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LEND ME YOUR EARS:

Venice Music Festival Will Open On April 9

VENICE'S CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL, which usually takes place in the fall, directly after the international movie festival, has this year been moved up to spring and will open on Sunday, April 9, lasting till April 27.

The opening program, to take place in the Tintoretto-rich Scuola Grande di San Rocco, will consist of two novelties, directed by **Ettore Gracis** — **Benjamin Britten**'s opera, "Noah's Flood," and "The Way of the Cross," with text by **Nicola Lisi**, based on Gregorian ritual chants.

Symphonic and chamber ensembles from many nations will participate in the festival — among them the British Broadcasting Corporation Symphony of London, which will execute, under **Bruno Maderna**'s direction, an opera by **Luigi Nono**, "Intolleranza 1960," in its world premiere at the Teatro La Fenice, as well as a concert of works by Purcell, Vaughan Williams, **Britten**, **William Tippett** and Sir **William Walton**. Famed composer **Paul Hindemith** will conduct a program of his own chamber music, and another concert will be dedicated to the music of the late Ottorino Respighi, with **Antal Dorati** on the podium.

Other groups taking part in the international affair are the Melos Ensemble of London, the Monteverdi-Chor of Hamburg, the RAI-TV Chorus of Turin, the Orkiestra Kameralnna Filharmonii of Cracow and Venice's own Fondazioni Giorgio Cini. A special attraction of this 24th festival will be a series of concerts of electronic music on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, to which groups from Cologne, Warsaw, Tokyo, New York, Eindhoven, Brussels and Paris will contribute.



ITALIAN ACTRESS Elsa Martinelli, shown here with her young daughter, returns to Rome via South African Airways from Tanganyika, where she has been filming "Hatari," with John Wayne and Hardy Kruger.

Happy Birthday . . .

. . . today to Mrs **Ludmilla Austin**, secretary of the Battle Monuments Commission . . . to **Albert Cardinal Meyer** . . . to author-publicist **Leonardo Sinisgalli** . . . to American newspaperman-author **Robert St. John**, currently visiting in Rome . . . to **Bruno Paoli**, manager of the banking department of the American Express . . . and to Milan painter **Alfredo Chighine**.

Personality Parade

Leo F. Gentner, who for over two years has been counselor for administration at the U. S. Embassy, and his charming wife **Peggy** are another popular Embassy couple to leave Rome behind them. They sail tomorrow aboard the American Export liner Independence from Naples for the States and are planning a sojourn in Florida . . . among their fellow-passengers will be **Jean Zimmerman** of the Naples Consulate and his family; Mr and Mrs **Oswald B. Lord** (she is ambassador to the UN); **Margarete Ehrlich** of the Atomic Energy Commission, Vienna; and Pittsburgh engineer **John Goffort** . . . Mrs **Henry C. Fleck** has arrived in Rome to be the house-guest of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr and Mrs **Henry J. Fleck** of Coca-Cola Export, at their Vigna Clara apartment . . . brilliant sculptor **Renato Signorini**, who has been called the "modern Cellini," will leave early next month for Washington, D.C., on an interesting new commission — to do a bust in gold (or perhaps a medallion in the same metal) of the new First Lady, Mrs **John F. Kennedy**. **Signorini**, a member of the famous family that runs the Hotel Flora, has executed similar portraits in gold, silver and precious jewels of such well-knowns as Queen **Elizabeth II**, Princess **Grace** of Monaco, Mrs **Clare Boothe Luce**, **Audrey Hepburn** and **Sophia Loren**. He's hoping to be able to finish, during this forthcoming visit to the States, a still incomplete bust of **Greta Garbo**, provided he can track down that elusive lady . . . friends of artist-cookery expert **Beverly Pepper** will be glad to know that the cast on her leg, fractured in an encounter with a dog some months ago, has been removed and that she is now getting about by herself, although with the help of a cane . . . **Melina Mercouri**, the fascinating Greek actress who has been nominated for an Oscar for her performance in "Never on Sunday," and director **Jules Dassin** passed through Rome en route to Naples and a meeting with **Vittorio De Sica**, who wants her for a role in his many-starred production, "Il Giudizio Universale" (The Last Judgment). After Naples, they'll holiday in Lausanne . . . **Nicol Fontana** of the high-fashion house of the Fontana Sisters, is back in Rome with her husband, Dr. **Nando Caldiero**, from Philadelphia and New York, while sister **Zoë Fontana** took off via Alitalia for England to visit London, Harrogate, Manchester and Littleborough . . . Mrs **Afdera Franchetti Fonda**, wife of actor **Henry Fonda**, who has repeatedly postponed her visit to Italy, was expected this week at the Hotel Excelsior . . . you may add to the growing list of well-known people who have chosen Rome as a place to work the name of composer **Marc Blitzstein** ("The Cradle Will Rock"). He has taken a studio above the Palazzo Colonna and is busy on an opera based on the Sacco and Vanzetti case, under a Ford Foundation grant . . . American TV director **Steve Previn** is another Roman visitor — at the Excelsior.

Rome Varia

A reminder: **Joseph Rollino** and **Paul Sheftel** will give their two-piano recital tomorrow night at 9 at the Overseas School . . . an eminent British scientist, a noted physicist and a prominent clergyman will discuss "Building a Bridge Between the Scientist and the Humanist" on the first of two Voice of America programs on Saturday, to be heard in Italy at 10:15 p.m. The discussions will be broadcast as part of the regular "Perspective" series. Guests will be Sir **Charles Percy Snow**, British scientist and writer; **I. I. Rabi**, Nobel laureate in physics; and **Reinhold Niebuhr**, a clergyman for many years associated with the Union Theological Seminary in New York. Prof. **Eric F. Goldman** of Princeton University is moderator . . . new Roman art shows to make a note of: paintings by **Albert Ceen** at Derna and **Vittore Querèl**'s La Felucia Gallery on Via Frattina, by **Vanda Seccia** at the San Marco Gallery on Via del Babuino; and by Dutch artist **Herbert Jochems** at **Aedo Galvani**'s La Fontanella on the same street.

Overseas Items

Student Council officers named at the mid-year elections at the Overseas School of Rome are as follows: **Giovanni Emo**, president; **Kit Givan**, vice president; **Carol Karamessines**, secretary; and **Mary Hale**, treasurer.

Another Overseas note: The school chorus, under the baton of maestro **Rocco DiGiovanni**, is busy rehearsing a spring operetta, "Down in the Valley," by Kurt Weill. The principal roles will be sung by **Allyson Palmer**, **Victor Caliandro** and **Victor Pagani**.

If you have any news, for "Lend Me Your Ears" about your or your friends' parties, social gatherings, birthdays, arrivals, departures, engagements, marriages, etc., please telephone Rome: 587.115 between 1 and 4 p.m. or write to 8 Via Dandolo, Rome, Italy



GENERAL CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER — Gen. Frederic H. Smith Jr., commander-in-chief, USAFE, talks with Prime Minister Mohammed Ben Othman Said of Libya, during a recent visit to Tripoli and Wheelus Air Base. Shown here at the discussion are, left to right: the Prime Minister, Gen. Smith, U. S. Ambassador to Libya J. Wesley Jones and Col. Stebbins W. Griffith, Wheelus commander. The visiting USAFE commander also called on the Governor of Tripolitania and the Chief of the Royal Diwan, United Kingdom of Libya. *(USAF photo)*

Liz 'Just' On Danger List, 'Maintains Her Improvement'

LONDON, March 8 (UPI) — Elizabeth Taylor is "still on the danger list — but only just," her personal physician said today.

Dr. Carl Goldman said the actress, who has been fighting for her life against a severe attack of pneumonia, was "maintaining her improvement."

"She continued to improve through the night and is still on the danger list — but only just," he said.

Goldman visited the actress this morning at the exclusive London clinic where she has been hospitalized since Saturday.

He said she was "resting quietly" this morning after a quiet night. She is suffering from a severe attack of pneumonia which has affected both her lungs.

Miss Taylor's husband Eddie Fisher spent the night in his room in the clinic, sleeping under sedation. He has gone virtually without sleep since she was taken to the clinic from her hotel suite Saturday.

During the night doctors administered a recuperative drug specially flown from the United States to the ailing actress.

Spyros Skouras, head of 20th Century Fox, is expected here this weekend for conferences on the future of "Cleopatra," the much-postponed film in which Miss Taylor has the title role.

Production is scheduled to restart early next month under a new director, Joseph Mankiewicz.



SOPRANO Clara Petrella will have the leading feminine role in "Uno Sguardo dal Ponte" (A View From the Bridge), Renzo Rossellini's operatic version of the famous Arthur Miller play, which has its world premiere at Rome's Teatro dell'Opera Saturday night. The opera, which presents basso Nicola Rossi Lemeni in the part of Eddie Carbone (created on Broadway by Van Heflin), has been staged by the composer's brother, film director Roberto Rossellini.



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