the

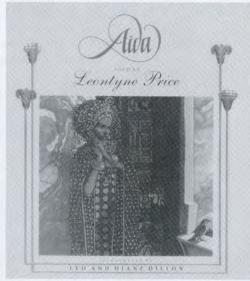


composer "will be making a rare appearance in San Francisco in May of 1991."

The Goethe-Institut will present a series of documentary, experimental and feature films about Mozart, including Klaus Kirschner's four-hour epic Mozart: Aufzeichnungen einer Jugend ("Mozart: A Childhood Chronicle"). More films and videos about the composer, his music and times—in addition to documented performances of his works—will be showcased at the San Francisco Film Society's The Tokyo String Quartet: Sadao Harada, Peter Oundjian, Kazuhide Isomura and Kikuei Ikeda.

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1990 Season

34th San Francisco International Film Festival. National Poetry Association will present an evening of dramatic readings from writers of Mozart's time, juxtaposed with works by today's poets reflecting upon the composer. The San Francisco Public Library will prepare and exhibit a pertinent reading list, and the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum will contribute a series of lectures relating to Mozart and the genres in which he worked.

Throughout the bicentennial year, KKHI Radio will offer special Mozartoriented programming, and the San Francisco Opera Guild will produce educational and community outreach programs for children and adults to foster a better appreciation of Mozart's accomplishments. San Francisco Unified School District Music Teachers are planning on setting aside one day of instruction in the 6th through 12th grades to discuss the life, times and music of Mozart, and the UCSF Health Program for Performing Artists will present an extensive roster of guest speakers addressing a variety of topics at a symposium entitled "Mozart: Pleasures and

Perils of Genius."

Mozart's appeal is so universal that local artists, performers and organizations have been inspired to devise a number of unique events that do not fall into the traditional Mozart-performance categories; the festival has appropriately created a category called "New and Unusual Mozart." Circus Absurdus has prepared a comic piece, "Sonata for Violin and Music Stand," based upon Mozart's Eine kleine Nachtmusik, as part of a special performance for children. Additional Mozartian chuckles will result when performance artist Hank Hyena presents his comic lecture analysis of "Mozart's Ear" at Intersection for the Arts.

The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts is organizing an "Amadeus Affair" that will present several of the center's component groups in an eclectic mix of classic and modern performance styles in the context of a masked ball. Pickle Family Circus has taken their cue from the fact that modern circuses have their origins in Mozart's time, and will present a special children's performance of Mozart-themed circus acts.

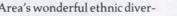
The Bay Area's wonderful ethnic diver-

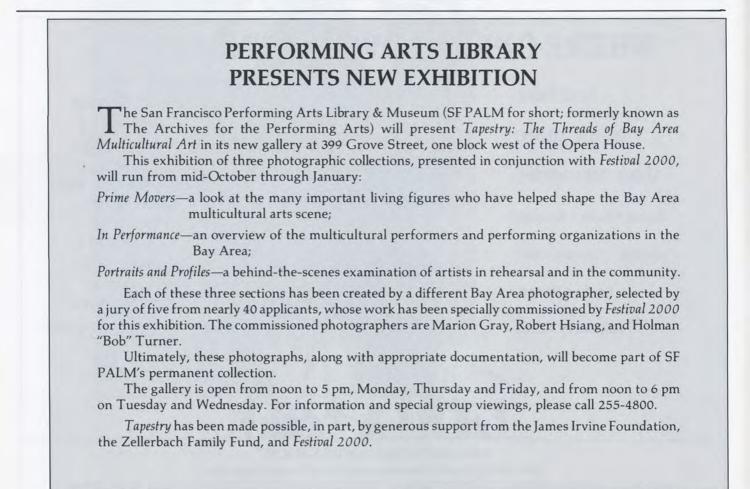
sity will be reflected in the presentations of two groups: San Francisco Taiko Dojo, which performs on such traditional Japanese instruments as taiko drums and shakuhachi flute, and Sukay, a musical group specializing in performances on traditional Bolivian and Andean instruments, will both perform Mozart's music in combination with their own traditional repertoires.

According to Festival Manager Ann Seamster, additional groups are expected to join the roster; full ticket and scheduling information will be announced in early 1991. For a free festival brochure, write to: Mozart Festival Brochure, c/o Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, CA 94102; or call (415) 431-5400.

Forget Salzburg; in June of 1991, San Francisco will be the place to immerse yourself totally in the incomparable genius of Mozart. Wolfgang himself may be dead now for 200 years, but his music, and the joy and inspiration he has bequeathed to the world, will never die.

["Mozart & His Time" is supported through Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.1





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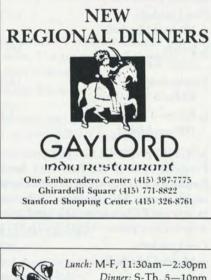
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1990 Opera Previews

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

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD INSIGHTS

Renowned artists and personalities (to be announced) from the world of opera share their insights and experiences during informal interviews.

Held in Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., in San Francisco. All discussions begin at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for Guild members. Individual tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. For further information, please call (415) 565-6432. Programs are subject to change.

Capriccio	10/8
Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patr	ia 11/22

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PREVIEWS MARIN

Previews held at United Methodist Church, 410 Sycamore Ave., Mill Valley; refreshments served at 7:30 p.m., previews at 8 p.m. Series registration is \$36 for 7 previews (\$30 for students and seniors). Single tickets are \$6 (\$5 for students and seniors). For further information, please call (415) 388-6789.

Don Quichotte Michael Mitchell	10/10
Capriccio James Keolker	10/17
Khovanshchina Richard Taruskin	11/14
Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria William Mahrt	11/19

SOUTH PENINSULA

Previews held at the Palo Alto Senior Center, 450 Bryant, at 8 p.m. Series registration is \$30 (students \$15); single tickets are \$5 (students \$4). For further information, please call (415) 948-8717.

Don Quichotte Michael Mitchell	10/9
Capriccio James Keolker	10/16
Khovanshchina Richard Taruskin	11/13
Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria William Mahrt	11/20

SAN JOSE OPERA GUILD

Previews held at the Los Gatos History Club, 123 Los Gatos Blvd., at 10 a.m. Series is open to the public at a cost of \$5 per lecture (free of charge for San Jose Opera Guild members). For further information, please call (408) 354-7525. Don Quichotte 10/9 Michael Mitchell Capriccio 10/16 James Keolker Khovanshchina 11/13 Richard Taruskin

ll Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria 11/20 William Mahrt

SONOMA COUNTY CHAPTER

Previews held at various times and locations (see below). Series registration is \$40 for 6 previews (chapter member); \$48 non-member. Single tickets \$8. Extra cost of luncheons \$10; dinner \$24. For further information and reservations for luncheons and dinner, please call (707) 935-1957 or (707) 996-2590.

Don Quichotte Michael Mitchel	10/8, 10:30 a.m. lecture, l lunch following La Provence, 141 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa
Richard Taruski	11/12, 6:15 p.m. lecture, n dinner following Sts. Peter & Paul ssian Orthodox Church, 3395 Stony Point Rd., Santa Rosa
ll Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria William Mahrt	11/9, 10:30 a.m. lecture lunch following Villa Restaurant 3901 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa

JUNIOR LEAGUE OPERA PREVIEWS

Previews held in Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave., in San Francisco. Previews begin at noon, and there is no admission charge. For further information, please call (415) 626-0609. Don Ouichotte 10/10

Michael Mitchell	10/10
Khovanshchina Bi had Tanalia	11/14
Richard Taruskin 11 Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria	11/21
William Mahrt	

OPERA EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL PREVIEW SERIES

Previews of the operas of the 1990 season will be given by Michael Barclay, director of Opera Education International. Lectures will be presented at the

in Berk series admissi	Jewish Theatre, 820 eley, at 7:30 p.m. Adm of 9 previews is \$65 on at the door is \$8. ation, please call (415)	ission to the ; individual For further
Don Qu	vichotte	10/1
Capricci	0	10/15
Un Ball	lo in Maschera	10/22
Die Flea	lermaus	10/29
Khovan	shchina	11/12
Il Ritor	no d'Ulisse in Patria	11/19

MERRITT COLLEGE OPERA LECTURE SERIES

Merritt College is offering an opera preview class, Introduction to Opera (Music 13A), with emphasis on the operas of the 1990 fall season, on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning August 21 and ending in December. 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) 436-2430.

ROBERT GOODHUE'S FALL OPERA COURSE

Eight previews on San Francisco Opera's season; offered on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Sessions are held at the First Congregational Church, Post at Mason, in San Francisco. Admission is \$12 per class. For further information, please call (415) 956-1271.

Don Quichotte	10/8
Capriccio	10/15
Un Ballo in Maschera	10/22
Die Fledermaus	10/29
Khovanshchina	11/12
Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria	11/19

SAN FRANCISCO CITY COLLEGE OPERA PREVIEWS

City College of San Francisco is offering an opera preview class, Music 27B, featuring San Francisco Opera's 1990 fall season, on Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m., beginning August 23 and ending December 13. The course is free of charge and there are no prerequisites to enroll. Classes are held at the College, 50 Phelan Ave., Creative Arts Building, Room A-135, in San Francisco. For further information, please call (415) 239-3641.

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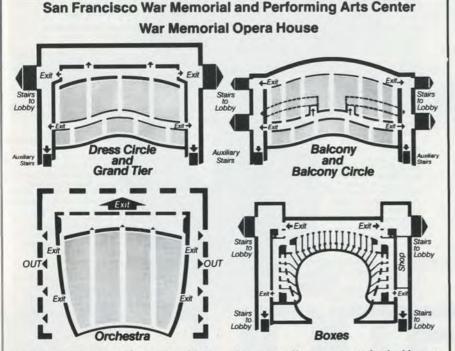
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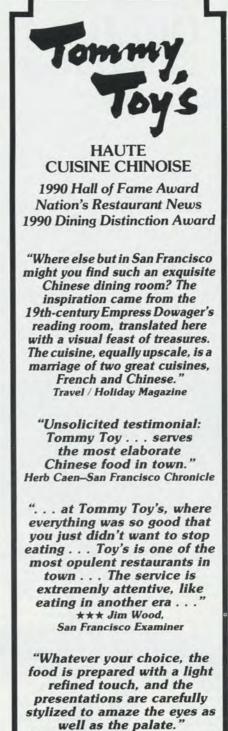
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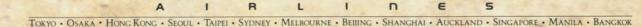
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