Strauss and Weingartner Face Operatic Battle in Vienna

Composer's Operntheatre and Conductor's Volksoper Will Clash in Rivalry this Season-Impossible To Fill Demand for Seats-His Food Supply Confiscated, Strauss is Reported to be in Want-Conservatory Re-Organized Under Löwe

-Vienna, Sept. 10, 1919.

NOW, that Richard Strauss has arrived in Vienna and taken charge of the musical direction of the Opera .theater, an active rivalry between that and the Volksoper is in prospect and will undoubtedly contribute greatly to make this city an even greater center of musical attraction. In spite of the raised admission prices, it is even now impossible to fill the demand for seats. The harassed denizens of this now republican city are eager for a few hours of surcease from the anxious care of the time and to obtain their fill of music, if not of food.

of the time and to obtain their fill of music, if not of food. Director Strauss may now be in the latter difficulty himself, since his forthought in providing himself with supplies proved un-availing. For at the German border his sup-plies were peremptorily confiscated: to wit five hundred eggs, 150 pounds of flour, 100 pounds of lard and 120 pounds of sugar. Thus he found out the truth of those fami-liar lines by Burns: "The best laid plans of men and mice aft gang agley." He has often had occasion to find plans of his work made public, but this is certainly the first -at least of sympathy, and escapes envy. Two days before the former customary opening on the old Emporer's birthday, and one day before that of his younger successor, the Opera theater started on its coming sea-son. Its doors opened to admit a summer-audience to a summer performance of Wag-ner's "Meistersinger," indolent in its course and mediocer in character, since many of the principal singers were still absent, and others had sent in excuses. On August 31 the Volksoper began its work under the leadership of Felix Weingartner with a spirited presentation of the same opera.

Herewith the musical season may be sain to have begun. Several days afterwards the Volksoper gave a performance of the ''Fly-ing Dutchman,'' with new cast and scenery, which merits unstinted praise.

Singers' Strike Ends

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We and even five times the former rates being frequent. Nevertheless because of the pre-sent valuelessness of the Austrian crown, fifty of them being now the equivalent of one dollar, Americans, who can have such splendid opportunities for the study of mu-sic in Vienna, will find that their money goes so far as to make little difference from ante-bellum prices, nay, making them appear even less. It is possible to live in a nrst class pension in Vienna for fifty crowns or one dollar per day, and these pensions can procure sufficient food supply from the under-hand dealers. The most expensive concert seats cost twenty-five crowns, or fifty cents, and the best, box seats, at the two opera houses range from twenty-four to fifty crowns, or about one-half to one dollar. Garments, to be sure, are very dear, but one can come well supplied with these.

The composer Franz Schreker has just completed two new opera librettos, one of them in two acts entitled "Memnon," the other in three acts, named "Irrelohe." The poet-composer is at work on a score of the latter. The text of both works will appear in print shortly.

poet-composer is at work on a score of the latter. The text of both works will appear in print shortly. Occasionally at an afternoon musicale one has pleasant surprises: At a recent one the writer met a young American singer, Alice Lippe, who was born in Chicago and is the daughter of a well-known correspondent here for American and English newspapers. She has nearly completed her studies and has a welltrained, powerful, dramatic mezzo-soprano voice of that rare, dark coloring which so distinguishes Madame Cahier, like-wise a compatriot. Miss Lippe's personality also eminently fits her for a stage career, on which she is about to enter. From readers of MUSICAL AMERICA in New York, California, Oregon, and inter-mediate states, the writer has received such gratifying acknowledgements of her let-ters from Vienna that, unable for lack of

time if not of wish, to reply individually to each kind writer, she takes occasion to hen express her most hearty thanks. ADDIE FUNE

Parish Williams, Baritone, Prepares Varied Program for Debut

Program for Debut When Parish Williams, the young Ameri-can baritone makes his New York début in recital at Aeolian Hall on Monday evening. Oct. 13, he will present an interesting pro-gram. An aria from Haydn's "Orte, Handel's "Come and Trip It," the ôl English "Have you seen but a Whyte Lik Grow?" and Durante's "Vergin, Tutto A mor," introduce a program that contains in addition a new group of Scandinavias by Sinding, Victor Bendix, Lang-Müller and Grieg, French songs by Godard, Widor, Duparc, Georges and Wekerlin, while in the American group will be heard Si-berta's "The Little Fisherman," Redmans "Rose-dark the Solemn Sunset" and Tri-harne's "The Wild Ride." Elmer Zolle will be the accompanist.

Harold Lowden Aids In Improving Music of Churches



Harold Lowden, Organist and Composer

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 22 .- This is a day of specialization, and to his early decision to specialize, C. Harold Lowden, the well known, young Philadelphia composer, attributes his success.

Mr. Lowden says that Church and Sunday School music has always held a speday School music has always held a spe-cial fascination for him and he decided to give particular attention and study to this branch of composition. Last year his 'Services for Special Days'' had a cir-culation of more than three millions of copies in the Sunday Schools alone. He has also recently edited three Church Hymnals, one of which was for use by the Missionary Board of a large denomination, in Egypt.

Missionary Board of a large denomination, in Egypt. Notwithstanding the fact that he is music editor of a successful Church and Sunday School publishing house, and mu-sical director and organist of a large eity church, Mr. Lowden finds time, occasion-ally, to write a secular song, or a piano or organ number. His "Series of Better Grade Songs," consisting of six secular numbers, are receiving very favorable com-ments from singers and teachers, who are giving them wide circulation.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn.,—The Connecticut State Singing society meeting on the even-ing of Sept. 21, decided to hold the annua prize singing contest between the singing societies of this state at Bridgeport in 1920 The exact date will be decided by the board of directors in January. The last priz-singing contest of the Connecticut Stat Singing society was held in New Britain in 1916. The contests were discontinued during the period of the war.

OMAHA, Neb.—Will Hetherington, violin ist, who was in the Federal service, for sever al years has recently been demobilized an has taken up his musical activities.

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