

Fans To Hear Verdi Opera Sung In English

Opera lovers will be able to enjoy "La Traviata" in English when the Turnau Opera Company of New York performs in Plymouth this month.

The company's Plymouth performance is set for 4 p.m. Sunday, March 11, with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Wayne Dunlap. It will be in the auditorium of Plymouth-Salem High School, located on Joy Road west of Canton Center Road.

Tickets are on sale at the Tape and Record Center, 770 Pennington; Saxtons Garden, Center, 537 W. Ann Arbor Trail; and Heide's, Harvey and Ann Arbor Trail. They are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

The company of 10 includes singers, stage manager and the musical director. It originated in 1955 with a group of former students of the late Prof. Josef Turnau.

At the end of its first season, it was asked to become the resident company in the Byrdcliffe Theater, Woodstock, N.Y.

Since then, the Turnau Opera Company has been dedicated to presenting opera as it is meant to be, a complete unit of dramatic and musical values.

In Woodstock, the company has presented a summer season since 1956, and it has presented a winter season in the Ringling Museum's Asolo Theater since 1960.

During these seasons, the company prepares and polishes its operas. A group of some of America's finest young musicians, many of them performers with major opera houses, is then sent on tour with a highly-polished production.

Verdi's "La Traviata" is based on Alexander Dumas' "La Dame Aux Camellias." Verdi's heroine is called Violetta and her lover is Alfredo, who persuades her to give up her wild life as a courtesan. The action takes place in and near Paris in the 1840s, and the music is rich in contrasts, the gaiety of the Parisian life and set against the tragedy of Violetta's impending death.

The Turnau Company presented "The Barber of Seville" with the Plymouth Symphony in 1964.

Mrs. Roger Zerby, 1034 Homestead, Plymouth, is accepting mail orders for tickets.

Donald Morelock of the music department of Schoolcraft College will conduct a repertoire class at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 1.

The class is for students of members of the Livonia Piano Teachers Forum. Intermediate through early advanced literature will be performed.

Forum meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, and membership is open to all piano teachers in the western suburban area.

Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Mrs. Jean Candlish, 11406 Blackburn, Livonia, for a reservation.

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VIOLETTA'S Parisian friends look on as she and Alfredo play out their doomed romance in "La Traviata." The popular Verdi opera is being presented Sunday, March 11, by the Plymouth Symphony and the Turnau Opera Company of New York.

'Oklahoma' Is Playing In Rosedale Gardens

The musical, "Oklahoma," is being presented this weekend in Rosedale Gardens United Presbyterian Church, Hubbard and W. Chicago, Livonia.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 3, and at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 4. Tickets should be reserved by calling the church.

"Oklahoma" is one of a continuing series of musical events sponsored by the church's music and fine arts committee.

Martha Kuykendall is the director. Cast members are Kathleen Wagner as Aunt Eller; Bill Dunphy as Curley; Marilyn Hirtzel as Laurey; and Stephen Wright as Will Parker. Also in the cast are Henry Fuchs, Jeanne Stanley, Nathan Kucenden, Karen Atkins, John Hirtzel, Jim Hamilton, Guy Runyan and Gordon Fritzel.

Shirley E. Harden and Judy Haas are the piano accompanists. Orchestra members are Leo Sawicki, banjo; Lisa Brey, violin; Kathy Trisch, flute; and Bruce Vincent, drums.

The ensemble members are Cheryl Coleman, Julie Delany, Caroline Dunphy, Judi Harden, Marilynne Hard, Rebecca Homnis, Sandi Hillier, Susan Hirtzel, Jean Hopp, Jim Kivell.

Also Alan Martens, Tim McCloskey, Jill Pierce, Cheri Prentice, Bettie Runyan, Leslie Spencer, Jane Suarez, Tracey Thomas, Sandy Trisch, George Valance, Amy Vincent, Cindy Vincent, Colleen Vincent and Elaine Vincent.

Jim Beumler, Steve Beumler, John Beumler, Greg Dunphy, Rick Hirtzel and Jim Valance are on the technical and stage crew.

Other events in the series are concerts by the Alma College Choir March 18 and by Steven L. Egler, organist, March 23.

Martha Kuykendall is the director. Cast members are Kathleen Wagner as Aunt Eller; Bill Dunphy as Curley; Marilyn Hirtzel as Laurey; and Stephen Wright as Will Parker. Also in the cast are Henry Fuchs, Jeanne Stanley, Nathan Kucenden, Karen Atkins, John Hirtzel, Jim Hamilton, Guy Runyan and Gordon Fritzel.

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amusement Poet To Speak At Schoolcraft

Poet Daniel Hughes will make two appearances at Schoolcraft College on Tuesday, March 6.

At 3 p.m., he will discuss his poetry informally and will answer questions from the audience. At 8 p.m., he will read from his work.

Both appearances will be in the Liberal Arts Theater on the campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Both will be open to the public free of charge. His visit is being sponsored by the cultural and public affairs committee.

Dr. Hughes received his BA from the University of New Hampshire and his MA and PhD degrees from Brown University. He taught at Brown University.

Presently he is professor of English at Wayne State University, and specializes in courses in modern poetry and in the English Romantic poets.

His work, both poetry and literary criticism, has appeared in many magazines, academic journals and literary quarters.

His book of poems entitled "Walking in a Tree," was published in 1964.

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Stamp Show Is March 17, 18

The Birmingham Stamp Club will hold its 25th anniversary stamp exhibition and bourse on March 17 and 18 in the Birmingham Masonic Lodge, 357 N. Woodward. There is no admission charge.

It will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, and from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Sunday.

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Turf Tips, Quips

By Doc Minard

Herb Tyner and Bernie Hartman, the Southfield partners who purchased Hazel Park race track last fall, won't have to wait long to learn if their \$16.5 million gamble is going to pay off.

That's what they paid for the racing plant and they're gambling they can make a go of the suburban track in the face of national declines in attendance and wagering.

It will be recalled that Hazel Park and the Detroit Race Course have been their poorest seasons in years in 1972. Thus all track goes will be watching the progress of Hazel Park closely.

The east side plant opens the thoroughbred racing season next Friday, March 9 for 121 days ending on Saturday, July 28.

Tyner and Hartman already have won one gamble. They ordered the track stripped down to the base and a new racing strip installed. All appeared as until it was learned the new composition hadn't knitted as expected and all was a muddy, sticky mess.

So the parties ordered the job done right and infatigable horsemen the track would be available for workouts on Feb. 27. It took a lot of doing but the strip was ready for horses on that day. Whether it will stay together during the thaws and the usual spring rains is something else but Hazel Park has a racing strip and horses are using it.

Tyner and Hartman may not be experts in rebuilding tracks but they do know what people like to see and they have clean, attractive and comfortable. During the winter the entire Hazel Park grandstand has been cleaned and painted, and additional heating units installed and new, brighter lighting fixtures ordered in.

Present plans call for the track to present nine races on opening day and eight races each weekday through Friday, April 13.

Then beginning on Monday, April 16, the program will be extended to nine races daily with 10 on Saturdays and holidays.

"By then, the worst weather will have passed," said Director of Racing Bud Sears, "and stables shipping in from Louisiana, Florida and Arkansas will be here. We will have 10 races each Saturday and holiday from opening day with trifecta

betting on the third and last races each day.

In addition to the two trifectas, Hazel Park will have the daily double on the first two races and three perfectas, making a total of six gimmecks.

That's what the most important are the trifectas," explained Sears. "After seeing the way wagering dropped at Northville Downs after the track dropped the trifectas which were so popular at the Jackson meeting there, we knew that we had to give folks what they wanted. It's apparent that they like the trifectas more than any of the other gimmecks."

Hazel Park will have a post time of 3:20 p.m. daily and 2:10 p.m. post on Saturdays and holidays.

While Hazel Park is busy getting ready for the opening of the thoroughbred activities in Michigan, Wolverine Raceway on the west side of metropolitan Detroit in Livonia is equally as busy with its plans for opening night on Thursday, March 15.