

Gina Cigna to Sing Role of Norma . For 183rd Time in Opera Broadcast

By GINA CIGNA

So many of opera's loves end in tragedy. Almost every familiar operatic heroine that comes to mind—Violetta, Madame Butterfly, Mimì, Tosca, Gilda, Nedda, Aida, Manon—each breathes her last before the conductor lays down his baton. Somehow it seems that before a tempestuous love reaches its climax, one or both of the principals must die; or at least, one must be left grieving at the deathbed.

There are, I suppose, several reasons for this. One certainly is that great composers almost invariably choose, for their most serious works, the classic Greek tragedy form, with its central figure overwhelmed by fate. But beyond this, perhaps, lies a reason to be found in the character of operatic music itself. For it must arouse emotions or it fails of its purpose. And in tragic love, with its sharp conflicts of loyalties and passions, these emotions are found in their purest and most intense states.

Vincenzo Bellini's "Norma," in which I will take the title role next Saturday afternoon at the Metropolitan Opera, has all these elemental passions. Its central figure, the high priestess, is torn between passionate love and jealous hatred of humanity to her people.

It will be my first Norma in America. This one to be broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company and the Radio Corporation of America, but I have already sung it 182 times in the great operas of Europe and South America. The most memorable were my three at the Bellini centenary last year at his birthplace, Catania, Italy, at the foot of Mount Etna.

The tragedy is laid in ancient times, where the people, chafing under Roman rule, await only the decree of Irminsul, the Druid deity, to rise against their conquerors. But it is through Norma that Irminsul speaks

and she, in violation of her vows of chastity, has borne the Proconsul Pollione two children.

The opera opens in the sacred grove with armed Gauls clamoring for war. Norma, weak in her love for Pollione, counsels waiting and they depart disappointed. Pollione, now



GINA CIGNA

following a new passion for the virgin priestess, Adalgisa, is also within the wood. He comes upon her in prayer and, stilling her compunctions, makes her promise to fly with him to Rome.

The unwitting Adalgisa confides in Norma. Moved by memories of her first passion, Norma is ready to release the distraught girl from her vows until suddenly she is confronted by Pollione. Bitterly she chides him for his perfidy. He swears that his love for Norma is dead, that it is his destiny to love Adalgisa forever. "My vengeance," cries Norma, "night and day shall rage around thee!" He defies her as the sound of the second trumpet sounds.

Beside herself with pain and rage, Norma thinks to murder her children and expiate her sin on the sacrificial pyre. She raises a dagger to strike, but her mother's love stays the hand. Still bent on her own de-

struction, she charges Adalgisa to care for her children that they may live with their father. Then the girl, trying to undo the damage she has caused, assures Norma that she will bring Pollione's love back to her.

Again Norma is a woman in love. Quickened by hope, she dreams of the supplanting lover's return. "At that thought," she breathes, "the bright sun smiles as in my loved days of happiness."

Pollione flatly refuses. Adalgisa, in the full fury of a woman scorned, Norma decrees war. "Like ripened corn beneath the sickle," she rages, "shall the Roman forces fall!" But what the sacrifice to consummate Irminsul's rites? "Never," answers Norma. "I die with thee, my love, my victim!"

At that moment, the virgin, is dragged before the priests and the multitude clamors for his blood. Norma seizes a sword to strike; but she cannot. She hedges, begs time to question the prisoner. Instead, she pleads and bargains for his love, promising life and freedom if he will but renounce Adalgisa. Still he refuses. Norma threatens to sacrifice Adalgisa. "Through her heart I shall strike mine!"

Then, in the last scene, occurs a situation so frequently met with in real life. Norma has summoned priests, bards and warriors, but she cannot bring herself to point out the victim. Caught in an emotional jam, she suddenly points to herself. She has broken her vows and the penalty is death. She mounts the pyre, to be followed by Pollione, as suddenly swept up by the same burst of emotion.

Giovanni Martinelli will be our Pollione in Saturday's performance and Bruna Castagna will portray the bewildered Adalgisa. Others in the cast will be Ezio Pinza, Thelma Votipka and Giordano Paltrinieri. Ettore Panizza will conduct.

MODERN WOMEN

CHARL ORMOND WILLIAMS
President of National Federation of Business
and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.



The niece of the English poet, Dante Gabriele Rossetti has come to this country to lecture. Signora Olivia Rossetti Agresti has been heard by American audiences before who are looking forward to learning more about the woman of modern Italy, Italian labor policies and other interesting subjects of her native land. Signora Agresti, who is London born, has spent her life studying the social and economic movements in Europe.

May Preston Slosson was the first woman to receive a Ph. D. degree from Cornell and when she lived in Wyoming she was the only woman prison chaplain in the nation. Her husband was Edwin E. Slosson, editor and author of many works on popular science.

The fifth annual \$1,000 Gimbel Award has been given to Miss Frances A. Wister, president of the women's committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra and president of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. She was the unanimous choice of the committee from a list of eighty-two Philadelphia women.

As an emissary of the Emergency Peace Campaign, Miss Maude Royden, British leader, social worker and Oxford lecturer, has arrived in this country to give a series of lectures. She was one of the first women clergy of the established Church of England and one of the first women extension lecturers for Oxford University.

The American Association of Variable Star Observers, which is sponsored by Harvard, numbers about three hundred active members and includes in its membership fifty volunteer women stargazers. Three women have been president in the last twelve years.

The Geographical Society of America has elected to membership Dr. Alice Evelyn Wilson of the Geological Survey of Canada at Ottawa.

The director of Germany's women's activities is Frau Gertrud Scholtz-Klink, who has been called the "First Lady" in her own land. Under her the German women are organized for the better bearing and care of their children.

UNUSUAL FACTS REVEALED

CHARLES STADRETT
MORE THAN A DOZEN PAIRS OF BREECHES
IN A SERIES OF DARING LEAPS FROM A
STAGE-COACH DURING A FIGHT SEQUENCE
IN "WESTBOUND MAIL"



A STAGE COACH USED IN THE COLUMBIA PICTURE WAS SO VALUABLE THAT A DOUBLE WAS USED FOR ITS DESTRUCTION IN THE FILM.

WHILE TRAVELLING AT A TERRIFIC RATE ON A ROLLER COASTER A FELLOW PASSENGER ASKED ROSALIND KEITH FOR HER AUTOGRAPH!

TIME TO GET GOING BUILD REPAIR PAINT FIX UP



AMERICA'S pride is again asserting itself in home and in business. America's common sense is again in the saddle and national thriftiness is manifesting itself as home and property owners everywhere refuse to sit by and see good investments go from bad to worse through lack of repairing modernizing and, in general, fixing up . . . Reports from all parts of the country tell of increased activities in modernizing homes and business places; or increased sales in men's, women's and children's apparel; of a growing volume of sales of new and used automobiles; and of a general step-up in business all down the line. . . . All this news should be a signal to the home and property owners of this entire community that it is time to get going. Let's all open our personal plan books, loosen the purse strings and start action by putting those needed repairs, improvements and building jobs in the hands of skilled and willing workmen. Then let's turn the mirror on the family wardrobe and replenish it liberally with Spring attire.

READ THE ADS IN THIS NEWSPAPER
THEY TELL YOU HOW TO MODERNIZE

The Rowan County Herald-Watchman
SALISBURY, N. C.

OUR PUZZLE CORNER

DRAW A LINE FROM 1 TO 30 AND FINISH THIS MOUNTAIN SCENE FOR ARNOLD BENTIE

Goofygraph

WILL GO UP OR DOWN? WON'T GO DOWN UP?

READ THE ABOVE RIDDLE AND GIVE THE ANSWER...

CAN YOU FIND 10 OBJECTS IN THIS SCENE?

FIND 10 QUEER THINGS

YOUR HEALTH COMES FIRST!!!

PAPER TOWELS IN PLACE OF THE OLD ROLLER TOWELS ARE MORE SANITARY AND HEALTHFUL!!

TIED FEELINGS ARE THE RESULT OF GETTING TOO MUCH FOOD IN THE BODY!!

YOUNGER CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE MIDDAY REST PERIODS AS WELL AS AMPLE SLEEP AT NIGHT....

A THREE TO FIVE MILE WALK DAILY WILL IMPROVE ONE'S HEALTH IMMENSELY.