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Their First Portland Season of

GRAND OPERA



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MAESTRO MARIO SILVA
CONDUCTOR

Civic Auditorium

February 19, 20, 21, 1941

THE PRODUCER TO THE PUBLIC

In presenting our first season of opera in Portland we feel both gratitude and satisfaction.

"America is truly experiencing a spiritual awakening." The Columbia Empire has given evidence of its interest in the finest things; of its cultural refinement and desire for uplifting entertainment.

We are conscious of the fine group of artists in this territory and we trust that many will be able to attain a higher position in the scale of musical development. Our sincere hope is that many members of this earnest group of singers may reach the pinnacle of opera stardom.

To those who are here in attendance we wish the enjoyment of a most thrilling treat.

Faithfully,
AMELIO COLANTONI.

» »

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Austin Hall, Charles Holt, Lawrence Kurkoski, Richard Littlehales, Virgil Myers, Minard Philley, Marvin Seymour, Francis Scarpelli, Francis Thomas, Al Williams, John Baker, Wallace Berry, W. C. Holcombe, Krank Kirker, Gordon Kler, Aaron F. Lawson, Bob Lewis, Roger Otto, Albert Shurgot, Earl Seyfert, Russell Watson, David La Roche.

Sopranos and Contraltos

Jean Allen, Alice Baker, Mary Blackler, Frances Brajocich, Clarissa Bronn, Grace Card, Elaine Churchill, Betty Duncan, Violette Eterno, Irene Johnson, Mildred Jones, Rita Howe, Elaine Kjos, Jean Knapp, Elizabeth Knight, Anna Kruger, Anita Maes, Margaret McCurdy, Marjorie Moe, Lenora Monaco, Elsa Nilson, Doris Petty, Mary Purnell, Clara Rieman, Josephine Rinella, Mary Ellen Rodolf, Eugenia Scarpelli, Lee Anna Severson, Dorothy Sigler, Barbara Stanton, Julia Taylor, Elizabeth Thomson, Mary Walker, Janette Williams, Elpha Woolsey, Jean Handzlik, Choral Howell, Naomi Gerritsen, Danae Livsay, Leah Marshall, Martha Reese, Dorothy Routson, Anne Stevens.

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CARMEN (In French)

An Opera in Four Acts

By Georges Bizet

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Carmen.....	Joyce Zickhardt
Don Jose.....	Giovanni Zavatti
Escamillo.....	Rudolfo Hoyos
Micaela.....	Violetta Eterno
Frasquita.....	Dorothy Sigler
Mercedes.....	Martha Reese
El Dancairo.....	Renato Vargas
El Remendado.....	Raymond Partipilo
Zuniga.....	Willard Holcombe
Morales.....	Russell Watson

Soldiers of the Guards, Toreadores, Picadores, Cigaret Girls, Citizens, Peasants and Children.

Action takes place in the city of Seville and nearby mountains in the second half of the last century.

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THE STORY OF THE OPERA "CARMEN"

Looking for her lover, Micaela, the country maid to whom Don Jose, corporal of dragoons, is engaged, enters a square in Seville. The relief arrives (military music and "Street Boys' Song") after she has gone, and Jose is told she has been seeking him. He thinks of her while the cigarette girls—their leader captivating Carmen—pour from the factory opposite. When soldiers, crowding around her, ask her to choose a lover she sings (Habanera) with the indifferent Jose in mind: "If you do not love me, I'll love you and if I love you, beware!" and flings the flowers she wears to Jose with a provocative look and shrug. Micaela next delivers a kiss and letter from his mother (urging him to marry her) to her soldier. But now there is an uproar in the factory. Carmen has stabbed another girl; Jose brings her out a prisoner. Pretending love, she so works on him he loosens the rope typing her hands, and she makes her escape.

In Lillas Pastia' tavern on Seville ramparts are Carmen, Frasquita and Mercedes (gypsy songs and dances). Jealous Morales, angry at Carmen's indifference, taunts her with loving Jose, sentenced to two months in the guard-house for her escape. She laughs at the idea, and when the famous bullfighter Escamillo enters, devotes herself to him enraging Morales, till both men leave. The tavern closed for the night, the innkeeper admits two smugglers. The other girls leave with them, but Carmen remains to meet Jose, and persuades him to join the lawless band. He comes, confesses his love, and Carmen so bewitches him he ignores the trumpet call to duty. Yet when she asks him to betray his soldier honor and join the smugglers he refuses. Fate then knocks at the door in the shape of Morales. When he orders Jose to leave, the latter disobeys and draws his sword. Smugglers and gypsies rush in to prevent a fight, but the die is cast. Jose knows his army days are over and joins the band.

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Jose on guard in the smugglers' mountain camp is rallied by Carmen on his gloom. He tells her his thoughts are with an old woman who prays for her son in whom she believes, and the heartless gypsy mocks him, suggesting he abandon his uncongenial life. He protests his passion, then finding her unmoved, threatens to kill her. Death comes as fate decrees in her answer, and she joins Frasquita and Mercedes, who are telling fortunes. The cards, no matter how she deals, predict she and her lover will die. The girls go to help the smugglers distract the attention of the guards and Micaela comes in. Before she can reveal herself a shot rings out; Escamillo enters seeking the gypsy girl. Jose (whose shot has not wounded him), wild with jealousy, challenges him. The advent of Carmen prevents a struggle, and Escamillo leaves, offering to meet Jose anywhere, at any time, and inviting all to the next bullfight in Seville. Micaela now tells Jose his mother lies on her deathbed and implores him to go to her. Unwilling to leave Carmen, he first refuses, then goes, vowing to return.

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Carmen, now his love, beside him, the bullfighter, in a gala procession of officials and toreros, enters the square where the people await their idol. About to enter the ring, Escamillo bids Carmen farewell, both vowing undying love. She ignores Frasquita and Mercedes, who warn her Jose may seek her. He appears—the man she has morally and physically destroyed—a dramatic contrast to his triumphant rival. Ruined, cheated, an outcast because of his love, he cannot forget it. He implores Carmen to be kind to him. But Escamillo's name sounds in the arena amid wild applause; Carmen's every thought is there. She repulses Jose with biting scorn, with such open joy in her passion for the bull fighter that, when Escamillo's name is again thundered forth by the unseen crowd, Jose stabs her to the heart. As the crowd pours from the arena, Escamillo, seeking Carmen, at their head, Jose flings himself despairingly upon the dead body of the woman he adored.

BALLET

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