

# Chicagoans' Visit to San Francisco Inspires New Enthusiasm for War Memorial Opera House Plan

Fund Raised Totals \$1,175,000—City Supervisors Vote a Subscription of \$100,000, but Official Auditor Refuses Approval — Mary Garden Announces Intention to Produce an Opera by Two San Franciscans Next Season—Hadley and Stransky Royally Welcomed as Leaders of N. Y. Philharmonic

(By Aeroplane Mail)

SAN FRANCISCO, April 28.—The unprecedented attendance and receipts of the Chicago Opera Association, which closed a two weeks' engagement last Saturday evening, aroused the civic mind to the need of an opera house to accommodate such organizations. But when the City Auditor, Thomas J. Boyle, was called upon to officially approve a subscription of \$100,000 made by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to the War Memorial Fund, in connection with a project for an opera house, he refused to do so, on the ground that it was "an unwarranted expenditure of public moneys."

San Francisco's struggle for an opera house dates back many years. After the war a group which has for years agitated for a municipal opera house, believing that a propitious time had arrived, launched a project for a war memorial in the form of a combined opera house and music center. A drive for a fund of \$2,500,000 was instituted and it met with some success. To date about \$1,175,000 has been underwritten. The Board of Supervisors, in the first flush of enthusiasm which accompanied the movement, subscribed \$100,000.

An ideal site on the Civic Center, diagonally across the street from the City Hall, was purchased from the Paulist Fathers for \$300,000. Plans have been accepted, and it has been announced from time to time by the committee that the laying of the cornerstone was imminent. But somehow, actual work upon the structure has been delayed. When the Chicago Opera Association came to San Francisco for a two weeks' engagement under the local management of Selby C. Oppenheimer, a force of carpenters and scene fitters was put to work to fit up the Exposition Auditorium, the only building large enough to accommodate the audiences. The attendance for the fourteen nights was announced to have been 85,000 and the total gross receipts more than \$250,000. On one of the gala nights, when Mary Garden and Lucien Muratore were singing in "Thais," members of the War Memorial Committee canvassed the audience for additional subscriptions. Enthusiasm ran high and publicity was given the project.

Auditor Boyle has now dashed some cold water upon the revived enthusiasm. It is suggested, however, that a way may be found for the city to abide by the pledge made by the supervisors by purchasing an interest in the property for the sum of \$100,000.

### Accepts San Franciscans' Opera

Mary Garden accepted a three-act opera, "The Land of Happiness," by two San Franciscans, Joseph D. Redding and Templeton Crocker, before leaving Saturday for Denver. The piece is an adaptation of Crocker's Bohemian Club play of several years ago, with music by Redding. Miss Garden stated that "The Land of Happiness" would be produced in Chicago next season. She also stated that she would give "The Girl of the Golden West" at an early date.

Henry Hadley, first conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, received a cordial welcome on his return to San Francisco with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in the capacity of associate conductor. On April 24 he conducted the orchestra at the Exposition Auditorium, presenting his own symphonic poem, "Salome." He divided honors with Josef Stransky. Both leaders were greeted with warm cordiality by an audience of several thousands.

Hadley is a favorite in San Francisco;



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Lucien Muratore, Mary Garden and Lina Cavalieri (Mme. Muratore) Enjoy California's Golden Spring, While Chicagoans Play in San Francisco

he composed the music for the Bohemian Grove play of 1912, "The Atonement of Pan," and Bohemian Club members were

present on Sunday and presented to him a basket of roses with a note inscribed: "From the Bohemian Club to Henry

### MACFADYEN BOOKS ARTISTS

#### Tours Arranged for Next Season for Gordon, Dambois and Crimi

Unusual activity for many artists under the direction of the Universal Concert Bureau, Inc., Ralph MacFadyen, manager, is seen. Among the bureau's artists who have long lists of appearances scheduled are Jeanne Gordon, contralto of the Metropolitan. Miss Gordon completed her second Metropolitan season April 24. She is listed for several festival engagements this spring and will sail for Europe May 21, returning early in October to open her concert dates prior to her season with the Metropolitan next November. She will be heard on many important concert courses in the larger cities throughout the United States.

Maurice Dambois, Belgian 'cellist, is appearing in a number of European concerts. He returns to America next January to fill dates booked by Mr. MacFadyen. He will begin his tour with the Cincinnati Orchestra with which he will be heard as soloist on Jan. 16.

Giulio Crimi, tenor of the Metropolitan, sailed for Buenos Aires on May 4, to sing at the Colon. During the closing Metropolitan season, Mr. Crimi was called upon to appear in many extra performances owing to illness of other principals. He returns to America the latter part of September to start an extensive tour booked through the Middle, Western, Southern and Southwestern States. He will also be heard with Miss Gordon in numerous concerts.

#### Philharmonic 'Cellist to be Orchestra Soloist at Home Town Concert

EAU CLAIRE, WIS., April 30.—Local enthusiasm over the forthcoming visit, on May 19, of the New York Philharmonic in running high, because of the fact that Robert Thrane, 'cellist, who passed his boyhood days in Eau Claire and lived here until he began his professional career, will be the soloist, playing Boellmann's "Variations Symphoniques." When it was first announced that the orchestra would play here on its first continental tour, a unanimous request was made that Mr. Thrane be heard again, with the result that practically the entire house is already sold. Mr. Thrane is also a member of the Landau String Quartet.

#### Flock from Adjoining Towns to Hear Galli-Curci in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., April 30.—Three thousand people, many from adjoining cities and towns, gathered in the

Hadley, our beloved member, and the foremost American composer and conductor. Welcome to California and San Francisco."

Hadley was also honored at the Sunday morning concert of the California Theater when his "Herod" Overture was played by Herman Heller's orchestra as its closing number. The composer, who was present, had to acknowledge the applause of the audience.

Much to the regret of the appreciative audience, the New York Philharmonic gave only one concert here. Stransky's sincerity and the magnetic leadership of his musicians in Beethoven's Fifth Symphony was an outstanding feature of the program. The organization was presented by the Oppenheimer management. M. H. H.

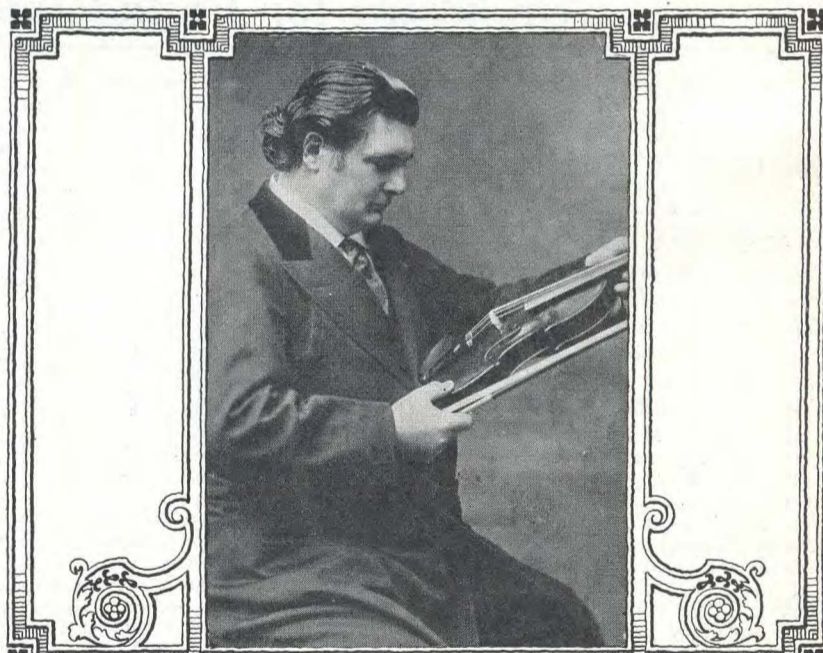
#### Children's Orchestra Formed in Ruston, La.

RUSTON, LA., April 25.—To promote an interest in music among children and to create a demand for better music in the public schools of this section an orchestra of children has been formed at this place. This work was undertaken by H. D. Wilson, director of music in the State School located here. He is assisted by his daughters, Frances and Mary, teachers in the local high school, and by Berdie Nelson. None of the children are above the ninth grade in school. They meet twice each week for an hour. Outside practice is not required. On a few occasions they have been permitted to play in public to encourage them and advertise the movement. They have appeared with success before the Louis Moreau Gottschalk Music Club. H. D. W.

#### Wylie Aiding Columbus Y. M. C. A.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, April 28.—The campaign of the local Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. to raise funds has enlisted the services of William H. Wylie, tenor, of Cambridge, as director of the musical programs which are being featured. With the aid of home talent, Mr. Wylie, who is secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Cambridge, has arranged interesting lists.

Fair grounds auditorium on Monday night, to hear Galli-Curci. The singer opened the program with a couple of old English songs, and included in her list "Ah, fors' è lui" from "Traviata" and the Mad Scene from "Lucia." C. M. C.



## EUGENE YSAYE

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GENTLEMEN: January 24, 1921

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(Signed) E. YSAYE

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