

MUSICAL AMERICA

Vol. XXXIV. No. 13 NEW YORK

EDITED BY *John C. Freund*

JULY 23, 1921

\$3.00 per Year
15 Cents per Cop y

COMPOSERS FORM GUILD TO BRING NEW WORKS TO PUBLIC HEARING

"International Composers" Adopted as Title of New Organization Directed by Edgar Varèse — Will Present Programs of Modern Works Featuring Creative and Not Interpretative Artists — Four Concerts Are Planned for New York Next Season—Salzedo to Aid Director to Select Compositions for Performance — Manifesto Explaining Aims of Society to Be Issued—Many Composers Join, and Energetic Membership Campaign Will Be Pressed—Men Who Represent the Spirit of the Present Day Wanted, Says Varèse

WITH the purpose of assisting modern composers to obtain public hearings of their works, the International Composers' Guild has been organized, under the leadership of Edgar Varèse. The Guild will give concerts devoted to the unperformed works of its members, the compositions rather than the interpreters being featured at the performances.

The Guild plans to present four concerts in New York next season, once a month on Sunday evenings, and programs of manuscript works by the leading modern writers will be presented. Thus far the place of the performances has not been announced, but it is said that a prominent manager in New York has offered the use of his theater gratis.

The membership list of the society shows many imposing writers, but the names will not be made public until the list is complete. Edgar Varèse, the director of the society, is considered one of the most radical of modern French composers. His executive committee consists of Adam Gimbel, Benjamin F. Glazer, Maurice J. Speiser, Charles Recht, Mrs. William Shepherd, Mrs. Louise Norton, Carlos Salzedo and Dr. Moritz Jagendorf. The programs are to be in charge of Mr. Varèse and Carlos Salzedo.

The Guild is now making a campaign to enlist members. There will be three classes—life, sustaining, and associate members. Composers who join become charter members and no dues are levied upon them.

To Issue Manifesto

The following manifesto is to be sent out by the organization in its membership campaign:

"The composer is the only one of the creators of to-day who is denied direct contact with the public. When his work is done he is thrust aside, and the inter-



Photo by Mishima

HEINRICH GEBHARD

Boston Pianist Who Is Spending the Summer on His Massachusetts Farm, After Concluding a Successful Concert Season. (See Page 8)

preter enters, not to try to understand the composition but impertinently to judge it. Not finding in it any trace of the conventions to which he is accustomed, he banishes it from his programs, denouncing it as incoherent and unintelligible.

"In every other field the creator comes into some form of direct contact with his public. The poet and novelist enjoy the medium of the printed page; the painter and sculptor, the open doors of a gallery; the dramatist, the free scope of a stage. The composer must depend upon an intermediary, the interpreter.

"It is true that in response to public

demand, our official organizations occasionally place on their programs a new work surrounded by established names. But such a work is carefully chosen from the most timid and anemic of contemporary productions, leaving absolutely unheard the composers who represent the true spirit of our time.

"Dying is the privilege of the weary. The present day composers refuse to die. They have realized the necessity of banding together and fighting for the right of each individual to secure a fair and free presentation of his work. It is out

[Continued on page 6]

CHICAGO FLOCKS TO RAVINIA PARK AS MORE OPERAS SWELL LONG LIST

Fourteen Works Presented in First Three Weeks of Season at Favorite Summer Resort — First "Bohème" Given with Brilliance—"Tosca" Also Added to Répertoire — Illness of Hackett Cancels "Romeo et Juliette" — Marie Sundelius, Anna Fitziu, Florence Macbeth, Alice Gentle, Frances Peralta, Margery Maxwell, Philine Falco, Kingston, Chamlee, Stracciari, Rotherier, Hackett, d'Angelo, Ananian, Picco and Paltrinieri Sing—Papi Is a Busy Conductor.

CHICAGO, July 18.—During the first three weeks of the open-air opera season at Ravinia fourteen different operas have been presented, bearing eloquent testimony to the variety and scope of the activity of this popular organization. The past week witnessed several repetitions, "Lucia," "Rigoletto," "Bohème" and "Trovatore" being given second performances.

The fame of the unique north shore resort, sponsored by Louis Eckstein and his colleagues, has become so widespread that it is now no unusual thing to observe in the huge audiences that attend each performance visitors whose activities and reputation are worldwide.

First "Bohème" Presented

The first "Bohème" of the season was given on July 9, with Marie Sundelius as *Mimi*, Morgan Kingston as *Rodolfo*, Margery Maxwell as *Musetta*, Riccardo Stracciari as *Marcello*, Leon Rotherier as *Colline*, Louis D'Angelo as *Schaunard*, Paolo Ananian in the double guise of *Benoit* and *Aleindoro*, and Giordano Paltrinieri as *Parpignol*. Papi conducted. The four male principals made much of the humor of the first act, singing with fire and acting with buoyancy. As staged at Ravinia the second act, with its difficult street scene, became an effective artistic and musical ensemble. The choristers sang admirably.

The *Mimi* of Miss Sundelius proved to be a fine conception and her upper voice was unusually telling, soaring above the orchestra with sure intonation and golden quality. Margery Maxwell invested the rôle of *Musetta* with sparkling comedy and sang the "waltz song" in a manner indicative of decided vocal growth. Mr. Kingston's singing revealed soft mezzotints of color, and there was a gratifying ease in his voicing of *Rodolfo's* "Narrative." Stracciari's ringing baritone gave evident pleasure, as did the smoothness of his acting. Louis d'Angelo and Leon Rotherier did admirably as the other

[Continued on page 6]

In This Issue

"Wild Audiences I Have Known," Told by a Veteran Critic.....	5
London Revels in Riotous Colors of Spain.....	9
Blazing a Trail for the Misunderstood Harp.....	13
A Boy Soprano Who Is Baffling Musicians.....	19
Paris Unfolds the "Dance of Silence".....	27