NEWS OF THE MUSICAL SEASON

New York Metropolitan Company at the Academy--Re-opening of the Philadelphia Opera House--Symphony Programs

JOHANNA GADSKI COPYRIGHT BY A DUPONT NY

sing Aida at the Academy

The Metropolitan Opera Company of New York will open its local season of 1909-10 at the Academy of Music next Tuesday evening with a performance of "Aida," of which great things with somewhat more than ordinary confidence may be expected. Last year its production of this opera was in all respects, scenically, vocally and dramatically, among the very best and highest of its achievement, and there is no reason to suppose that its work upon the occasion that is impending will be less admirable than then. It may, indeed, be even finer and more satisfying, for this time the part of Aida, which had been sustained by Emmy Destinn, to whose voice and methods it was not exceptionally well adapted, will be presented by Mme. Gadski, who sings it very beautifully and exhibits its dramatic side with a sincere and appealing pathos.

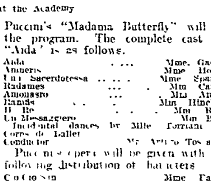
Caruso is to be the Rhadames as before, and there will be much curiosity to learn how far he has regained his form. He is reported to be singing well, if not better than ever, and to be in high spirits over recent European successes. Upon the operation which he was reported to have undergone for the purpose of restoring the elasticity of his vocal chords, he is reported as denying that any such operation took place. In a recent interview he said: "I merely sought the advice of an old friend and family physician, since for seven years I have been singing on my nerves and giving of my very best to the public without stint. Indeed, there was no operation, and I enjoyed singing abroad very much, and never sang better. I have signed another contract for three years to sing with the Metropolitan. I shall receive $2000 a night, and after next year I am guaranteed fifty performances a season."

There will be a performance at the Academy next Thursday afternoon, when Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" will be the program. The complete cast for "Aida" is as follows.

Aida	Mme. Gadski
Amneris	Mme Homer
Una Sacerdotessa	Mme Sparkes
Radames	Mm Caruso
Amonasro	Mm Amato
Ramfis	Mm Hinckley
Il Re	Mm Rossi
Un Messaggero	Mm Bada
Incidental dances by Mlle Ferriani and Corps de Ballet	
Conductor	Mr Arturo Toscanini

Puccini's opera will be given with the following distribution of characters

Cio-Cio-San	Mme Farrar



MLLE MARGARITA D'ALVAREZ COPYRIGHT BY MISHKIN NY

The Amneris of the Hammerstein cast

Suzuki	Mme Fornia
Kate Pinkerton	Mme Mapleson
La Madre	Mme Woehning
La Cugina	Mme Mattfeld
La Zia	Mme. Wakefield
B F Pinkerton	Mm Martin
Sharpless	Mm. Scotti
Goro	Mm. Bada
Yamadori	Mm Tecchi
Lo Zio Bonzo	Mm. Bechlmann
Yakuside	Mm. Giauoli-Galletti

Il Commissario Imperiale	Mm. Begue
L'Ufficiale del Registro	Mm. Ananian
Conductor	Mr. Vittorio Podesti

(His first appearance here)

Program at the Philadelphia Opera House

In accordance with the promise made by Mr. Oscar Hammerstein last spring that the second season of grand opera under his direction at the Philadelphia Opera House should surpass that of the first, he has announced a repertoire for the first week that for completeness of casts and representativeness of the various musical schools could not be excelled.

"Aida" will be the opening bill, next Tuesday night, and Verdi's greatest opera will be sung and staged in the best style. The title role will be sung by Mme. Mariette Mazarin, who on that occasion will make her American debut. Mme. Mazarin has for several years been regarded as the leading dramatic soprano of the French stage, having been first prima donna of the Grand Opera and Opera Comique in Paris and the Theatre de la Monnaie in Brussels, where last year she attained so brilliant a success in Strauss's "Salome" that the composer especially commended her. She was the original "Salambo" when that opera was produced in Lyons. "Aida" is regarded as one of Mme. Mazarin's best roles, she having made her debut at the Paris Grand Opera as the Ethiopian princess. Not only is the prima donna the possessor of a beautiful voice of great power and brilliancy, but her dramatic ability is exceptional. The Rhadames will be Nicola Zerola, whose sensational successes in New York have been the talk of the Metropolis. His voice is of pure tenor timbre, rich and resonant and even in all registers, and with a brilliancy in the high notes that is phenomenal. Mr. Hammerstein, whose judgment in such matters is absolute, styles him "the world's greatest tenor."

Mlle. Margarita D'Alverez, another new artist, will make her local debut as Amneris. She has a contralto voice of unusual quality and range, is a splendid actress and sings dramatic passages with a fire and intensity that is inspiring. Giovanni Polese has the role of Amonasro, in which he scored so heavily last year, and Henri Scott, the well-known Philadelphian, will make his debut as a professional operatic artist as Ramfis. Mlle. Egener will sing the music of the Princess, De Grazia will be the King and Venturini the Messenger. A ballet of sixty and a chorus of one hundred and fifty voices will be seen and heard in the ensembles. The spectacular features will be even more lavish than those of last year. Sturani will conduct.

"Heroiade" will be sung for the first time in Philadelphia Thursday night. The cast is headed by Mlle. Lina Cavalieri, who will sing the music of "Salome"—a Salome of tenderness and poetry and vastly different from the Salome of Wilde and Strauss. Maurice Renaud will be the Herod, a part of which he created at the Paris Grand Opera. It is one of his most remarkable characterizations—a complete revelation of this singing actor's exceptional talents. Charles Dalmores, whose dramatic artistry probably excels that of any other tenor, will be heard as John, a part in which he made his debut at Rouen eleven years ago. Heroiade will be sung by Mlle. Gerville-Reache, who today is recognized as among the greatest of operatic contraltos. Others in the cast are M. Crabbe, as Vitellino, the Roman pro-consul, M Valier, a new French basso, as Phanuel, the Chaldean astrologer, and M Nicolay, a Greek basso, as the High Priest, Mlle Egener as a slave, and M Venturini. The director will be M Nicosa, who will make his first bow to local audiences. The production is to be most elaborate. In fact, so great is its magnitude that the proposed "Carmen" matinee Thursday afternoon had to be abandoned in order to admit of its instalment. Over fifteen hundred gorgeous costumes will be worn by the company. The opera will be sung in French.

Ludwig Van Beethoven	Overture Leonore No
Ludwig Van Beethoven,	Overture, "Leonore No. 3"
Anton Dvorak	Symphony No. 5, in E Minor, "From the New World" Op. 95
Cesar Franck	Le Chasseur Maudit (The Wild Huntsman), Symphonic Poem
Rimsky Korsakow	Spanish Caprice, Op 34

The Dvorak Symphony "Aus der Neuen Welt" ("From the New World") was performed first in 1893, and still possesses all its pristine freshness and beauty. The lively allegro, the infinitely sweet largo, the bright scherzo and the powerful finale make up a work of eternal charm. It has been truly said that Dvorak was certainly wise in his choice of material for this symphony. While our native composers were running amuck on outlandish Indian themes, that had no beauty in themselves and were often based on different scales from our own, he went directly to the music of our plantations and drew from it themes that would appeal to the heart of its hearers.

Cesar Franck's "Le Chasseur Maudit" ("The Wild Huntsman") was composed in 1883, and tells the story of Burger's ballad "Der Wilde Jager."

With the Beethoven "Leonore No. 3" Overture and the Rimsky Korsakow "Spanish Caprice" the program for this week's concerts promises a rich treat.

The second popular concert of the orchestra will be given at the Academy of Music on Wednesday evening next, when Thaddeus Rich, the popular young concertmeister of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will be the soloist. The program reads as follows

G. A. Rossini	Overture, "William Tell"
L. van Beethoven	Second Movement from Symphony No. 5, in C Minor, Op. 67 Andante con moto.
Franz Schubert	Hungarian March, Instrumentation by Franz Liszt.
Edvard Grieg	Peer Gynt Suite, Op 46
Henri Vieuxtemps	Ballade Polonaise Thaddeus Rich
Johann Strauss	"Blue Danube" Waltz

Tetrazzini will make her local reappearance Saturday afternoon in "Lucia," perhaps her greatest part. She is in excellent health and has just returned to the United States after a most successful season in London and Paris, where she sang for the first time. In "Lucia" will also be introduced another novelty in the person of John McCormack, whose voice is said to possess such a moving quality as to compel the enthusiastic applause of English audiences, despite his nationality. In fact, Mr. McCormack for three seasons past has been the most popular tenor at Covent Garden, London.

Polese will sing the role of Ashton, Venturini that of Arturo, Mlle. Egener will be Alisa, and De Grazia, Normando. Sturani will conduct.

Meyerbeer's "Prophet" which has not been heard here for some years, will be given a sumptuous revival Saturday night. Almost an entire new cast will render the opera, while the title role, John of Leyden, will be assumed by George Lucas, a French tenor, who has never before been heard in this city. His voice is sweet and powerful, and in mezzo voce effects, as well as in dramatic passages, he is equally effective. Fides, one of the few great contralto roles in opera, will be sustained by Mlle. Margarita D'Alvarez, who will then make her second appearance. Mme. Walter Villa, a coloratura soprano who has enjoyed unusual success both in France and Belgium, will be heard as Bertha, fiancee of John. M. Laskin, a baritone, will also make his initial appearance as Count Oberthal. MM Leroux, Villa and Nicolay will sing the measures of the three Anabaptists. Sturani will conduct. So as not to prolong the performance until after midnight Mr. Hammerstein ends the opera immediately after the coronation scene.

MME MARIETTE MAZARIN PHOTO BY MISHKIN NY

Announced to appear as Aida

MME WALTER-VILLA COPYRIGHT BY MISHKIN NY

As Bertha in "The Prophete"

LOUISE HOMER COPYRIGHT 1909 A. DUPONT NY

Who will be heard as Amneris

Philadelphia Orchestra Programs

For this week's Friday afternoon and Saturday evening concerts of the Philadelphia Orchestra the following program is announced

Tomorrow evening, in Weightman Hall, University of Pennsylvania, the orchestra will be heard in the first of its series of six University concerts. Thaddeus Rich, the concertmeister of the orchestra, will be the soloist in a program including the following numbers.

Edvard Grieg	Overture, "In Autumn," Op 11
Anton Dvorak	Symphony No 5, E Minor, "From the New World," Op. 95
Henri Vieuxtemps	Ballade Polonaise Thaddeus Rich
Emmanuel Chabrier	"Espana" Rhapsody for Orchestra

Boston Symphony Orchestra

The first Boston Symphony concert of the year will be given in the Academy of Music tomorrow evening at 8.15 o'clock, and the program is full of unusual interest, presenting an important novelty by an English composer and marking the first appearance in America of a man who is now generally regarded as the greatest of living Russian composers and one of the greatest pianists now before the public. The novelty will be Granville Bantock's comedy overture "Pierrot of the Minute." The assisting artist will be Serge Rachmaninoff.

Originally it had been intended that Rachmaninoff should make his first appearance in America in Boston at the Boston Symphony concerts on October 29 and 30, but his sailing was delayed; therefore, Philadelphia has him first. For the same reason it has been found impossible to carry out the original plan of having him not only play his own piano concert, but to conduct one of his works, for his late arrival in America precluded the possibility of sufficient rehearsals. So he will play his own second concerto for pianoforte and orchestra, opus 18 in C-Minor.

The full program for the concert is as follows.

Granville Bantock	Overture "Pierrot of the Minute" (First time).
Tschaikowsky	Symphony No. 5 in E-Minor.
Rachmaninoff	Second Concerto in C-Minor for pianoforte an orchestra. Op 18
Richard Strauss	Tone Poem "Don Juan"

Soloist—Serge Rachmaninoff.

Mary Brooks Thompson's Recital

Miss Mary Brooks Thompson, soprano soloist of the Northminster Presbyterian Church, announces a song recital to take place at Griffith Hall next Wednesday evening, November 10, when she will have the artistic assistance of Mrs. E. P. Linch, pianist; Hedda van den Beemt, violinist; Bertrand A. Austin, 'cellist, and August H. Rodeman, flutist. This promises to be an enjoyable occasion.

People's Choral Union

The first rehearsal of the new chorus was held in the Odd Fellows' Temple on Thursday evening under the new conductor, Mr. Selden Miller. Great enthusiasm was shown on the part of both conductor and chorus, and the work of studying Haydn's "Creation," which will be sung at the first concert, was taken up with an energy which speaks well for the public performance of the oratorio at the Academy in January.

The Hahn Quartet

On Friday evening, November 26, at the first concert of the series to be given by the Hahn Quartet, the following program will be rendered. The talented pianist, Mr. Gregory Kannerstein, formerly of St. Petersburg, Russia, will be the assisting artist.

1—Quartette, F Major, Op. 96 ... Dvorak
2—Tema con Variazioni in 9 Minor. Op. 32. ... Foote
3—Trio (for piano, violin and 'cello) Op. 50. ... Tschaikowsky

Strawbridge and Clothier Chorus

Remarkable progress is being made in the rehearsal of "King Olaf" by the Strawbridge & Clothier Chorus for presentation this winter at the Academy of Music. The large attendance of the membership of 150 presages complete preparation for the satisfactory rendering of this fine Elgar composition. Rehearsals are held each Monday evening at the Strawbridge & Clothier store.

GERALDINE FARRAR PHOTO BY A. DUPONT N.Y.

As Cio-Cio-San in "Mme. Butterfly"

Concert for Bryn Mawr

A committee of the Class of 1906 of Bryn Mawr College has made arrangements for a concert to be given on Thursday evening, November 18, at New Century Hall, in aid of the endowment fund of their alma mater. At this concert Thaddeus Rich, concertmeister of the Philadelphia Orchestra, will appear as soloist. Ellis Clark Hammann, the well-known pianist, and a double quartet from the Orpheus Club are also announced.