

Met Opera Tickets Sold Out, Birmingham Area Top Buyer

By ROBIN BAHR

Everybody has the bug — the opera bug!

There are less than three weeks to go before the New York Metropolitan Opera arrives in Detroit May 21-26, for its fourth annual appearance at the Masonic Temple.

One problem remains. Where to get tickets.

The opera is sold out. In fact, the opera was sold out two days after tickets went on public sale April 1.

"This has been our only problem," says Mrs. Theodore Yntema, chairman of the Birmingham, Bloomfield, Franklin committee for the Met. "There has been an overwhelming demand for tickets from this area, which we simply couldn't fill."

"SO WE have concentrated our efforts on seeing that those who do go to the opera enjoy it to the fullest extent through opera education."

Beginning in January, five women from the committee served as a speakers' bureau, talking to a large number of local church, women, and businessmen's organizations.

A program of opera education was initiated in the public and private schools, for the benefit of future opera goers, as well as their parents.

Posters, brochures, and opera literature were distributed in shops throughout the area. An opera headquarters was set up in Grinnell's to answer questions, and take registrations for a public lecture series called "Anatomy of Opera," beginning Monday at the Baldwin Library.

CO-SPONSORED by the library, lectures will be given by local opera experts covering each of the seven operas included in the Met's program. To date, over 40 people have registered for each of the three lectures.

Another eight week opera course was offered to the public by the Cranbrook Music Guild and the University Center for Adult Education, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

Mrs. Benjamin Brewster, chairman of the course for the Cranbrook Music Guild, was frankly amazed at its reception. "We expected good attendance with the Met coming in May, but found ourselves swamped with enrollments."

"THE COURSE was filled overnight. We had to turn people away from each class with even standing room taken."

"The plain and simple fact is, that Detroit and the surrounding suburbs have taken opera to heart," says Donald Thurber, public relations chairman of the Detroit Grand Opera Association — the organization which brings the Met to Detroit.

"What is happening here is what happens each year in all the other four cities. There is an overwhelming demand that simply can't be filled."

Mr. Thurber pointed out that

Sal Franzella Guest Soloist At Groves III

Sal Franzella, clarinet and saxophone artist, will be guest soloist at the Groves High School Spring Concert May 10, 8 p.m., in the school auditorium.

Also in the concert will be a cornet trio playing the "Buglers Holiday." The Groves Band will play the Festival March from "La Boheme," and a civil war suite entitled "The Blue and Gray."

Groves' orchestra will play the Haydn Symphony No. 1, the first movement, "The Back Little G Minor Fugue and the polka from the "Golden Age."

FRANZELLA has played with numerous name bands such as Paul Whiteman and Percy Faith. He was a member of the NBC studio orchestra in New York for 10 years. He has also been a member of the New York Philharmonic and the NBC Symphony Orchestra.

Later Franzella was first clarinetist of the Warner Brothers studio orchestra in Hollywood. He will perform the Von Weber "Conquero" and "The Flight of the Bumblebee," Korakov on the clarinet, and then switch to the saxophone to play the "Meditation" from "Thais" and a special arrangement of the last movement of the Tchaikowski violin concerto.

the method of handling tickets here follows the same procedure as that used in any of the other four cities.

TICKETS are offered first to officers and directors of the Detroit Grand Opera Association, the Detroit Symphony (who will benefit from the opening night performance), guarantors of the Met, opera committees, are Bloomfield residents. Our activities have

tion, last year's season ticket buyers, and to the opera committee. After that, tickets are available to the public through the mail and finally at the box office.

"This area has played an important part in the success of the opera," said Mrs. Yntema. "Both Mrs. George Romney and Mrs. John Gordon, co-chairmen of the opera committee, are Bloomfield residents. Our activities have



CHOOSING PIECES of sculpture to represent the noted Marshall Fredericks' work in the current show, "Prominent Painters and Sculptors in Michigan" was a difficult task for Mrs. Eliot F. Robinson, co-chairman of the exhibition. Visiting Fredericks at his Royal Oak studios, she chooses small models

Music Week Celebration

National Music Week, the first Sunday in May, celebrated its 19th year under the sponsorship of the National Federation of Music Clubs, a non-profit organization dedicated to music.

The 1962 theme is "Let the World Rejoice with Music."

Purpose of this annual observance is to focus the attention of the public on music, "as a dynamic means of communication between all people; as a deeply satisfying channel of personal expression; as a forcible instrument for arousing, for training, and for governing the minds and spirits of men," according to the Federation.

THE BIRMINGHAM Musicales is acting as a sponsoring group in this community and will celebrate by holding their Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Oakland Hills Country Club on Thursday, May 10, at 12:30 p.m.

Mrs. Robert Major and Mrs. Richard O. Ruppel are co-chairmen of the day. Mrs. Charles Erdman is in charge of invitations with Mrs. Philip R. Flansburg handling publicity and Mrs. Roland E. King taking reservations.

Mrs. Clifford A. Nelson is Chairman in charge of hostesses and Mrs. Laurence B. Middleton, Chairman of Table Decorations. "Paris in the Spring" is the theme of the surprise program with Mrs. W. Whiting Raymond serving as "commentator" and Mrs. Louis Briegman guest pianist.

MRS. HERBERT H. Gardner, past president of the Birmingham Musicales, who is in charge of National Music Week in this community for the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs, has invited

(See MUSIC, 6-D)

Local Best Sellers

FICTION

Ship of Fools — by Katherine Anne Porter.

Fox in the Attic — by Richard Hughes.

Devil Water — by Anya Seton.

NON-FICTION

The Rothschilds — by Frederic Morton.

In the Clearing — by Robert Frost.

Six Crises — by Richard Nixon.

drawn people from way beyond the Bloomfield, Birmingham, Franklin areas."

"AND," SHE added, "the opera is just one in a whole series of successful cultural developments taking place right now. The support it has been given indicates, to me, that this area is becoming a major cultural center in the highest degree of quality in art we have seen in this area for some time."

The exhibition is entitled "Prominent Painters and Sculptors in Michigan." Putting together a show of such breadth is a rather imposing task for the still youthful B.A.A. The chairman of the show, Eliot and Sally Robinson, have done a remarkable job in amassing representative works by Michigan's more competent artistic talents.

Most of the artists reside in Detroit and environs—Ann Arbor or Lansing. The majority of them have become familiar to us through exhibitions in local galleries and museums.

VARIETY and breadth — those two words describe the most impressive and refreshing aspects of the exhibition. There is a wide variety of media from etchings and serigraphs through sculpture in plaster, bronze, glass, plastic and wood to paintings in oil, water color and casein.

Not only is there variety in the materials employed by the artists, but also in the technical manner in which these materials are used. For instance, wood is chosen as the raw material by two artists, but how differently it is used by the hand of each!

MORRIS BROSE has a handsome piece that shows off the grain of the wood in a sleek, sophisticated way. Glen Michaels also uses wood in his equally handsome, unusual barretel type assemblages; but, by contrasting various types of wood grains in a strong elemental and textural appeal.

Similarly, one may notice the great variety of approaches in the medium of oil. Kamrowski, for example, uses heavy blobs and squirts of paint to create the desired effect.

by ROBIN BAHR
Arts Editor

In March 1961, when Detroit Adventure announced a conversion in poetry, there was not a large enough enrollment to justify a formal class.

Notice of cancellation was sent to Phebe Chao—one of two Birmingham people who had registered.

Phebe went to work. The enrollment jumped from 6-20. Through Phebe's efforts, Detroit Adventure reopened the poetry conversations, to a class composed largely of Birmingham residents.

Conversations were held in the Baldwin Library conducted by three Michigan poets—W. Snodgrass, a Pulitzer prize winner and English teacher at Wayne, X. J. Kennedy—winner of the Lamont poetry prize and English instructor at the University of Michigan, and Donald Hall—an associate professor at the University of Michigan, also a recipient of the Lamont award.

THE POETS read both their own poetry and that of a favorite poet. After that, there was general discussion. Three additional sessions were held at the request of the class.

This year in April, Phebe was on the other end of the line. After a dozen or so phone calls from members of last year's class wanting a 1962 session, Phebe contacted the same poets, who agreed to come to an informally organized group.

Three meetings were held in private homes. At the last of the three sessions in April, it was decided to continue with three more.

"THE NICEST part of this whole experience," says Phebe, "is its spontaneity. There is no formal structure and no administrative detail. This is simply a group of people who like getting together to read and hear poetry."

This year's conversations in literature sponsored by Detroit Adventure have had the same success. Conducted by Seymour Riklin, a lecturer in Humanities and Adult Education at Wayne, 6 sessions were held at the Baldwin Library, the theme being "The Writer in an Age of Anxiety."

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THIS IS the sort of spontaneous outgrowth of cultural activity that people must have hoped for, when Detroit Adventure was organized four years ago.

Sponsored by 19 of Detroit's cultural institutions as a nonprofit corporation, Detroit adventure was created to highlight and stimulate new cultural activities in the area.

Happily enough, that is happening right here.

IT WILL be interesting to see what children in Birmingham read and which are their favorite books. The Baldwin Library is conducting a two week balloting of

(See POTPOURRI, 6-D)

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THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
May 3, 1962

Area's Finest Art On Display at BAA

Reviewed by Sally Parsons

A dazzling array of paintings, graphics and sculpture captures the eye at the Birmingham Art Center. In its most ambitious exhibition since moving into its new sewage plant-turned-art gallery headquarters, the Bloomfield Art Association has come up with the highest degree of quality in art we have seen in this area for some time.

The exhibition is entitled "Prominent Painters and Sculptors in Michigan." Putting together a show of such breadth is a rather imposing task for the still youthful B.A.A. The chairman of the show, Eliot and Sally Robinson, have done a remarkable job in amassing representative works by Michigan's more competent artistic talents.

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The exhibition will run until May 20th and is open to the public every day except Monday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Albert Weber adds a sand-like texture to his paint. William Boettick, on the other hand, creates a fascinating vision of "Die Lohle" with silvery sky and water by using a thin, glazing technique.

VARIETY IS apparent, too, in the artists' means of expression. Stylistic affinity to the School of Abstract Expressionism is evident in paintings by Albert Mullin, Robert Broner, Thomas Larkin, Sam Morelli and Irving Kaufman. But competent realists are also present; John Coppin has contributed one of his always masterful portraits and James Calder has two cityscapes done from a realistic point of view. Richard Wilt might be termed a descendant of the German Expressionists in his preoccupation with the inner workings of men's minds.

There are several works worthy of special mention. David Mitchell's "Lake St. George" is an engagingly colorful and well-structured, Zoltan Sepešky, famed for his meticulous, yet free, brushwork is represented by a tour de force entitled "Sunday Afternoon."

IN BOTH A plaster and bronze study for a fountain, Marshall Fredericks shows the power and grace we have learned to expect of his sculptured figures.

Clifford West's "Penelope" is an unusual calligraphic, Japanese-like treatment of the female form pitted against a background of colorful, structured planes.

Murray Jones' collage-painting is not up to his usual standards but its dark, mysterious quality is still interesting. Frede Vidar has two paintings in the show, completely different from one another in expression and style. Both have good painterly attributes.

THE TONGUE-in-cheek quality of Chet La More's two pieces of sculpture should bring a smile to even the most sophisticated gallery goer. In the same vein, one of Charles Culver's always engaging animal watercolors, "Sleeping Bear," is amusing as well as deftly executed.

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ROBERT SEVESTROM, of 504 Townsend, Birmingham looks on as Renee Goldin, of Chicago, Ill., finishes the rim of a raw pot for the annual student pot sale. Sevestrom, who will receive his MFA in ceramics this month, is co-chairman of the sale. The sale will be held May 10-12 at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Ceramic Students Look to Cranbrook

Cranbrook Academy of Art will hold their annual pottery sale in crafts court, 9 a.m. to dusk, May 10-12. Students will be in attendance continuously.

Big pots, little pots, mugs, jugs, cups and saucers are among items featured in the sale. A percentage of the proceeds will go to student sponsored scholarships.

Maia Grottel, internationally known ceramicist and head of the department at the Academy of Art, says the sale started some 13 years ago. One of her students reported he did not have enough money to finish the semester. She

suggested he put a few pots out for sale. They sold so well an annual sale evolved.

Handmade pottery of good design and quality is often difficult to find. It will be available in quantity during the pot sale.

Robert Sevestrom, of 504 Townsend, Birmingham, and Ronald Burke, of 6041 Winkler Mill Rd., Rochester, both of whom will receive their Master of Fine Arts degrees later in May, are co-chairmen for the sale.

Crafts court is the first entrance on the right on Academy Way, off Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills.

In Ferris Glee Club

The Ferris Institute Men's Glee Club, under Director Richard Lockwood, will sing in four Michigan cities and over television on its spring tour May 2 and 3. Two Birmingham men, Guy Brown and Don Ziekle, are members of the choir.

The biennial tour will take the 43-member glee club to Clare, Harrison, Cadillac, Alpena, and Tawas City.

All appearances will be open to the public.

Local Student In Howe Play

Robert Best, a student at Howe Military School, heads a six-member cast of a one-act play, "The Valiant," to be presented during Mother's Day week end at Howe Military School.

Cadet Best is a son of George C. Best, 172 E. Lincoln, Birmingham, Mich.

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