

Amusements

JUNE, 1911

THE ETUDE

VOL. XXIX. NO. 6



(Scene from Act II of "The Bohemian Girl" Produced by permission of the Aborn Opera Company)

BALFE'S OPERA "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL"

FAMOUS SINGERS IN "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL."



PAPEPA-ROSA

Balfe, who was himself a distinguished baritone in his day, attributed much of his unusual success as a writer of operas to his acquaintance with the requirements of the singer. Mme. Malibran, the greatest singer of her time, met with great success in some of the Balfe operas. One of the most renowned of Arlines was Mme. Parepa-Rosa, who was always a favorite in the rôle. In fact, very few of the great prima donnas of that period failed to make The Bohemian Girl a part of their repertoires. The most celebrated musical numbers from this very popular opera have been A Soldier's Life, I Dreamt that I Dwelt in Marble Halls (Soprano), From the Hills and Valleys (quartet), The Heart Bowed Down (Baritone), When Other Lips and Other Hearts (Tenor). The quality of Balfe's melodies has been criticised by many who might find it absolutely impossible to write a tune to compare with any of them. Had Balfe possessed the technic of some of his contemporaries he might easily have been one of the greatest masters of all time. His lovely melodies seem well nigh immortal.

THE STORY OF "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL."

SCENE: Bohemia. Time: Early 18th Century. Act I. SCENE: Count Arnheim's Estate. The Count bids his little daughter Arline farewell as she ascends a mountain pass with her nurse Buda. The gypsies, headed by Devilshoof, appear, and attempt to rob Thadens, a Polish exile. Thadens decides to join the gypsies. Florestein, the count's foppish nephew, returns announcing that Arline has been attacked by a wild animal. Thadens rescues her, but refuses the purse the count offers in payment. Thadens and Devilshoof are imprisoned as gypsies, and the latter escapes and carries off Arline. In crossing a mountain chasm he is seen to sink through a rotten bridge and disappear.

Act II. SCENE I. Twelve years later: Street in Pressburg. Tent of the Queen of the Gypsies. Thadens keeps watch over the sleeping Arline. Florestein enters intoxicated, and is robbed of his possessions by Devilshoof. The Gypsy Queen compels him to return everything but a medallion which Florestein claims is an heirloom of great value. Arline awakes and tells Thadens of her dream of her youth. He proposes, and they are married by the gypsy ceremony. SCENE 2. Another part of the city. Arline sings Come With the Gypsy Bride. SCENE 3. A Fair. Florestein tries to kiss Arline. She strikes him. The jealous Gypsy Queen gives Arline the medallion, and Arline is accused of robbing Florestein. Florestein and Thadens are imprisoned. SCENE 4. Count Arnheim's apartments. The count mourns the loss of his daughter. Arline is brought in, and pleads her innocence, but attempts suicide by stabbing herself. By means of a scar the count identifies Arline as his daughter.

Act III. The Count's castle. Devilshoof and Thadens return to try to induce Arline to run away with them. They are discovered, and Thadens reveals himself as a Polish noble. The jealous Gypsy Queen tries to kill Thadens but is killed by Devilshoof. The marriage of Thadens and Arline is countenanced by the count.

HOW "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL" WAS WRITTEN.

Michael Williams Balfe, who was born at Dublin May, 15, 1808, is perhaps the most widely known of Irish composers. His father was a dancing master, and the youth's first appearance was as a fiddler for his father's classes at the age of six. Passing through the various vicissitudes of theatre violinist, organist, operatic singer, etc. he finally found a patron (Count Mazzara) who took him to Italy for further study in voice and musical theory. At the age of twenty he commenced dramatic composition, and at the same time sang at the Paris Grand Opera under Rossini. His first complete opera was produced in Italy in 1830. This was followed by a long series of operas (nearly thirty) but the only one which is still held in popular favor is The Bohemian Girl, which was produced in London at the Drury Lane Theatre, Nov. 27, 1843. The book or libretto was modelled upon a ballet known as The Gypsy. The work soon became immensely popular all over Europe, and Balfe was showered with regal and imperial distinctions from different crowned heads. The vitality of this opera depends largely upon the ever-vernal melodies. The extent of its popularity may be judged by the fact that a revival of the opera made last year by the Aborn Opera Company included an immense cast of over one hundred singers and actors and scenic accessories, making the most spectacular production of this seventy-years-old opera ever given. The scene shown above is presented by courtesy of these producers.



BALFE

cheater. So many plays told us during the performance and then are shaken off like a dream. There is more reality than that in "The Thief." It grips both the heart and the mind and at the end we are distressed with thoughts active as to the significance of it all. "The Thief" will be seen at the Auditorium within the next few weeks.



For several seasons Miss Olive Yall, the charming little prima donna who featured in Mart H. Stinger's production of "Miss Nobody From Star and," which will soon be seen in this city, has been connected with some of the best musical offerings. Miss Yall first came into prominence in the stellar La Salle Theater, Chicago, cast in the days of Cecil Lean, Florence Holbrook and Arthur Sanders, appearing in "The Time, the Place and the Girl," "The Umpire" and "Montezuma." Miss Yall's singing of "Montezuma" in "The Time, the Place and the Girl" was the society craze for one entire season. Most of Miss Yall's successful appearances have been in the popular Mart H. Stinger productions. The role portrayed by Miss Yall in "Miss Nobody From Star and" just suits her personality and shows off both her voice and her acting personality in the most advantageous manner.

"THE BOHEMIAN GIRL" WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE ABORN OPERA COMPANY AT THE AUDITORIUM ON TUESDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 28TH.

- COMING ATTRACTIONS. Tuesday, November 28—"The Bohemian Girl." Wednesday, Nov. 29—"Daniel Boone on the Trail." Thursday, Nov. 30—"The Girl of the Golden West." Matinee and night.

"The Girl of the Golden West." An event that has long been looked forward to takes place at the Auditorium, Thanksgiving, matinee and night, November 30, when Henry W. Savage's remarkable production of Puccini's opera, "The Girl of the Golden West," will be heard here for the first time and in English. The fact of this great American play from the pen of David Belasco and put to music by the foremost living composer of the day is to be heard in English not only arouses the interest of the music lover, but the appeal spreads to those interested in the theater from a dramatic standpoint. It is little wonder that the sale for this presentation is a record breaker. Some idea of the magnitude of this present undertaking by Mr. Savage is to be had from the fact that this huge opera company and lavish scenic production is carried on this transcontinental tour in a special train of ten cars. A special car of horses is carried for the use of the chorus in the last act. This tour will take to the principal cities of America and Canada and all the leading cities will be visited, the majority for but one single performance. Never has an operatic organization made such a tour in so short a space of time. Before this company returns to New York they will have travelled nearly 30,000 miles. Mr. Savage has been careful in preparing this unusual organization so that there can be no possibility of a performance having to be cancelled. There are five casts of principals. No human voice could stand up under the strain of singing one of these roles continuously for a week. Mr. Savage has organized so large a company that the members entrusted with leading roles shall be called up anew every three days.



THE FAIR SCENE IS THE ABORN OPERA COMPANY'S SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION OF "THE BOHEMIAN GIRL" AT THE AUDITORIUM, TUESDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 28TH.

singers for this company. Among the noted sopranos with the organization are Mme. Luisa Villani, Mme. Irma Dalossy and Ivy Scott. The first named Italian singer was selected by Puccini himself. She is one of the favorite singers of her own country. Mme. Dalossy is a dramatic soprano of rare power and she was secured from the royal opera of Berlin, Vienna and Budapest. Miss Ivy Scott is a native of Australia but she has gained a great following in Europe during the last few years. Mrs. Irma Dalossy is a soprano of rare voice who was found among the members of Mazzara's Royal Opera company at Parma. There is a formidable array of tenors. Ellison Van Hoose has been loaned for the tour by the Chicago Philadelphia Opera company. Harry Leon is from the Royal opera at Copenhagen, Leop de Bussac from the Covent Garden company and Umberto Carobelli was secured from the famous La Scala at Milan. Photo Stingers was the leading tenor with the last Opera company at Naples and David Haines is American born, having been trained in America but he was found among the members of Mazzara's Royal Opera company at Parma.

Baritones sing the role of Jack Rance, the sheriff. One of them, William Beck, is famous the world over. For several seasons he has been singing at the Grand opera in Paris. Carobelli will be remembered in "Madam Butterfly," and Lewis James has been the leading baritone with the Covent Garden opera in London. These world-famous conducting are with the organization. It is stated the orchestra of 35 strings comprising the orchestra will be complete.

ago Polacco, one of the trio, is Puccini's close friend and conducted the opera when it was produced in Milan and Rome. The other two are Caesar Sodera and Alberto Rimondi. Tickets are on sale at Whitlock's clothing store. "The Thief." Probably the best proof of the value of "The Thief," the great dramatic production, lies in the fact that interest in it does not begin to flag. It is a gripping story and the acting is superb.

And what shall it be this Christmas? That perplexing, pleasing puzzle what to give your family for Christmas is likely occupying a large share of your thoughts at this time. Allow us to suggest something entirely unique as a Christmas present and yet thoroughly practical. A "Standard" Modern Bathroom as we install them. Ask for Ruth Booklet. J. O. McPHERSON, 25, 26 & 27 E. College St.

Advertisement for David Belasco's opera 'The Girl of the Golden West'. Text includes: 'David Belasco author of the play PRAISES PUCCINI'S OPERA "The Girl of the Golden West" Which Henry W. Savage will present in this City (In English)'. It features a large signature of David Belasco and a testimonial from Henry W. Savage.

Advertisement for 'The Thief' and 'The Girl of the Golden West'. Text includes: 'And what shall it be this Christmas?' and 'The Thief'.