

Opening of the Musical Season

Ellis Opera Company Delights Thousands With Carmen and Il Trovatore.

The thoroughly business sounding term, Omaha Retailers' Association, has nothing in it to suggest things beautiful and things aesthetic, yet this association is bringing to Omaha some of the finest things discoverable in the musical world today. Our city is gradually waking up to the realization that "to grow with growing Omaha" is more than a catchy slogan. It begins to suggest not only a city growing in the business world, but growing in the sense of those wonderfully spiritual things that make human existence a joy and perpetual delight.

Monday and Tuesday evenings the Auditorium was packed with music lovers who braved chill and rain that they might listen to the world-loved operas of Carmen and Il Trovatore, as presented by the Ellis Opera Company. The going was worth the effort, if effort there was. The great audiences thrilled with delight under the spell of earth-famed singers, and withal was the consciousness of a deep appreciation for the association of business men who are making Omaha a city of art, music and culture.

An enthusiast was lost Monday night if he or she attempted to voice praise. The scenic effects were wonderfully true to nature and perfect in detail. The wild mountain pass, the lair of the gypsies and smugglers, could not have been improved upon had it been an open air performance in the heart of the grand Sierras. The costumes were resplendent in their richness and beauty, and the riot of color was a happy semblance of old Sevillian days. The sixty piece orchestra under the superb leadership of Cleofante Campanini was supreme artistry that beggars description. Long will Omahans remember this world's master conductor under whose baton music became endowed with vivid speech and overwhelming emotions.

The rendition of the opera was simply grand. Geraldine Farrar was marvelous as she always is, and the auditorium thrilled with just acclaim. Her interpretation was rich beyond measure and only Calve has ever surpassed her. Helen Stanley, as Micaela, charmed with her beautiful and sweet soprano voice and won much applause. Lucien Muratore, the greatest of French tenors, and only second to Caruso, is a wonderful exponent of

Don Jose. His rich full tones, marvelous vocal expression and charming interpretation of emotions were the wonder of the thousands who heard him. Clarence Whitehall, as Escamillo, made the great hall fairly shake with his deep bass and was conceded, without question, the high rank to which his genius has carried him. The fact of the matter is that the ensemble was so perfect, so entrancing, so delightful, that praise is unreservedly the meed of all.

An added attraction of Monday night was the wife of Muratore, Lina Cavaleri, who occupied a box. She herself has been a Carmen, and a great one, but now she contents herself as a listener. She wore the world-famous Cavaleri jewels and Omahans agree that her title to the most beautiful of women is justified.

Tuesday night Il Trovatore was sung and while its grandeur was eclipsed by the Carmen production, the orchestration was far more beautiful and more generally known. Campanini outdid himself in interpreting the sweet melodies which have endeared Il Trovatore to the heart of millions. Louise Homer, as Azucena, is peerless and gave the most wonderful rendition ever seen in Omaha. Marie Rappold, as Leonaro, and Alma Petersen, as Inez, won much applause. Morgan Kingston, the English tenor, who was a coal miner about seven years ago, stands out as an example of great energy, pluck and genius. His Manrico was exceptionally fine, altho his light was dimmed a bit after following the great Muratore.

The opening of the musical season was indeed an event for Omahans and the future concerts are filled with the promise of equally delightful entertainment.

PRESENTS PROCESSIONAL CROSS AS THANK OFFERING

A beautiful brass processional cross was presented to the church of St. Philip the Deacon at the 11 o'clock service last Sunday morning by the Rev. John Albert Williams as a thank offering for his twenty-five years' ministry.

The cross bears this inscription: "To the Church of St. Philip the Deacon 'In loving memory of Henry and Adaline Williams. A Thank offering from their son John Albert for his 25 years' ministry to this congregation. Feast of St. Barnabas, 1916.'"

Worthington Williams, son of the rector, was the cross-bearer at this service.

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