Difficulty in Effecting Transportation for Hundreds of Concert and Operatic Stars now Marooned Abroad, Threatens to Postpone American Season — Managers Predict that United States Is Likely to Be Visited by a Great Army of Musicians if War is Protracted

With a war, the enormity of which cannot yet be adequately estimated, raging the length and breadth of Europe, the coming American music season promises to be seriously affected.

While no definite information has been obtainable it is safe to assume that the war has broken up such foreign music festivals as were under way and caused the cancellation of those that were planned. The Wagner Festival at Bayreuth has been in full swing and for the first time, events are being planned for Salzburg, Munich and Dresden.

Unless the pontentious conflict can be ended within a month or two, there can be no question of transporting to this country the great numbers of operatic and concert stars now abroad for vacations or summer engagements. It becomes well nigh impossible to determine how the activities contracted for can be handled. Through enforced obligations, the activities contracted for cannot be materially altered — in short, how musical performances of such unparalleled excellence as have been enjoyed here for years can be provided next winter.

A large number of the foreign artists now scattered through the belligerent European countries are Americans. The principal difficulties confronting such are the impossibility of securing transportation to this country, the hardships and deprivations likely to occur from a lack of necessary funds and the effects of the harrowing strain inseparable from such conditions as those in which they are likely to find themselves.

To be sure, the prospect will be brightened if swift governmental assistance is provided.

The number of foreign male artists, however, is likely to be gravely thinned through enforced obligations to their respective governments and the shutting of borders. The process of drafting the Metropolitan, Boston and Chicago opera companies are being handled under the terms of the trade agreements between the United States and the various European nations.

The Germans are likely to be active as warriors; Carl Barrétt, Albert Benoist, and Leo Slezak. It was the opinion of some quarters that the tall Austrian tenor, because of his personal friendship and influence with the Austrian Emperor, might secure exemption from military duty.

Because of this it is unlikely that Alfred Kerr, the Wagnerian conductor, can be found in American concert work, though it is beyond the board of possibilities that Messrs. Amsco, Scott and Conductor Tosti and Polacchini will be drafted. That many of the German and French members of the company may now be in the field is well nigh certain. Among the Germans and Austrians who may be involved are Rubinstein, Otto Garz, Carl Reine, Herman Weil. Operatic figures well known in New York, though no longer members of the Metropolitan, who are likely to be active as warriors, are Carl Barrétt, Albert Benoist and Leo Slezak.

Some Operatic and Concert Celebrities Who, It Is Feared, Will Be Called to the Defense of Their Countries in the European War Now Raging

Fears for American Musicians

Who May Be In Need of Funds — Conservatives and Schools of this Country

To Benefit by Closing of Foreign Educational Institutions — Opera Companies Menaced by Probable Drafting of Singers for Army Duty — Managers Not Pessimistic

Benoist will have to fight. Italian singers now members of the Metropolitan Orchestra may become embroiled in the war. They are: Titta Ruffo, Alessandro Bonci and Mario Sammarco.

Henry H. Kool, manager of the Boston Opera Company, was last reported in Italy as the leading tenor of that institution, is in Austria and, being a native of that country, may be obliged to serve. Andrew Dippold is in America, and Manager, manager of the Chicago company, is in some city in Switzerland at this moment.

Many of the American concert managers are in town or else on their vacations or Summer engagements. It is practically certain that the tall Austrian Emperor, might secure exemption from military duty.

Although none of the various agencies has been in a position to supply definite news, few were inclined to be entirely pessimistic concerning the future of the coming season. At worst, they declared, that they would have to continue to conjecture the full extent of possible losses, but there was an inclination to believe that it would not be long before a more favorable condition was reached. J. H. Bacon, of the Metropolitan, wrote: "I believe the crisis is nearing its end, and I am confident that it will be possible to handle the situation in some way."

Leading concert artists now abroad who are scheduled to appear here next Winter: Madame Katzen, benedict, of Vienna, will have to fight. Italian singers now members of the Metropolitan Orchestra may become embroiled in the war.äre: Titta Ruffo, Alessandro Bonci and Mario Sammarco.

Antonio Sawyer has heard no news of Enrico Caruso and his wife; Emilio de Gogorza, since they left Paris for the Italian lakes. They are Surgery on the opera season effective this early is unlikely. Being an American citizen, Mr. de Gogorza is required to serve in the uniformed service. The pianist, it is believed, is in Vienna, Albert Spalding, the American violinist, reached home before the outbreak of war. Would have to fight. Italian singers now members of the Metropolitan Orchestra may become embroiled in the war. They are: Titta Ruffo, Alessandro Bonci and Mario Sammarco.

Some of the most prominent American opera stars are scheduled to return to this country as early as possible. Leading American artists now abroad who are scheduled to appear here next Winter: Madame Katzen, benedict, of Vienna, will have to fight. Italian singers now members of the Metropolitan Orchestra may become embroiled in the war. They are: Titta Ruffo, Alessandro Bonci and Mario Sammarco.

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