

Lambardi Company's Grand Opera Season Opens With Presentation of Duccini's Mme. Butterfly at Columbia

MEMBERS OF THE LAMBARDI OPERA COMPANY.

**BIRDIE FALLS UPON
SADRAVIO HERE**
Marina Calvi Will Sing Title
Role in "Mme. Butterfly"
With Lambardi Company

**Mascagni's Opera, "Iris," Will
Be on Program at Colum-
bia Tuesday Night**

By WALTER ANTHONY

While the entire grand opera repertoire that is promised this week at the Columbia theater is interesting, particular attention is drawn to the production of "Mme. Butterfly," which is the opening offering of the Lambardi company, and to "Iris," which is the bill for Tuesday night.

"Mme. Butterfly" is frankly modern in subject and treatment. It is "naturalistic" and Puccini's best style is seen throughout the score. Though the music was written by an Italian—and the best of opera writers native to Verdi's land since the composer of "Otello" died—there is much of America in the score. Indeed, "Mme. Butterfly" is a "near American" grand opera. Running through its score is a motive melodically like "The Star Spangled Banner," and three of the characters in the story are Americans of the present day.

There are few of the numbers in the opera which bear transporting from their theatrical settings. Even the melodies allotted to poor little Cho-Cho-San may scarcely be appreciated except in their stage relationship to action, costume and atmosphere. Puccini has done wonderful things with the Long-Belasco plot, and the presentation at the Columbia of John Luther Long's meager story, David Belasco's dramatic setting of it, has already excited much interest among opera goers.

"Mme. Butterfly" is regarded by many as Puccini's best work. It has enjoyed an unusual success in this country and in Europe. Henry W. Savage's production of the piece in English is well remembered and was a profitable venture for its promoter. It has been the most popular opera in America since "Cavalleria Rusticana." New York first saw "Mme. Butterfly" in 1906 and Savage's production in English and the Italian presentation at the Metropolitan opera house were given eager patronage.

The burden of the work in "Mme. Butterfly" falls naturally on the shoulders of the soprano who sings the title role and who interprets the heart-rending scenes allotted to "Butterfly." At the Columbia theater tonight Marina Calvi will assume the task. She is new to us, but she will have her chance. The important part which she is to play in it is claimed that she not only sings like the prima donna that she is, but that she acts as well.

The full cast of the piece follows: **Mme. Butterfly** (Cho-Cho-San)..... Marina Calvi **Suzuki** (Cho-Cho-San's servant)..... Buganelli **R. F. Pinkerton** (lieutenant, U. S. N.)..... K. F. Pinkerton **Dr. Diampa**..... G. Arlino **Kate Pinkerton**..... G. Arlino **Sharpless** (United States consul at Nagasaki)..... A. Giana **Goetz** (a marriage broker)..... A. Neri **Yamadori**..... P. Buganelli **Yakusue**..... P. Buganelli **The Imperial commissioner**..... C. Mori **King**..... G. Arlino

"Mme. Butterfly" will be repeated Thursday evening.

We have waited long for "Iris." It is a play which we should have heard the Mascagni work several times, but always there was some reason why we didn't. In the first place, it requires a larger orchestra than the old school Italian operas do. In the second place, it is "modernistic" and requires scenery and costumes beyond the possibilities of tawdry opera presentations. This time, however, an orchestra of size and quality is in attendance, and the productions which Lambardi brings are fit to be set on the stage of San Francisco's most fashionable theater. At least, that is what we are promised, and there is no reason to doubt the faith of the projectors of the present short season of grand opera. "Iris" is frankly unreal. It is a fantasy founded on a sordid story, but lifted into beauty by the treatment of the poem and the music.

Here is the story of the opera in brief: Iris is the daughter of an old head man—Il Cieco—a little girl who is first discovered playing at the foot of her father's cottage. She attracts the attention of Osaka, a dissolute nobleman who begins to gain with Kyoto, a specialist in this business, to abduct her to his house in the infamous Yoshiwara quarter of the town. To carry out this purpose the two devise an alibi, which is the story of the girl, Iris, with a crowd of others, is attracted and mystified. She is seized and carried off.

The second act shows her awakening in a splendid house in the Yoshiwara; she believes herself in paradise. Osaka appears and tries his arts upon her, but she quite refuses to understand what he wishes, and simply asks to be sent home to her father. Osaka wears out the game and refuses leaving Kyoto to make the best of his bargain, which he attempts to do by exhibiting the girl to the crowd in the street. In the crowd is the old Cieco, who, convinced that his daughter has gone to the Yoshiwara, wanders thither to curse her and cast her off. In her terror and grief at receiving curses instead of help and sympathy Iris leaps from the window into a chasm where she is the object of a severe punishment.

The third act discloses a party of rag pickers working at this situation, who find her there upon a pile of refuse and flee in terror. Now are heard the voices of three "Okotomaru"—the spirits of gentle Osaka, of Kyoto, of Il Cieco—in more or less edifying reflections on the situation. Iris cries out in agony, asking why fate has thus maltreated her. The chorus of the Sun, which introduces the opera with an imposing and sonorous depiction of the sunrise and the glories of the sun, now hymns him grandiloquently again. Flowers spring up around the poor girl and she is lifted toward the azure, the infinite, kind of apotheosis.

"Iris" will be given Tuesday evening and next Saturday afternoon. "La Gioconda" will be presented tomorrow night with the following cast: **Gioconda**, a ballad singer..... Mme. Elvira Bosetti **Laura**, wife of Alvirre..... Dolores Frau **Alvirre**, her blind mother..... Adalgisa Buganelli **Barnaba**, a spy of the inquisition..... G. Arlino **Alvirre's confessor**..... V. Viola **Zeno**, a boatman..... A. Neri **Alvirre's public letter writer**..... A. Neri **Zeno's wife**..... A. Neri **Zeno's daughter**..... A. Neri **Zeno's son**..... A. Neri **Zeno's servant**..... A. Neri

The cast selected to play the Mascagni opera, "Iris," is as follows: **Iris**..... Marina Calvi **Osaka**..... Attilio Maurini **Suzuki**..... Angiolina **Goetz**..... Angiolina **Yamadori**..... Angiolina **Yakusue**..... Angiolina **The Imperial commissioner**..... Vincenzo Viola **King**..... A. Neri **Dr. Diampa**..... A. Neri

"Iris" on Wednesday evening will be given by the following artists in the roles indicated: **Henry Ashton** of Tammermoor..... P. Buganelli **Henry's sister**..... P. Buganelli **Edgar**..... Mme. Cecilia Tamami Zavanzi **Edgar's mother**..... Dolores Frau **Edgar's father**..... P. Elena **Raymond**, chaplain to Lord Ashton..... C. Mori **Alice**, attendant..... G. Arlino **Lord Ashton**..... A. Neri **Lord's servant**..... A. Neri

We must wait until Wednesday afternoon before we hear Ester Adaberto, who is a great favorite here. She will



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sing in "Aida," and the cast is herewith given: **Aida**, a slave..... Mme. Elvira Bosetti **Amneris**, daughter of the king..... Dolores Frau **Amnastro**, king of Ethiopia, father of Aida..... Angiolina **Radames**, captain of the guards..... Angiolina **Chorus**..... Angiolina **Ramphis**, high priest..... Vincenzo Viola **King of Egypt**..... Alceste Mori **Messenger**..... A. Neri **Paolo**..... A. Neri

"Faust" on Friday evening will be given with this cast: **Faust**..... Attilio Maurini **Margherita**..... Adalgisa Buganelli **Wagner**..... P. Buganelli **Siebel**..... Adalgisa Buganelli **Valentine**..... Angiolina **Medefole**..... Antonio Sabellico **Marguerite**..... Mme. Elvira Bosetti

"Il Trovatore" on Saturday night will be presented with the following singers: **The Count di Luna**..... Giuseppe Maggi **Ferrando**, in his service..... A. Mori **The Duchess Leonora**..... Mme. Elvira Bosetti **Inez**, in her service..... A. Giana **Alcega**, spy..... A. Giana **Manrico**, the troubadour, her reputed son..... A. Neri **Ruiz**, in his service..... Alessandro Scalabrini **Alfonso**..... A. Neri

At the Sunday matinee the double bill of "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" will be offered. Ester Adaberto is scheduled to appear as Nedda and Elvira Bosetti will be heard as Santuzza in the Mascagni lyric drama.

"La Boheme" will close the engagement on Sunday night, and the cast will be as follows: **Rodolph**, a poet..... Attilio Maurini **Schmoeke**..... P. Elena **Benoit**, a landlord..... P. Buganelli **Mimi**..... Mme. Elvira Bosetti **Mimi's mother**..... Y. Viola **Marietta**..... P. Buganelli **Marietta's mother**..... P. Buganelli **Musetta**..... A. Giana **Alcindoro**, a councilor of state..... P. Buganelli **Cosetta**, housemaid..... G. Arlino

The second of Greenbaum's "Pop" concerts will be given this afternoon at Kohler & Chase hall at 2:30 o'clock. The special feature of the program will be the presentation of Edgar Stillman Kells' quintet for piano and strings. The executives will be the lyric quartet and Frederick Birgerstaff at the piano. Haydn's charming quartet No. 10 and a group of old masterpieces for violoncello by Corelli will be accompanied by Miss Dorothy Passmore, played by Miss Florence Nachtrieb.

The American history and encyclopedia of music is authority for the statement that America has produced three women pianists of world wide fame—Julia Rive King, Fannie Bloomfield Zeissler and Myrtle Elvyn. The latter will be heard in this city next Sunday afternoon at the Garrick theater, and she will also give a recital on the following Thursday and close her local engagement with a farewell concert Sunday afternoon, March 12.

Miss Elvyn has been spoken of in the highest terms by eastern and European critics, and the fact that she occupies a front rank among the world's greatest pianists is asserted confidently.

The bulletin issued by the San Francisco musical club announces a meeting for Thursday morning, March 3, when the election of a nominating committee will be held. The musical program will be devoted to works by French composers, and those who will participate are Mrs. W. E. Boyer, Mrs. Thomas Inman, Miss Florence Nachtrieb, Mrs. Richard Rice, Miss Mary Sherwood, Miss Florence Warden and Miss Adeline Wellendorf.

A recital will be given Saturday afternoon, March 5, by the violin pupils of Harry Samuels at Kohler & Chase hall.

Hother Wismer, violinist, will give a recital in Century Club hall Thursday evening, March 10. An interesting program is promised, including Goldmark's A minor concerto, Max Reger's sonata in D minor for violin alone and an idyl by Edward F. Schmeider, Beethoven's C minor string trio will be presented by Wismer, assisted by Nathan Firestone and Adolf Lada. Mrs. Mathilde Wismer will sing selections by Schubert, Brahms and Gade. Frederick Maurer Jr. will be the accompanist.

**COUPLE TO CELEBRATE
THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING**
Reception to Be Held at Home of Daughter
A delightful reception to three or four hundred people will be given this afternoon at the home of Mrs. N. Abraham at 275 Clay street in honor of the golden wedding of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Batt.

Mr. and Mrs. Batt have made their home in this city for a great many years and hosts of their acquaintances, friends and relatives will be present this afternoon to wish them every happiness.

In honor of the occasion the house will be beautifully decorated in Oregon grape, smilax and masses of jonquil and roses.

The hours of the reception will be between 2 and 5.

**CHARGE BROTHER WITH
HOLDING ENTIRE ESTATE**
Martin H. Bose and Sister Appeal to Court
Alleging that Hermann John Bose had threatened to "hog" the entire sum of \$5,000 left in bank by his mother, now dead, Martha Henry Bose and Henrietta Helen Stohmann, his sister, yesterday asked the superior court to award them each \$1,000 of the deposit, which they fear their brother will spend.

The application of Michael Joseph Conboy for admission to bail was denied yesterday by Judge Dunne, who has had it under submission a week. Assistant District Attorney Maxwell McNutt announced that the district attorney would not join with Conboy's lawyer in the petition.

"Do I understand that the district attorney opposes the application?" asked Robert Ferral, attorney for the former police captain accused of the murder of Bernard Lagan.

"Yes, the district attorney opposes the motion," answered McNutt.

Judge Dunne thereupon denied the application without comment, and later in the day Conboy returned to the county jail, where he has been confined since the disagreement of the jury in his first trial. The date of his retrial has been set for March 7.

Ferral announced that Monday he would apply to the district court of appeal to admit Conboy to bail.

The investigation of the allegations of bribery in the Gee Gong trial were continued by Judge Dunne one week.

**HOTEL RUNNERS FIGHT
A WAR WITHOUT FISTS**
Forcible Words Fail to Cause Actual Combat
William Helper, solicitor of the Hotel Dale, and George Shepsted, who occupies a similar position with the Hotel Argonaut, fought a fistless fight yesterday at the Manx. What it was all about nobody seemed to know, but each of the belligerents has been going around the large hotels for three days declaring that if ever he caught sight of the other the fur would fly.

They met yesterday at the Manx and called each other names for two hours. Each dared the other man to strike, but neither accepted the challenge.

Manager Larm finally stepped between the disputants and put an end to the powwow. It is said that each man believes that the other is encroaching on his territory.

**JUDGE DUNNE REFUSES
TO FREE CONBOY ON BAIL**
Fickert Opposed to Release of Former Police Captain
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"IN HAYTI" MAKES HIT AT VAN NESS

McIntyre and Heath in Their
New Offering Draw Throngs
of Play Goers

Another week is promised at the Van Ness theater in which to see McIntyre and Heath in their latest offering, "In Hayti." The first week was a great success and their second and last promise to break records at the Van Ness theater, "The Ham Tree," which was McIntyre and Heath's offering here two years ago, was not so well received, even as "In Hayti," and the negro impersonators are scoring their biggest hits in the present musical diversion.

The two stars, however, are only a part of the show. They are supported by the best cast of principals that has ever traveled westward in musical comedy. Klav & Erlanger have provided the two comedians with the regular New York company which supported them when "In Hayti" was first produced at the Circle theater, New York. Individual hits are being made by Julian Rose, who is almost sharing equal honors with the stars by reason of his excellent Hebrew impersonation; Fletcher Norton, whose dancing is a revelation; Jane Burby, who plays the "yaller gal"; John Pratt, whose fine baritone voice has been heard to great advantage in the lyrics of "In Hayti"; Marion Stanley, whose grace and vocal ability are winning earned praise, and other members of the long cast of principals.

Catchy song numbers and sprightly dances are introduced throughout the action of the piece, and the consensus of theater goers' opinion is that "In Hayti" is one of the liveliest, prettiest musical plays that has ever been exhibited in San Francisco.

Matinees are announced for Saturday only and the usual performance is scheduled for Sunday nights. Unusual interest attaches to the forthcoming engagement of the Van Ness of Robert Edson, who will be seen in his new American play, "A Man's a Man," as it will be the first time that this talented young actor has visited this city since his successful engagement in "Strongheart" three seasons ago.

WHEELING WONDERS AT WIGWAM PLAYHOUSE

The Bessie Valdere Troupe of
Cyclists Heads New Bill

From beginning to end there will be a change on the Wigwam theater program for the week commencing with the matinee today. The Bessie Valdere troupe of six young women, who are expert bicyclists, will be a headline feature. The wheeling performers will form a series of astounding feats that are said to surpass any ever attempted here on the vaudeville stage by feminine bicyclists.

Lora, the mathematical wonder, will present her astonishing act. This young woman has been the marvel of Europe and America for the last three years, and the manner in which she arrives at her answers takes one's breath away.

Nada Moret, character comedienne, will make her first San Francisco appearance today, and the European novelty surprise team, Marilietta and Grossi, are also on the bill. Augustus Neville and company, in the one act playlet called "Politis and Petticoats," Miller and Mack, a team of "classy" dancers, and W. J. Coleman, the monologist, also are on the bill. Matinees are given daily.

"ALASKAN LIFE IS PICTURED IN PLAY

"The Spoilers" Will Be Given
at the Savoy for One
Week Only

"The Spoilers," a melodrama of the frozen north, dramatized by Rex Beach from his novel of the same name, will begin an engagement limited to one week at the Savoy theater this afternoon. "The Spoilers" as a novel has been declared one of the best books that has been written by an American author and the play which is taken from the book has been accounted one of the best dramas of recent years.

In "The Spoilers" Rex Beach tells the story of a conspiracy which had as its object the acquisition of the rich Nome mining claims, under cover of the law, and which involved malfeasance on the part of a United States judge and other governmental officials.

The customary bargain matinee will be given Thursday, with the final afternoon performance on Saturday. At the matinee Sunday, March 6, the extravaganza, "The Gingerbread Man," will begin a week's engagement.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS WILL BE INSPECTED

Officers of Association to Visit
Various Recreation Parks

An investigation tour of the various children's playgrounds of San Francisco will be made this morning by President McCoy of the playground commission and by the president and various members of the board of directors of the Playground Association of California.

The trip will begin at 10 o'clock, after a short business meeting and a discussion of plans, leaving from the Palace hotel. It is to include an inspection of every playground site in this city set apart for the children, with an idea to their further development and improvement.

Those who will be present are O. K. Cushing, E. Morris Cox, Miss Alice D. Griffith, Dr. Frederick d'Evilyn and Miss Cornelia McKinnon.

For the instruction of tourists about to visit Egypt, Persia and India a museum is to be established in Paris.

COAST LINE BLOCKADE TRAIN SERVICE

Owing to the obstruction of San Francisco-Los Angeles line, which will probably be for a week, effective at once Trains 9 and 10, Sunset Express, and Trains 17 and 18, Los Angeles Passenger, will be operated from and to Third and Townsend streets Depot via San Jose, Niles and the San Joaquin Valley.

Trains 19 and 20, Shore Line Limited, are annulled.

Trains 21 and 22, the Coaster, will be operated between Third and Townsend streets Depot and Tunnel No. 10, nine miles north of San Luis Obispo. North and south bound passengers on these trains for or from points beyond point of trouble will be obliged to transfer from or to trains waiting on either side of blockade en route to destination.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC

TICKET OFFICES:
Flood Building, Market Street Ferry Depot,
Third and Townsend Streets Depot,
Broadway and Thirteenth Street, Oakland.

"JOYLAND" OPENS TO ORPHEUMITES

Clara Jerome "Appears in Musical
Playlet at the Head of
New Program

Clara Belle Jerome, who has been associated with Augustin Daly in his musical comedy presentations and with Francis Wilson and Frank Daniels in their musical comedies, will appear in "Joyland" at the Orpheum this afternoon supported by a clever company of singers and dancers. William Seymour, a versatile comedian, will lead the supporting cast, and eight dancing "Toodles" will add interest and charm to the offering.

Winona Winter, styled "the little cheer up girl," will enliven the new bill with her most recent song successes and some very novel ventriloquial feats.

George Felix and Lydia Barry, with the assistance of Miss Barry's sisters, Emily and Clara, will present the laughable farce "The Boy Next Door," which is one of the greatest comic hits in vaudeville.

Earle Reynolds and Nellie Donegan will introduce the musical comedy dance hits of the season on roller skates. Reynolds and Miss Donegan were among the most successful features of Anna Held's production of "The Parisian Model" at the Broadway theater, New York, for 18 months. The costumes and lighting effects are said to be very beautiful. This week will be the last of Charles W. Bowser and Edith Hinkle in "Superstition," the Reed brothers, Fred Lindsay, the Australian stock whip expert, and Walter C. Kelly, "the Virginia judge." A new series of motion pictures will conclude the performance.

NATIVE SONS INITIATE FIFTY-FIVE CANDIDATES

Niantic Parlor Takes In Many
New Members

Niantic parlor No. 105, Native Sons of the Golden West, held a class initiation Wednesday evening, February 16, at which 55 new members were received.

The initiation was followed by a low jinks and smoker, at which the following program was rendered: **Tenor solo**..... E. R. Spivaco **Monologue**..... John D. Saxe **Selections**..... Nautic male quartet **Humorous remarks**..... J. J. Murphy **Tenor solo**..... John N. Ross **Refreshments** were served later in the evening.

MUSICAL COMEDY AT AMERICAN THEATER

Manager Homan of the American theater promises some novelties this week, beginning with today's matinee.

The Jack Golden musical comedy company of 20 players will appear in a skit which will run for 30 minutes. Bright dialogue, catchy music, pretty girls and lively dances will be the order of the entertainment, and special scenic environment will surround the offering.

Allen Doone will be retained for another week in his Irish playlet. He will be assisted by Miss Edna Kocley. Other features on the vaudeville bill will be supplied by Miss Marie Fitzgibbon, in new songs; Lewis Valmore, in mimicry; Lewis and Rogers, acrobats; and Alice Rogers, soprano. New reels of motion pictures will complete the program.

In the China Inland mission, which was opened 44 years ago, there are 928 foreign missionaries residing at 210 stations.

Beautiful Myrtle Elvyn, Famous Pianiste First Appearance This Season March 6



The best music is no longer drawn exclusively from Europe since America has produced such eminent artists as Eames, Garden, Farrar and Powell. To this galaxy of stars may now be added Myrtle Elvyn, Godowsky's brilliant pupil, who has created such a profound impression both at home and abroad. She is the only native born American pianist to obtain a world wide reputation. Coupled with her pianistic genius Miss Elvyn's beauty, personal charm and exquisite gowns form a combination that is simply irresistible. Because of her bright, happy disposition she is endearingly called the "sunshine girl."

There are few artists who have made such rapid strides in the musical world as this fascinating young virtuoso, who will be heard here shortly under the management of Will L. Greenbaum. Her opening concert in San Francisco will be on Sunday afternoon, March 6, followed by one Thursday evening, the 10th, and a special matinee on Saturday, March 12, for the benefit of music students and school children. She will also be heard in Oakland on Friday afternoon, March 11. In the northwest Miss Elvyn is continuing her triumphant progress. As the beginning of this season she scored splendid successes as soloist for the Theodore Thomas orchestra in Chicago and subsequently opened the season with the New York Symphony orchestra at the magnificent New theater in New York. Mr. Damrosch and the entire eastern press unite in enthusiastic praise of Miss Elvyn's work. They rank her among the foremost of the world's great pianists.

Miss Elvyn's loyalty to Chicago as her adopted home is well evidenced by the fact that the magnificent Kimball Concert Grand piano used at all her recitals always accompanies the young lady on her travels.