

THE CRITIC TALKS TO MUSIC LOVERS Weekly Comment on Things Musical in Discriminating Philadelphia

THE recent address of Mr. Gatti-Casazza, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera Company, to the opera-going public of Philadelphia, was one of the most interesting things which the present season has brought forth.

There are one or two elements in the operatic situation here of which Mr. Gatti-Casazza seems not to have taken cognizance. One of them, perhaps the most important, is that we get sixteen performances a season against something like 140 for New York.

Mr. De Gomez came here three years ago to become a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra, taking the position in the orchestra formerly held by Hans-Hugo Witt.

With Frederic Cook he organized the Civic Opera String Quartet, which today, with Andre Maignan and Anton Marquetti, still makes up so favorably an impression at the Candler Music Association's last concert.

Exactly the same situation prevails on the concert side. In addition to certain operas those given each year are on the program with a fair representation of all good operatic schools, and the "series" are placed in their respective frameworks, there are not many performances left out of a season of six to ten evenings in which to give novelties.

There is still another element which enters into the question. Opera is probably the most expensive indoor sport in the world. It takes \$5 to get a thoroughly good seat from which all can be seen and heard distinctly, and \$5 in these days of high taxes and problematic incomes is a lot of money to spend on an entertainment of the merits of which the attendant is uncertain.

This is one of the reasons why the old favorites still draw best, and it is the absolute reason for the "star" system, which more than any other thing stands in the way of opera at prices at which every lover of music might attend frequently.

Then, again, the mental attitude of Philadelphia is different from that of New York, not only in more material things, but also in art matters. In New York a thing need only be new to attract as many persons as can get in; its merit is a comparatively insignificant matter.

During the present season the Chicago Opera Company was in Philadelphia for a week of performances and the experience of this company bears out the foregoing assertions.

Both of which fell flat in point of attendance, while the old "Barber of Seville" and the equally aged "Lucia di Lammermoor" filled the Academy to the doors.

Philadelphia, Boston and other more critical communities. New York's first and often only question is "Is it new?" Philadelphia's is "Is it worth while?"

For its success, the music alone is not great enough to carry it. WHAT the writer presents in Mr. Gatti-Casazza's statement is the summation of the Philadelphia musical public does not care for new works whether they are of a high order of merit or not.

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PHILADELPHIA'S FOREMOST THEATRES BROAD MAT TODAY TONIGHT Last Times—MR. DITRICHSTEIN in "THE MARQUIS DE PRIOLA"

MR. LEO DITRICHSTEIN FIRST TIME IN PHILADELPHIA A BRILLIANT COMEDY OF THE THEATRE

"THE MATINEE HERO" BY LEO DITRICHSTEIN AND A. E. THOMAS MONDAY, MAY 5—SEATS THURSDAY DAVID BELASCO Presents

"TIGER ROSE" WITH LENORE ULRIC AND ORIGINAL CAST COHAN and HARRIS PRESENT THEIR NEWEST SUCCESS

THE CAVE GIRL A MODERN COMEDY BY GEORGE MIDDLETON WITH LOLA FISHER AND AN INCOMPARABLY FINE CAST INCLUDING MARY NEWCOMB

FRED STONE AMERICA'S GREATEST ENTERTAINER CHARLES DILLINGHAM Presents

"JACK O' LANTERN" By Anne Caldwell and R. H. Burnside—Music by Ivan Caryll

ADELPHI First Time Monday Evening at 8:15 Matinee Thursday and Saturday at 2:15 Matinee Saturday, Best Seats \$1.50

LYRIC BROAD ABOVE ARCH ST. 2ND WEEK OF THE SEASON'S BIGGEST FUN HIT POP. MAT. WED. Best Seats, \$1.00

PARLOR BEDROOM and BATH FLORENCE MOORE MOVING After 6 Capacity Weeks at the Adelphi Theatre

CHESTNUT ST. OPERA HOUSE Where seats may be had—Nights, 8 to 11—Mats. 2 to 5

SAM S. SHUBERT THEATRE Broad & Locust Sts. 2nd Month, Beginning Monday Evening, of The Biggest Musical Hit of the Year!

Forrest FRIDAY AFTERNOON May 2 AT 2 O'CLOCK SHARP ALL STAR Benefit Matinee

ORPHEUM Matinee Today, 10:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 10:15. Eve., 8:15, 10:15, 12:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 10:15.

W.M. PENN. SALE BEGINS MONDAY at 1108 Chestnut Street

GALLI-CURCI Peerless in Florid Song

GRAND FASHIONS A La Carte

Adelphi Broad Below Race St. Mat. Today, Thurs. & Sat. at 2:20

MARY PICKFORD in "Capt. Kidd, Jr."

HODGE "A CURE FOR CURABLES"

WOODSIDE Philadelphia's Leading Park OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Forrest LAST MAT. & EVG. THE MASK & WIG CLUB

ROSELAND Exhibition DANCERS and EXTRAORDINARY NOVELTIES

TROCADERO Home of Refined Entertainment

OWN YOUR HOME EXPOSITION FIRST REGIMENT ARMORY

CAVETY MISCHEF MAKERS