

CELEBRITY IS HEARD IN "CARMEN"
Contralto Retains Exuberance

CORT CONCERT
SUPERB WITH RESERVATION

Songbird Off Key Part of Time; Fortune Telling Scene Is Tremendous

By WALTER ANTHONY

That Mme. Emma Calve had lost anything of her exuberance or her histrionic vivacity was not apparent yesterday afternoon at the Cort theater, where she appeared in scenes from Bizet's "Carmen" and other vocal works from France.

Calve more than any other singer I know vocalizes most directly from her "temperament." To her southern nature has never been given that poised which compromises. She is not like Lilili Lehmann, for example, who says that only once in her life has she ever been in condition, physically and psychologically, to do herself full justice. Calve demands of herself that she shall always be in condition, and, as a rule, she does not sing unless she is. If a stage hand drops a hammer Calve will decline to sing. Her nature does not surmount extraneous disadvantages. Thus the critic sitting before Calve in certain of her moods has a difficult job. He may not with impunity forget that she is the greatest coloratura contralto on the stage and that at her best she is the greatest Carmen that ever stepped into the red, yellow and green scenes of Merimee's staged story. He may not forget that the contralto better than all other singing Carmens and sing better than all other acting Carmens. These things his own reputation as a critic will not permit him to question, for Calve's art is established permanently and quite beyond the power of any musical reviewer to impugn successfully. Yet Calve is without desire, or capacity, to hide under the veil of a technique consummately developed the personal element of her own passing whim or idiosyncrasy. As Calve thinks, so she sings.

GREAT—WITH RESERVATION
So, when I assure you that yesterday Calve was a contralto, it must be with the reservation, demanded by my own conscience to hasten to assure you that she sang off key part of the time. If it were possible to say that she sang gloriously off key, I would say so, but it isn't. The finale to the first scene in her tabloid version of "Carmen" and the contralto better than her husband, Galileo Gasparri, participated, was wildly encored by a rather indiscriminating audience, which doubtless questioned its own sense of hearing, since it must have been evident how far apart the tenor and the contralto were in the concluding "third," which they were stretching to the dimension of an anomaly—an "imperfect fourth."

I mention this first for fear that if I didn't I would later lack the courage to chronicle the fact. This uncertainty of intonation on the part of Calve was a factor injuring enjoyment at several stages of the interesting program, particularly distressing in the tenor's solo from "I Pagliacci," for which, fault, however, Gasparri made atonement in his encore, which was dulcely sung. It was, in short, this feeling of capricious uncertainty which prevented the audience—unconsciously, it is true—from rising to the heights of enthusiasm to which it felt it should ascend in view of the great art of the great Calve, and throughout the evening she was asked to come forth again and sing the number over she would accomplish it with impeccability of pitch.

DANCE SCENE INTERESTING
It was interesting to watch Calve in the little dance scene of "Carmen." We wondered how she would do it. For Calve is larger than she was a few years ago, and by no means suggests—in her orange dress covered with a vivid green affair which might be a shawl or an apron—a sinuous Spanish coquette. What Calve managed was to suggest the dance without dancing. This she did with mimetic hand, extraordinarily graceful postures and a spirit of animation which enveloped the scene, evoking the spirit of dancing more completely than most dancers can do, with all the litheness of youth and the grace of life in the springtime. This scene was the most effective in the long program and was not only vocally beautiful, but evocative of the character—or lack of it—of Carmen, the Spanish mix who lured Don Jose into trouble.

HISTRIONICALLY TREMENDOUS
The fortune telling scene and the final episode—the "Carmen"—were historically tremendous and vocally tragic. The implicity of the Calve voice was apparent. Her extraordinary command of a rich, emotional scale and her old time charm were physical evidence of a rejuvenated art as surprising as enjoyable. It remains to be said that there it but one Calve. She sang yesterday, in the fullness and perfection of which she is capable, but only suffering from the standard of excellence which she, alone of all impersonators of Carmen, has established.

An efficient orchestra under M. Bar dou and a most musically pianist, M. Van den Bergh, assisted in the program at the Cort yesterday, when Calve's singing was only challenged by our memories of it.

Oppeum Bill Is Vibratory From Start to Finish
By WALTER ANTHONY
If about 2,000 more vibrations should be added to the Oppeum program this week it would dissolve into color—at least it would if the theories of Helmholtz and Charles Kellogg are demonstrable.

I never "saw" an Oppeum bill pitched so shrilly. And personally—though I do not want to dissuade the curious from a unique experience—having heard Mr. Kellogg and his nature singing, I hope never to hear again and never endure such high, piercing tones as he emits from his wonderful vocal apparatus, and from his experi-

Some of the stage folk who are appearing at the leading playhouses of San Francisco this week.



CE DORA, BEATRICE MCKENZIE, MISS CALVE

'SON'S OF REST' AT EMPRESS PATRONS ARE IN PUZZLE

Tramps, With Circus Act, Share Laughing Honors of Entertaining Bill
Mysterious Eva Ray Has Them All Guessing; Other Acts Warmly Welcomed

The variety is wide and has something good for all the different vaudeville tastes at the Pantages theater, the new bill yesterday serving thoroughly to satisfy four audiences which tested the capacity of the playhouse. The most prominent features are Lasky's Six Hoboes and the Ellis-Nowlan troupe of acrobats in their whirlwind act, "A Night at the Circus."

The "Hoboes" consist of half a dozen "sons of rest," including an actor, a Beau Brummel, a German, Italian, Hebrew and common or garden variety of tramp, all of them good singers and clever specialty performers. The comedietta is loaded with bright lines and amusing situations, and made a big hit.

Suzanne Remi, a French operatic soprano, who has a well cultivated voice and gowns herself expensively, sang a number from "I Pagliacci," "Where Love Is King," by Nathan, and "Love's Control," by Paul Lincke, scoring a vocal triumph. H. Guy Woodward, a cheerful monologist, who is programmed as "that distinguished fellow," kept his hearers in continuous good humor during the 15 minutes that he occupied the boards. Skinner and Woods, two limber limbed young men, who dance much better than they sing, gave some of the best hard shoe steps seen here, and the Rera brothers, clean cut, muscular men, gave an athletic exhibition on flying rings and a trapeze that was an athletic revelation.

DEPUTY POUNDMASTER BITTEN BY STRAY DOG
Blood Poisoning Develops and Rabies Is Feared
Peter Hughes, a deputy poundmaster, was bitten several times in the right hand by a dog late yesterday afternoon, while transferring two dogs captured in the Presidio from a cage in the pound wagon to the pound at Nineteenth and Alabama streets. Blood poisoning set in immediately, and it is feared the dog had rabies. Hughes was taken to the Mission hospital to have his wounds dressed before returning to his home at 324 Thirtieth street.

Pets to be Muzzled
HILLSBOROUGH, March 31.—Dogs and rabies are causing as much consternation in Hillsborough, San Mateo and Burlingame as they did in San Francisco. Soon all the poodle dogs, pug dogs and bulldogs that are so plentiful in this district will have straps over their noses. Burlingame has a dog muzzling ordinance. The trustees of Hillsborough will pass a similar ordinance at a special meeting Monday night. The trustees of San Mateo will pass a muzzling ordinance Monday.

WINNERS OF SKATING RACES ARE ANNOUNCED
The winners of the skating races at Pavilion rink last Friday night were announced yesterday by the judges. James Crama and Miss Mattie Howard won the first prize, Miss Leon Vergier and Fred Papke the second prize and Miss Freda Richten and M. A. Silverstein the third prize.

FRUITVALE GIRLS RACE FOR QUEEN OF CARNIVAL

Native Sons Plan For Festival In May

OAKLAND, March 31.—The contest for the honors of queen in the Fruitvale Native Sons' carnival, which will be held in May, is becoming close and exciting. Miss Leona Burgess, who has maintained the lead for some time, is in front with 9,674 votes. Miss Evelyn Flannigan is in second position with 9,395, while Miss Genevieve Scharr is third, with 9,959 ballots. The three other contestants are Miss Marjorie Baxter, Miss Dorothy Paul and Miss Blanche Hathaway, who have respectively 5,427, 3,789 and 3,888 votes in their order.

CALVE AND JULIE OPP EXCHANGE GREETINGS

Actress Urged to Career on Stage by Diva 10 Years Ago
Miss Julie Opp, who in private life is Mrs. William Faversham, now appearing as leading woman in her husband's company in "The Faun," is a protégée of Mme. Calve, and together at the St. Francis last evening they exchanged many reminiscences. The first intimation that Miss Opp had that Mme. Calve was in the city was upon her arrival yesterday, and she attended the famous diva's recital at the Cort in the afternoon.

PRISONER IS SLAYER, SAYS DETECTIVE
Positive that they have the murderer of Assemblyman John Mullally behind prison bars, the detectives are beginning to weave a net of circumstantial evidence around Private Edward Williams of Company D, Thirtieth infantry, who was arrested last Tuesday evening by Corporal Jones while he and two other men were attempting to hold up the saloon of G. Ghiotto at 4534 Mission street.

MAN ARRESTED IN ACT OF STEALING SACHEL

John R. Hamilton was arrested in the ferry building yesterday afternoon by Policeman Frank Norman as he was in the act of stealing a satchel belonging to L. O. Samter. The man was taken to the police station and charged with grand larceny. Samter laid the satchel on the pavement while he was buying a ticket. Checks and other articles in the satchel were valued at \$250.

EMPRESS PATRONS ARE IN PUZZLE

Mysterious Eva Ray Has Them All Guessing; Other Acts Warmly Welcomed
A mysterious young woman billed on the program as Miss Eva Ray is the headliner of this week's bill at the Empress theater. Miss Ray has a magic act in which she performs amazing feats, causing the spectators much wonder.

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MEN OF COMMERCE HAVE OPEN FORUM

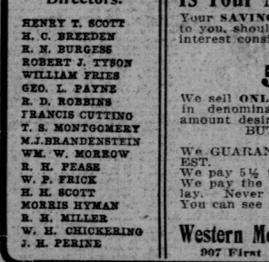
Talks to Be Given Every Thursday at 1:30 o'Clock in Exchange Hall

For the purpose of giving members an opportunity to discuss topics, the floor committee of the Chamber of Commerce has arranged for a series of 15 minute talks every Thursday in the Exchange hall, Merchants' Exchange building. The meetings will begin at 1:30 o'clock and will close promptly at 2 o'clock.

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