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LEND ME YOUR EARS:

Florence Announces Opera Season

FLORENCE HAS ANNOUNCED its winter opera season. Seven operas will be presented, three of them for the first time ever in Florence and all of high interest. Opening the season on Dec. 1 is Giuseppe Verdi's "Attila" with **Boris Christoff** as the eponymous hero and **Margherita** ✦ **Roberti, Gastone Limarilli** and **Gian-giacomo Guelfi.** On Dec. 6 Vincenzo Bellini's "La Sonnambula" goes on the boards with **Renata Scotto** singing the difficult soprano role. Carl Maria von Weber's "Der Freischuetz" will be sung on Dec. 16 and Alban Berg's "Wozzeck" opens Jan 5. On Jan. 17 two short operas will be presented, Giorgio Federico Ghedini's "La Pulce d'Oro" and Enrique Granados "Goyescas." These last three have never before been sung in Florence. The season will close with Richard Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde" which will be sung in German and star **Lyane Synek** and **Sebastian Feiersinger** in the principal roles. The operas will be presented at the Teatro Comunale and subscriptions are now on sale.

New Musical Center

A modest audience Tuesday night heard a completely professional group of musicians give an outstanding performance of four works by one of Italy's great 20th Century composers, Alfredo Casella. The occasion was the first performance at Rome's new musical center in the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo, "L'Agostiniana." Superb individual performances were given by cellist **Donna Magendanz** in Casella's "Cinque Pezzi" and symphony for piano, violincello, horn and clarinet. Hornplayer **Giovanni Mondino** played with an inspired flair in "Serenata," a pretty but unsophisticated piece. Violinists **Montserrat Cervera** and **Cynthia Treggor** were practically flawless in their handling of intricate parts in "Cinque Pezzi." **Mondino** and clarinetist **William O. Smith** were particularly well matched in several interesting dialogues in Casella's symphony. Twelve musicians played in the final selection, Concerto Opus 69. Although the music is dated by a rather theatrical use of percussion instruments, conductor **Piero Guarino** led the group in a fine performance. The best thing about this evening was its portent for the future. Fortunately, a full winter season of performances by the same musicians and others is planned. Tickets and information can be obtained through "L'Agostiniana," 12 Piazza del Popolo or telephone 35.30.13.

Milan Medley

The American School of Milan held it first PTA meeting this week. Mrs **Tomas H. Spiers** was elected president; **John L. Hurley Jr.** was named vice president; **John H. Simpson,** secretary; and **Paul Austin,** treasurer. After the meeting, the parents visited the classrooms where students through the ninth grade are taught by American methods. Principal **Eva Trembomis** spoke briefly as did Vice Principal **William Brownson** . . . Paintings by Vlaminck, Picasso and Renoir fetched top prices at the art auction at the Brera Gallery. The Vlaminck fetched almost $29,000. The auction will continue today . . . Concert of interest tonight at La Scala where **Hermann Scherchen** will direct Mahler's Eighth Symphony . . . Don't forget the International Book Show which will be at the Palazzo Reale until Nov. 19 . . . Composers 40 years old and younger: attention. The City of Milan has announced an annual cash prize and a one-night program at La Scala for the best work submitted each year by Sept. 30 . . . Automation and Instrumentation Show opens at the Milan Fair grounds on Nov. 22.



STACKS OF GIFTS and they're all yours (perhaps) if you go along to the Santa Susanna Guild Bazaar this Saturday at the Palazzo Barberini between 1 and 6 p.m. Baroness Jeanne Fittipaldi, general chairman of the bazaar, and Mrs Robert McKay display some of the prizes that can be won: General Electric and Zenith radios; sterling silver candlesticks, picture frame and silent butler; and an Olivetti portable typewriter.

Around Town

Paintings by **Giacomo Bergomi** on display at Il Camino Gallery until Nov. 20 . . . The Junior English School, 286 Via Appia Antica, still has a few vacant places for boys and girls between the ages of three and eight. Telephone 7.990.997 . . . **Dorothy Peterson** missing from the Rome scene. She's starring in musicals on TV in Madrid and Barcelona but will be back soon . . . The White Elephant was closed for a few days last weekend because of technical difficulties but it's back open now with the same good food and smiling faces . . . Almost forgot to mention the welcoming gathering held last week by the American Medical Student's Association of Rome. Eight new students here to study were greeted: **Anthony Acamporo, Jim Escobar, Stephen Hermele, Ralph Iandoli, Dick Klein, Joseph Pisani, Gil Scanone** and **Ron Viscuso** . . . Exhibition of one of our personal favorites, Spaniard **Joan Miro,** at the Il Segno Gallery until Dec. 1 . . . Japanese Prime Minister **Hayato Ikeda** due in Rome Saturday.

Stamp Collectors Weep As Rare Stamp Goes Ordinary

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (AP) — On Monday collectors around the U.S. were clutching a few mixed-up stamps and dreaming of cash. On Tuesday the U.S. Postal Department blasted their dream.

In a surprise announcement, the department said it would flood the market with misprinted Dag Hamarskjold stamps; anyone who wants a misprint will be able to get one for four cents.

That means the few collectors who figured on several thousand dollars each for their misprints will have to figure anew. Now, according to H. R. Jorgenson, president of the San Antonio Stamp Club, "They eventually should be worth 8 or 10 cents each."

Postal officials expected and received angry complaints from some of the people who bought the original misprints.

One collector, Leonard Sherman of Irvington, N.J., had a complete sheet of 50 misprinted stamps. He had estimated the eventual value at half a million dollars. Now two dollars will get any collector the same—though deflated—prize.

The lost dream of half a million dollars hit Sherman hard. "There won't be any more people collecting stamps," he said. "It would be pointless to try."

And his wife added: "Isn't that lousy?"

Other reactions, however, were more philosophical.

"We had our moment of glory," said Russell Ferguson of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. "We never had the money to begin with, so why get upset about it. "I'm crying on the inside but laughing on the outside."



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