

## Splendid Repertoire Announced for Fourth Engagement of San Carlo Co.



Marcella Craft

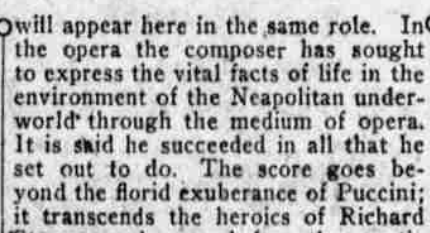
By HENRIETTA M. REES.

OPENING one week from tomorrow night at the Auditorium, with Ponchielli's masterpiece, "La Gioconda," the fourth annual engagement of the San Carlo Grand Opera company promises to outshine in artistic excellence any yet held in Omaha. There are many reasons for this impression, first among which is the remarkably fine repertoire worked out. The first offering, "Gioconda," is in four acts and many more beautiful scenes. The work is replete with enchanting scenic effects, while its brilliant music and its rapidly shifting incidents sustain an unflagging interest in the portrayal of the master passions—love and jealousy. The opera contains many shades and expressions. The fearful times of the Inquisition, the Venetian Council of Ten, are told amid the charming surroundings of the city of Venice. The loves and hates of the southern nation are portrayed with telling effect in "Gioconda," and the sacrifices of a warm-blooded people are all found in the opera. Some few years back a production of this big work was announced here by another organization which, however, like many others, suffered total collapse before it arrived. The San Carlo managers added the brilliant work to an already extensive repertoire this season, producing it with immense success in New York, Montreal, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and other places.

**Gioconda Big Cast.**  
"Gioconda" calls for a big cast, as well as for large orchestral and choral features, and these have all been provided by Impresario Gallo in his untiring aim to make his organization the country's most reliable operatic bulwark. That he is succeeding is attested by the immense audiences that jammed the beautiful Forty-fourth Street theater, New York, for three weeks recently and upon each occasion of the 24 performances involved hundreds, and sometimes thousands were turned away.

Second on the repertoire list is Verdi's beautiful three-act work, "La Traviata," from Dumas' "Camille," a work in which richness of musical texture and poignant tragedy of theme unite. Verdi's genius has made this opera a memorable and lasting monument to his creative powers. Otherwise known as the story of "Camille," the work proved one of the great Bernhardt successes and recently when sung with such sensational success by Miss Marcella Craft, with the San Carlons in New York, it created a furore. Present in the audiences was Miss Barrymore, the well-known actress and movie queen, who, since Miss Craft's metropolitan triumph, has been spurred to the idea of reviving the Dumas drama and will do so shortly at the Empire theater, New York, under the Frohman management.

**Jewels of the Madonna.**  
Perhaps, in the minds of those who seek operatic novelties, Wolf-Ferrari's Neapolitan work, "Jewels of the Madonna," will prove quite as attractive as either of the two aforementioned operas. The work is in many respects a notable one, and proved one of the superb successes of the Chicago opera season last year. The leading role, "Mailla," as sung by Elizabeth Amsden, then a star member of the Chicago organization, but now a regular soprano with the San Carlo forces, created a furore in the Windy City, and the opera occupies a prominent place in that city's operatic offerings again this season. Miss Amsden, it is now announced,



Stella De Nette

will appear here in the same role. In the opera the composer has sought to express the vital facts of life in the environment of the Neapolitan underworld through the medium of opera. It is said he succeeded in all that he set out to do. The score goes beyond the florid exuberance of Puccini; it transcends the heroics of Richard Strauss and overwhelms the exotic hypersensitiveness of Debussy. Wolf-Ferrari leaves nothing in doubt. The opera has proven a most brilliant achievement and is likely to stand out long as the high watermark of modern operatic effort. A splendid cast will sing the work here for the first time, including, besides Miss Amsden, Signor Agostini, Joseph Royer, the company's new French baritone, and Marta Melis, the new contralto.

"Il Trovatore," whose tunes and melodies are hummed and sung round the world, but which still proves the greatest drawing card of all operatic literature, will close the San Carlo engagement on Wednesday evening, with Salazar in the cast, and Luisa Darclee, the dramatic soprano, as Leonora.

All the Talmadge girls threaten to spend their Christmas in Los Angeles. Norma and Constance will travel across the continent and will be met by Natalie, who is secretary to Roscoe Arbuckle. This city looks upon them as their very own, anyway.

### Blackstone Orchestra Wins Empress Garden Favor

It is believed by Manager Philbin of the Empress Garden that more people are talking about the Blackstone orchestra which has been specially engaged for dancing and concert work at this amusement center than any other amusement in the city. It is almost an impossibility to watch the gay dancers and hear the syncopated music without dancing a few times, even if you are almost out of the habit. A new entertainer, Miss Jane Belmont, will be on the program for the current week, and is promised to be a whirlwind character artist that will prove a treat to patrons: Miss Alma Huntley will remain by popular request, and her pleasing manner of rendering songs combined with her trained voice is indeed enjoyable. Tuesday will again be theatrical night and Thursday is for amateurs. A special Sunday Liberty dinner will be served today. The cafeteria is growing in favor every day as the constantly increasing crowds testify.

### Recitals at Fontenelle Wednesday and Thursday

Under the auspices of George Crook Women's Relief corps, No. 88, two recitals will be given next Wednesday and Thursday nights by Wilmot Goodwin, baritone, at the Hotel Fontenelle. Florence Austin, violinist, and Lee Cronican, pianist, will assist. Mr. Goodwin will sing about 12 numbers on each program, these numbers being of great variety, ranging from "pickaninny" songs to the compositions of the great music masters.

Stirling George Walsh will soon be in "The Pledge of New York," William Farnum in "The Heart of a Lion" and Jewel Carmen in "A Soul for Sale." June Caprice is also announced in "Unknown 274."

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### Tenor John McCormack

#### Sings to Capacity Crowd

That the popularity of John McCormack, the famous Irish tenor, who will be heard here at the Auditorium Friday evening, January 18, is gaining in volume each succeeding season was demonstrated last Sunday night when he sang to a capacity audience of something over 5,000 at the New York Hippodrome.

It was Mr. McCormack's second appearance on the concert stage in New York this year. He opened the season there at Carnegie hall earlier in the month drawing an audience that completely filled every nook and cranny, at which time he turned over the entire proceeds of the concert, amounting to more than \$11,000 to the families of the old 69th, now the 165th regiment.

In commenting on the wonderful personal magnetism of Mr. McCormack, the New York Times says: "John McCormack, following his recent return to opera, was welcomed back to the concert platform by a vast outpouring of his older and

faithful admirers, of whom those seated on the Hippodrome stage alone would have filled some smaller halls. The tenor sang "Star Spangled Banner" as he appeared in the midst of this throng, and the house rose to greet the song but would not interrupt the singer by joining in, waiting until he finished the stanza, when there was great applause. Mr. McCormack gave with accustomed directness of style and pure diction two airs from Handel's oratorios of "Samson and Joshua," lyrics in English from Schubert, Goldmark, and Brahms, and later his Irish folksongs and pieces by Frank Tours and the Americans, Mrs. Beach, Arthur Foote and Edwin Schneider, his accompanist."

It will be remembered that the largest audience ever gathered in the Auditorium here was last January when Mr. McCormack sang, there being over 6,600 admissions.

A duo of big-time headliners, George Marck's Jungle Players and Mrs. Gene Hughes in a brand new playlet and no less a notable than

Pop Anson as a special feature are announced at the Orpheum for the week of December 2. George Marck's Jungle Players constitute a unique company, seven of its members being human beings, the other four being lions. Mrs. Gene Hughes and company will present a satirical comedy entitled "Gowns." Captain Adrian C. "Pop" Anson, the famous captain of the White Sox, with his two daughters, are doing the big

vaudeville circuits with a musical pot-pourri.

The national music school which supporters of American music have been dreaming of as a future possibility is building itself in a wonderful way through the "national singing army" which is resulting from the efforts of the war and navy commissions on training camp activities to make singing a part of the military program in the training camps of the American forces.

## Famous Singers Coming

### Neapolitans to Delight Diners

Duo of Neapolitan Singers has been engaged to sing at the Henshaw Cafe commencing evening at 6 o'clock.

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**Jewels of the Madonna**

Wednesday Evening  
**Il Trovatore**

Prices—Single Tickets to Any Performance—50c to \$2.00. Box Seats, \$2.00.

**The Dollar Season Tickets** These tickets, which have become so popular with Omaha opera-goers, admit the purchaser by the additional payment of 10c, 25c, 50c or 75c for each opera, according to location of seats. They can be secured at Green's Pharmacy, 16th and Howard streets; Sheet Music Dept., Hospe's Music Store; Schmolzer & Mueller Piano Co.; Auditorium Box Office, or from any member of the Opera Boosters' Committee now. RESERVED SEAT SALE NOW AT AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE.