THE OPERA "NERO" SAID TO BE READY AT LAST

Boito's Famous Work Secured for the Metropolitan's List Next Season.

RESULTS OF THIS WINTER

Gatti-Casazza Tells of Plans for Next Year—Has Been Waiting for "Nero" for Ten Years.

Giulio Gatti-Casazza hopes that he has secured at least one novelty of great artistic importance for the next season at the Metropolitan Opera House. This is "Nero," the famous opera on which Arrigo Boito, the famous Italian composer, has been at work for nearly twenty years. It is now said that the opera will be sung in Milan next autumn to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Verdi's birth.

The general managing director of the Metropolitan Opera House thinks that this long delayed work is at last ready, as Signor Caruso has been approached by cable from Milan in reference to assuming the title rôle in the work. Signor Caruso cabled to Milan that he could not give a definite answer until he had received a release from Herman Ledner, his German agent, in reference to the postponement of his tour in Germany next fall. If it is found possible Signor Caruso will postpone his German tour until next year and thus lose thousands of dollars for which his engagement at La Scala will in no sense compensate him. Until word reaches him from Berlin he cannot positively answer the committee. It is settled that Arturo Toscanini will conduct the work.

"Eleven years ago," Signor Gatti said yesterday, "I arranged all the details for the first production of 'Nero.' Even the scenery was designed and Signor Toscanini, who was to conduct the work, started for South America, expecting me to forward the score so soon as Boito sent it to me. At the last minute Boito notified me that the work was not ready. He is the negation of the usual hurrying, restless worker such as composers of the day are. It is a matter of indifference to him when the work is performed. He does, however, intend that when he finishes the work it shall be as perfect as it is in his power to make it. It may be that the work is at last finished to his satisfaction. I have the rights for the Metropolitan whenever the work is ready. It will give the opera house a great novelty if the famous opera which has been talked about for so many years is at last completed."

Signor Gatti even went as far at La Scala eleven years ago as to distribute the rôles. Nothing so definite has as yet happened at the Metropolitan Opera House, although it may be taken as a matter of course that Signor Caruso will have the title rôle. Boito also wrote the text of the tragedy published several years ago in Milan.

"Nothing has as yet been settled concerning the new works to be sung next season," Signor Gatti said, "although we will give 'Boris Godounoff,' which was to have been sung this winter but had to be postponed. About the American operas there has been no decision so far. The adaptation from 'Cyrano de Bergerac,' text by W. J. Henderson, music by Walter Damrosch, has been considered but nothing has been settled. The directors of the Metropolitan Opera House, as I understand their plans, are willing always to perform an American work, although I don't think that they are willing to give an opera just because it is American, and there would be no reason, in my opinion, for them to give a work merely for the sake of performing an opera by Americans unless there was really cause to believe that it would be successful. But in spite of all the unreliable and unfounded reports to the contrary, nothing has yet been settled concerning the répertoire."

There is a dearth of new works abroad. Signor Gatti said that Giacomo Puccini had not even decided on a subject for his next work, while Giordano is said to be still at work on a version of "Mme. Sans Gene," although the work is not known to be finished. The output in other countries during the last year has not been sufficiently promising, according to Signor Gatti, to make it certain that any of the new works would be worth producing here. It is settled, however, that there will be one American opera and that some French works may be added to the répertoire. The Metropolitan Opera House owns the rights to Debussy's works founded on Poe's stories "The Fall of the house of Usher" and "The Devil in the Belfry." Maurice Ravel's "L'Heure Espagnole" is also its property for this country. There will be no operas translated from foreign tongues into English.

"The engagement of new singers and the selection of new operas," Signor Gatti-Casazza said, "go in a measure together. The engagements that I may make in Europe will depend in a measure on the works selected since, the singers will be engaged for the roles suited to them. It is a fact, however, that the new German tenor, Jacques Urlus, will join the company, but not to replace Carl Burrian, who also remains in the organization. Then there is Mlle. Bori, an Italian lyric soprano who has been singing in Milan this winter. Then I expect that Mme. Ober, a German contralto, will sing with the company. Otherwise the organization will be little changed."

There has been no deficit this season and the earnings of the company on the investment of $2,000,000 may amount to $[illegible] if the road tour is successful. That will be used to increase the company's supply of scenery or costumes. In the season which has just ended there were thirty-four operas performed. In all there were at the Metropolitan Opera House 146 performances. Brooklyn had seventeen operas in sixteen performances and Philadelphia had ten operas in nine performances. Thirty-three performances were devoted to Wagner and twenty-five to Puccini.

LONDON SYMPHONY HERE.

Famous Orchestra Comes on the Baltic to Play Under Nikisch.

The London Symphony Orchestra arrived on the Baltic yesterday morning for a three weeks tour of America under the leadership of Arthur Nikisch. The ninety-six members who are now at the Hotel Victoria are the ruling body, engaging from time to time different conductors to lead them, and although they have employed famous men such as Dr. Hans Richter and Fritz Steinbach there is no one who can draw so much music out of them as Herr Nikisch, who will arrive to-day on the Provence.

This statement was made by William Malson, one of the musicians, who also belongs to the King's Band. He said that their stringed instruments produced such an exceptional volume of tone that often when Nikisch had started the rehearsal with a chord he would stop and ask to hear that again. The players all own their instruments and the violins include a Guarnerius valued at £1,500, a Testori, Landolfi, Rocca, Gagliano and Pilosius. There is also a noted double bass viol by Maggini.

While way over the orchestra gave two concerts for seamen's charities. Herr Nikisch will arrive in time to conduct three rehearsals before the opening concert on Monday night in Carnegie Hall. The rehearsal last night was conducted by the concert master, Arthur W. Payne, conductor of the Royal Amateur Society orchestra and of the Llandudno, North Wales, orchestra.

THE GREEK MUSICIANS.

Music of Their Native Land on Their Next Concert List.

The Royal Athenian String Orchestra, which recently made its American debut, will gave a second concert in Carnegie Hall next Tuesday evening. In response to numerous requests Conductor Nicholas Lavdas has arranged a programme made up in large part of Greek compositions, while the musicians will appear after the first intermission in native Greek costume. Another feature of interest will be two Greek folksongs sung by Dr. Paul Pikros with full orchestral accompaniment. Among other numbers which the "Mandolinata" will play are the Beethoven overture "Egmont," the overture from Rossini's "Barber of Seville," the "Rhapsodie Hellenique" and "Cretan Dance" arranged by Conductor Lavdas, the "Fate of Kleftis" by Kevrer, and a Greek march by Parisini.

The "Mandolinata" has had a unique career. Its honorary president is Prince Nicholas of Greece and its royal patron King George, at whose villa, Tatoi, it has frequently played. Several European tours have been made with pronounced success. In May, 1910, the "Mandolinata" took part in the International competition at Cremona, and carried off not only all the first prizes but the gold medal of honor presented by the Queen Dowager Marguerite of Savoy. Last April the orchestra received an invitation from the Emperor of Germany to play at the imperial villa Achilleion in Corfu, while a few days later a second concert was given in the presence of the Kaiser, the Empress Augusta, the Princess Luise and the royal family of Greece.

TWO FROHMAN COMPANIES

Leave for Out of Town Trips to Present New Plays.

One hundred actors and actresses from the Charles Frohman ranks left New York yesterday. They are the numbers of the two companies which will present two of Mr. Frohman's new productions to-morrow night, one in the Apollo Theatre, Atlantic City, the other in the Illinois Theatre, Chicago.

"The Girl from Montmartre," a farce with music, by Georges Feydeau and Rudolph Schanzer, music by Henry Bereny, with Hattie Williams as the star, went to Atlantic City. The other principals were William Pruette, Herbert Corthall, William Danforth, Lennox Pawle, Arthur Stanford, Percy F. Leach, George T. Chance, Clifton P. Norman, Arthur Lipson, George T. Lynch, Emma Janvier, Edna Hunter, Bertha Holly, Mary Gilmore, Ella Ellison, Maude Allan and Frankie Lee. After a week in Atlantic City the company will move to the Park Theatre in Boston. After a preliminary run on the road for the rest of this season the show will probably open on Broadway next fall.

Augustus Thomas accompanied the second company to Chicago, where it will present his new comedy, "When It Comes Home," at the Illinois Theatre. This is the first of three new comedies which Mr. Thomas is writing for Mr. Frohman. Gail Kane, Eileen Erroll, Ffolliott Paget, Violet Howard, Clara Reynolds Smith, Patsy McCoy, Richard Malchen, Harry Lillford, Joseph Tuohy, William Courtleigh, Earl Browne, George Clarke, Reginald Mason and John Findlay make up the company. This production will also be seen in New York next season.

Plays and Players.

Walter Hyde, the tenor, who has been singing leading roles at the Covent Garden Opera House, London, in the last season, arrived on the Caronia yesterday afternoon. Mr. Hyde comes to this country to sing the title role in the revival of "Robin Hood" at the New Amsterdam Theatre next month.

"The Garden of Allah" had its two hundredth performance in New York yesterday afternoon at the Century Theatre.

Moon and Morris, English eccentric dancers, arrived in New York yesterday afternoon on the Amerika of the Hamburg-American Line to join the Winter Garden company. They have just completed a long engagement at the Folies Bergere, Paris, where they went after a six months tour of Africa. They will introduce their dancing into "Whirl of Society" at the Winter Garden within a few days.

FUNERAL OF DR. I. K. FUNK.

Dr. Hillis of Brooklyn to Deliver the Principal Address To-morrow.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., April 6.—Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, will deliver the principal address at the funeral services of the late Dr. I. K. Funk, in the First Congregational Church to-morrow forenoon at 11:30 o'clock. The services will be in charge of the Rev. C. Bayard Young of St. Matthew's English Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, of which church Dr. Funk was formerly the pastor. He will be assisted by the Rev. Dr. Hugh Black of the Union Theological Seminary, who is acting pastor of the First Congregational Church. The Rev. Dr. Junius Remensnyder of New York will make a short address.

The following will act as ballbearers: The Rev. Dr. Joseph Dunn Burrell, the Rev. Dr. James H. Farrar, the Rev. Dr. W. C. P. Rhodes, the Rev. Dr. William V. Kerry, all of the Brooklyn Clerical Union; the Rev. Dr. Remensnyder and the Rev. Dr. Louis Francis of New York, Adam W. Wagnalls, Dr. Funk's business partner, and George W. Cummings, secretary of the National Temperance Society. The Rev. Dr. Hayes Ward, editor of the *Independent*, may also act as a pallbearer.

OBITUARY.

Perry L. Hobbs.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 6.—Perry L. Hobbs, professor of chemistry at Western Reserve University and one of the first men in this country to specialize as a chemical engineer, died here to-day. His experiments in the manufacture of concrete made him widely known. He was born here in 1861. He was graduated from the Case School of Applied Science in 1886 and received the degree of Ph. D. at the University of Berlin. He had taught chemistry at Western Reserve since 1889. He was a frequent contributor to scientific periodicals.

Mrs. Mary E. F. Braine.

Mrs. Mary E. F. Braine, widow of Rear Admiral D. L. Braine, U. S. N., died on Friday at her home, 67 First place, Brooklyn. Rear Admiral Braine was commander of the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1889. He retired from the service two years later. Mrs. Braine was one of the oldest members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Simon Seward.

PETERSBURG, Va., April 6.—Simon Seward of Petersburg died last night at Palm Beach, Fla., at the age of 68. He was president of the Seward Trunk and Bag Company, ex-president of the National Bank of Petersburg and also of the City Council. He was a Confederate veteran. He is survived by his wife and nine children.

Mrs. Mary Palmer Harper.

NORTHPORT, L. I., April 6.—Mrs. Mary Palmer Harper, widow of William St. John Harper, the artist, died on Thursday at her home here.

WEDDINGS.

Atkin—Wilson.

MONTCLAIR, April 6.—Miss Dorcas Randolph Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Wilson of 44 Christopher street, was married this afternoon to William Prout Atkin of Huntington, L. I. Dr. Newell Woolsey Wellles of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, officiated. Miss Marion Rita Wilson, sister of the bride was the latter's only attendant. The best man was Gustaf Theodore Atkin, brother of the bridegroom.

"As Lincoln once said, 'You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.'"

MR. BAUER'S RECITAL.

A Fine Reading of Schumann's F Sharp Minor Sonata.

Nothing is more encouraging and instructive to those interested in the cause of good music than a slow and steady growth of public interest in the art of a real artist. At times a newcomer in the field of absolute music creates a sensation and at a second or third appearance has a large audience. It is not unknown to musical annals that a success of this kind is followed by a slow and certain diminution of public favor. But when an interpreter of solid merit acquires his audience gradually his success is likely to be large and lasting.

Harold Bauer, the pianist, who gave his last recital yesterday afternoon at Carnegie Hall, began his New York appearances before assemblages of moderate size. The increase in the number of his hearers has been continual and now he is assured always of a full house. There is no sensationalism in Mr. Bauer's art; there has been none in his career in this city. But the esteem in which he is held by this public should make him proud.

His programme yesterday was one of genuine interest. It comprised Mendelssohn's prelude and fugue in E minor, opus 35, Bach's G minor suite, Schumann's great F sharp minor sonata, a prelude fugue and variations by César Franck, Ravel's "Ondine," Debussy's, "Children's Corner" and two Chopin numbers. The entire recital was on a plane long ago established by Mr. Bauer, but perhaps nothing gave more pleasure to the audience than his temperamental yet finely poised performance of the Schumann sonata.

It is by such playing that Mr. Bauer claims his place among the most admired pianists of this time. Strength without exaggeration, warmth without conflagration, color without smudges, and over all decorous observance of the order of art are the sterling qualities to be found in readings such as Mr. Bauer gave the sonata.

YESTERDAY AT THE OPERA.

"Otello" in the Afternoon and "La Gioconda" in the Evening.

The operas given at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday were "Otello" in the afternoon and "La Gioconda" in the evening. Verdi's noble musical version of Shakespeare's tragedy was excellently performed, but the audience was not commensurate with the merits of the representation. However, it seems unlikely now that this bitterly tragic and psychologic work will ever attain the measure of popularity easily reached by operas less subtly intellectual and franker in their appeal to mere sentiment.

In yesterday's performance the principal singers, Mr. Slezak as *Otello*, Mr. Scotti as *Iago*, and Mme. Alda as *Desdemona*, were at their best, and Mr. Toscanini's inspiring direction was as usual a potent factor in bringing about the best possible results.

Miss Destinn was the impersonator of *La Gioconda* in the evening and she sang with much brilliancy of tone and with dramatic style. Mr. Amato was the *Barnaba* and Mr. Martin, who seemed to be a little hoarse, was the *Enzo*. He sang "Cielo e mar" with good effect, despite some little difficulties with his tones. The other members of the cast were the same as heretofore and the performance was generally commendable.

In New York To-day.

Cooper Union—Anniversary meeting evening.

Gaelic Society—Irish Musical Festival, Carnegie Hall, evening.

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OTHER GRAND DIVISIONS of the Collection are Bronzes, Lacquers, Swords, Embroideries, Majolicas, Satsuma, Incense Boxes, Carved Ivories, Snuff Boxes, Miniatures, and Armor.

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE WILL BE MAILED FOR 50 CENTS

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Part III. of this great Collection will be sold in twenty afternoon and evening sessions, 2:30 and 8:15 o'clock, beginning on the afternoon of Monday, April 15th. The Books and Manuscripts are now on exhibition mornings and afternoons and a special **Evening Exhibition** has been arranged for the Evenings of Thursday and Friday, April 11th and 12th. Catalogues in two volumes. $1.50.

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MORGAN TREASURES ARRIVE ON THE BALTIC

Second of the Silver Objects and the Silver-Gilt Mounting From London.

EIGHT CASES IN SHIPMENT

Some Priceless Articles That Are Supposed to Be in the Consignment.

On board the White Star liner Baltic, which arrived yesterday from Liverpool, is the fifth consignment of the J. Pierpont Morgan collection of jewels and precious works of art from Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, and destined for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The latest shipment of Morgan treasures is the second section of the silver objects and other examples in silver-gilt mounting, including shrines of early date, chalices from cathedral towns and rare glass beakers mounted in silver and works of art of the thirteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The cases in which these objects of art are packed are sealed securely in London after passing through the inspection of the appraiser, and then bound with stout ropes for shipment across the Atlantic. Each object of art is first photographed, a history of it is recorded, after which the specimen is packed in a box and placed within a larger case for the trip to this country.

The first consignment of silver objects of art arrived on the last voyage of the Celtic from Liverpool to New York, and the present consignment is believed to include the greater part of the silver pieces in the Morgan collection at South Kensington. So far as known none of the art objects at Prince's Gate House, London, has been shipped to this country. There are eight cases of art in the consignment which has just arrived.

One of the finest examples in the collection, which is included in the list of silver pieces, is a silver gilt pax, which is not only elaborately decorated with various figures but is a work of art with a history. It is ornamented with paintings and surmounted with precious stones and enamel.

The figures of the Virgin, the Divine Child and St. Joseph are represented among the figures, and at the extreme apex of the pax is a chased figure of St. John the Baptist holding a banner upon a pole. At the base of the pax on either side are winged cherubs with bodies of curling scroll work terminating in flowers, engraved and enamelled red, white and green. The back of this pax is divided by lines of chased mouldings into a large central panel, surrounded by four rectangular ones, and there is a further rectangular panel at the base and a small rectangular panel at the top. All of these panels are engraved elaborately.

The design is composed of birds, chimerical and human figures and other ornamentation. Little is known of the early history of this pax, although recent investigations lead to the belief, it is said, that the tablet originally came from Aix-la-Chapelle, and in an inventory of 1600 recording possession of a cathedral, there is a pax described which resembles the one in Mr. Morgan's collection. At the Georges-Petit sale in Paris in June, 1899, it brought 90,000 francs, having been purchased by Mr. Fitz Henry.

Another interesting specimen in the Victoria and Albert Museum and included in the Morgan collection is a beaker of white Latticino glass mounted in silver gilt with engraved medallions, one of Maria Catharine, Duchess of Brunswick and Lüneburg. The other medallion represents a coat of arms with eleven quarterings surmounted by three helmets, each bearing a cross and with an engraved motto. The Venetian glass is of the late sixteenth century and the German metal work of the middle of the seventeenth century.

A rock crystal cup mounted in silver is supported by three curved bands of silver, each band having scalloped edges and a ropelike ornamentation down its centre. These bands are joined to the rim and to the foot. The foot is of silver and resembles the base of a chalice. It is composed of eight circular lobes, forming an octagonal figure. Each lobe is edged with a narrow border of St. Andrew crosses in chased work. It is said to have once been in the collection of an eminent French collector. The mounting has been attributed in Dresden to Gabriel Gipfel, a painter and goldsmith. It is a German work of the latter part of the fifteenth century.

Mounted in fine chased silver gilt is a beautiful rosary bead of boxwood. This bead opens in two parts, the interiors of which are delicately carved. On the exterior of the silver mounting are represented in low relief, with repoussé work, delicately chased groups of children at play, with foliage above and below. A medallion of a man and a woman is held by winged children. This work originally belonged to M. le Comte de Beraudière of Paris and was sold in May, 1888. Later it was in a Cologne collection. It is said to be a Flemish work of the fifteenth century.

Persian art is represented by a knife mounted in silver gilt with a shield of somewhat similar work, steel blade, and a handle composed of leaves arranged chevron fashion. Each pair of leaves alternates with three stars, the leaves being in green and white and the star set upon a green ground. This Persian work is listed as an example of the seventeenth century.

A Flemish fork of two prongs is in chased silver, parcel gilt, the handle being composed of a porcupine quill mounted in silver gilt. The end is surmounted by a small standing figure of a boy. It is a work of the sixteenth century.

There are also medallions of the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in the Morgan collection from South Kensington Museum.

The Baltic docked yesterday morning at about 8:30 o'clock. Work on unloading her cargo did not begin until the afternoon, and will probably occupy several days. Seven cases were taken from the hold of the Baltic and inspected by a representative of Mr. Morgan who went down to the dock for that purpose. The cases were then loaded upon a truck and taken to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where it is supposed the other Morgan collections that recently came here from England are in storage. The cases bore Mr. Morgan's private mark, P. M.

EIGHT MORE PICTURES SOLD.

Two Prize Winning Paintings Among Those Purchased Last Week.

Eight more paintings, including two prize winners, were sold last week at the annual exhibition of the National Academy of Design at 215 West Fifty-seventh street. The sales of the spring academy include "The Hillsd" a landscap by Bruce Crane, which took the Saltus medal, and "Preparing for the Dance," by Charles Bittinger, which got the Thomas B. Clarke prize for the best figure composition.

Other pictures sold are "Desert Wanderers," by William Ritschel (in the Vanderbilt gallery); "Barnstable Bay," by George H. Smillie; "The Toilette," by J. William Fosdick; "Taking Life Easy," by E. L. Henry; "The Magic Pool," by E. Irving Couse, and "The Passing of Summer," a figure piece, by Harry W. Watrous, secretary of the academy.

Thus far about eighteen pictures have been sold to American collectors.

Catholic Summer School Reception.

A concert, reception and euchre and bridge party will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria on April 12 in aid of the Catholic Summer School of America. There will be handsome prizes for the card players and dancing. On the committees are George J. Gillespie, Frank P. Cunnion, the Rev. Mgr. F. H. Wall, the Very Rev. John P. Chidwick, the Right Rev. Mgr. McMahon, Dr. James J. Walsh, Charles V. Fornes, Miss Theresa Harrison, John J. Friel, Herman Ridder, Miss Rose F. Egan and Mrs. William O'Connor. An attendance of 3,500 is expected.

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DIED.

BULLOCK.—At Atlantic City, N. J., April 4, 1912, Anna C., widow of I. M. Bullock of Bridgeport, Conn.
Funeral and interment private, April 8, at Putnam, Conn. Bridgeport papers please copy.

CUNNINGHAM.—Suddenly, in Brooklyn, Friday evening, Cortlandt M. Cunningham.
Funeral 10:30 Monday morning, April 8, from 338 Second av., Manhattan. Interment at Mount Olivet, Maspeth, L. I.

FUNK.—Suddenly, Thursday morning, April 4, at his residence, 22 Upper Mountain av., Montclair, N. J., Isaac Kauffman Funk, in the 72d year of his age.
Funeral services at First Congregational Church, Montclair, on Monday, the 8th, at 11:30 o'clock. Interment private. Please omit flowers.

KEARNY.—During our civil war, on September 1, 1862, at Chantilly, battle of Gettysburg, Major-Gen. Philip Kearny.
Services will be held in Trinity Church on Thursday, April 11, at 10 o'clock A. M. Public services will be held at City Hall Thursday afternoon, where the body will lie in state until Friday morning, when it will be removed to Arlington Cemetery for final interment. Information at the Stephen Merritt Burial and Cremation Company, 4th av. and 19th st. P. W. Radcliffe will be in charge. Telephone 125 Chelsea.

LEHMAN.—Julia, aged 65.
Funeral at "THE FUNERAL CHURCH," 241 West 23d st. (FRANK E. CAMPBELL BUILDING), Sunday afternoon, 2 o'clock.

MAURY.—At Plainfield, N. J., John B. Moon, son of John Minor and Janes Bell Maury, aged 1 16 months.
Funeral service Monday at Charlottesville, Va.

WILLIAMS.—At her home, 27 South Clinton st., East Orange, N. J., April 5, 1912, Addie James, widow of Charles Eugene Williams.
Funeral private.

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