



MUSIC TO MY EARS

Revised "Pagliacci," Home-Grown Armenian

THE OLD contention that there is no point in criticism because "it doesn't do any good anyway" doesn't seem quite applicable to Rudolph Bing and his conduct of affairs at the Metropolitan Opera. Earlier this season, it was noted, he gave up the presentation of the Howard Dietz version, in English, of "Boheme" (for no stated reason, though it is probable that he considered the objections to it valid). In addition, some of the questionable aspects of the staging by Joseph L. Mankiewicz have been amended, presumably in consideration of critical reaction.

More lately "Pagliacci" has come back to the repertory not in the skimpily "modern" production of 1950-1951 previously credited to Horace Armistead—with surroundings of what seemed to be a bombed-out cellar—but in the venerable design of Joseph Novak. This could never have been bombed, in or out, simply because it antedates the use of bombs in warfare. On the other hand, "Pagliacci" does too, so the bosky background and the country-fair foreground at least have harmony if not attractiveness in common.

It would be pleasant to say that the cast was equally or even more harmonious, but it was composed of earnest, hardworking people who never sang so well as to make one forget how they acted, nor ever acted so well as to make one forget how they sang. Leonard Warren has ample vocal power to be a splendid Tonio, but one does not know which half-wit part of the characterization to believe: the foolish fey part or the angry clod part. In any case it is mostly awkward and largely unconvincing, for all the wealth of sound he produces. Ramon Vinay's Canio is intense but vocally constrained, while Lucine Amara has too much unrefined power and not enough refined agility to give the music of Nedda its due. Renato Capocchi, as Silvio, was the only member of the cast to sound about as he should, and act accordingly. The preceding "Cavalleria" was mostly Milanov and Miller (Lola). Kurt Baum sang Turiddu, with Frank Valentino as Alfio. Alberto Erede conducted both. Soberly.

In consideration, no doubt, of his local residence (Bryn Athyn, Pa.) Eugene Ormandy offered an "Armenian" suite of the American-born

Richard Yardumian at the most recent visit of the Philadelphia Orchestra to Carnegie Hall. The coloration of the work is explained by the composer in terms of childhood influence transmitted by both parents from their native land. Cast in such forms as "Dance," "Song," "Lullaby," "Prayer to Dawn," etc., the seven sections have an artless charm worthy of cultivation, but hardly the musical substance to merit the attentions of the great orchestra. Mr. Yardumian's model was pretty plainly the Ravel transcription of Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exposition," but Ravel came off better than Moussorgsky.

THE program also offered a performance of the Franck symphony which, apparently, is not among the things Mr. Ormandy is inclined to give up for Lent. His form of penance was to give it the most searching, detailed presentation in terms of texture, balances, and sonority I have heard in a considerable time. By this intensive kind of squads-right-to-the-rear-march, Ormandy managed to keep the attention of the players on what they were doing—no small task in a score of this familiarity—in a performance of remarkable pliability and nuance. At the end, however, one could question whether it was all worth it, for the work does not improve with repetitions—especially those Franck wrote into it. The program also included the Beethoven "Emperor" with Rudolf Firkušny as soloist.

In addition to trying his hand with such relatively familiar works as Strauss's "Death and Transfiguration," Ravel's "Bolero," and the Cherubini symphony (in D), Guido Cantelli utilized a recent Philharmonic-Symphony series, and broadcast, to investigate two works of Ferruccio Busoni. Neither was on the large scale of his more aspiring pieces (such as the violin concerto which Joseph Szigeti, who happened to be the guest speaker on the intermission panel with James Fasset, is going to play again next winter, after a long silence), but each had some pertinent facts to dispense about the creator.

In the "Berceuse-Elegiaque" (written to commemorate the death of his mother, who was also his only piano teacher), Busoni evolves a sonorous pattern which, oddly enough, turns out to be more an intellectual exercise than a powerfully impelled, emotionally motivated expression of grief. In the "Dance-Waltz," inscribed to the memory of Johann Strauss (it was begun a little before Ravel's "La Valse" but finished in 1921, a year later than the Frenchman's effort), Busoni incorporates a kind of *morbidezza* rather at variance with the unfettered sensuousness of the Viennese (*morbidezza*, in musical usage, is defined as "luxurious delicacy.")

One could hardly base a definitive view of Busoni's status as a composer on these works, but one could relate a kind of indefinite personality to the lack of strong focus in his own development. Italian-born, but partially Germanic in parentage, he spent some of his formative years in this country before settling on Berlin as a base of operations. If there is an authentic Busoni personality in the works he created, it did not emerge from these scores despite the more than conscientious effort of Cantelli.

—IRVING KOLODIN.

What Is Man?

By Louise Townsend Nicholl

DAVID who stood among the stars and played
Was the most blessed of all born into nature,
The cypress lute to which his hand was laid
Sounding Thy counterpoint of earth and creature.
His utmost question, "What is man, that Thou
Art mindful of him?" from its deep adoring
Finds in himself the endless answer now:
Wonder articulate in full outpouring.

Circled by quiet of an island night,
With ocean's music fretted on the land,
I too consider how Thy stars are bright
But in this high creation mutely stand
Crowned with a glory and a worship fervid
Beyond all words except the words of David.

SR's World Travel Calendar

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Alaska

- SALMON DERBIES (Ketchikan, June 1-10; Juneau, July 10-20).
 INDEPENDENCE DAY (Throughout the Territory, July 4): Blanket tosses, tribal dances, fireworks, kayak races.
 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL (Haines, July 5-10): Shortcake-eating contests, athletic contests, barbecues, war dances.

Austria

- CORPUS CHRISTI (Hallstatt, June 17): Procession of decorated boats.
 VIENNA MUSIC FESTIVAL (Vienna, June 1-20): State Opera, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, State Theatre.
 SONGFEST (Klagenfurt, June 11-14): National Austrian Singing Society Festival.
 BIKE RACE (Throughout Austria, July 9-17): Annual All-Around Austria meet.
 MASSED BANDS (Innsbruck, July 10): Some 200 musicians in national costume perform.
 BREGENZ FESTIVAL (Bregenz, July 24-Aug. 15): "Die Fledermaus," "Hamlet," ballet, concerts.
 SALZBURG FESTIVAL (Salzburg, July 25-August 30): "Everyman," "Der Freischütz," "Cosi fan tutte," "Don Giovanni," "Ariadne auf Naxos," Mozart concerts, etc.

Britain

- SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL (Stratford-Upon-Avon, June 1-Oct. 30): The 95th season.
 ROYAL TOURNAMENT (London, June 2-29).
 THE DERBY (Epsom Downs, June 5).
 ANTIQUE FAIR (London, June 9-24).
 TROOPING THE COLOR (London, June 10): The Queen's official birthday; big public ceremony at Horse Guards Parade.
 MUSIC FESTIVALS (Bath, June 1-5; Aldeburgh, June 12-20; Glyndebourne, June 10-July 27, tentative; British Contemporary Music, Cheltenham, July 3-17; International Music Eisteddfod, Llangollen, Wales; Dolmetsch Festival of Early English Music, Haslemere, July 17-24; Folk Dance Festival, Stratford-Upon-Avon, July 31-Aug. 14).
 MYSTERY PLAYS FESTIVAL (York, June 13-July 4).
 ROYAL ASCOT (Ascot, June 15-18): Big social event; royalty usually present.
 TENNIS (Wimbledon, June 21-July 3): All-England Lawn Tennis Championship.
 ROYAL REGATTA (Henley, June 30-July 3): American teams usually take part.
 GOLF (Southport, July 5-9): British Open.
 INTERNATIONAL SOARING CHAMPIONSHIP (Great Hucklow, July 20-Aug. 4).

Canada

- INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (Toronto, June 1-11).
 NATIONAL AIR SHOW (Toronto, June 12).
 SHAKESPEAREAN FESTIVALS: (Stratford, June 28-Aug. 21): "Measure for Measure," "Oedipus Rex," "Taming of the Shrew," with James Mason in first two; (Toronto, July 5-31): Earle Grey Players to present "Macbeth," "As You Like It," "Twelfth Night."
 STAMPEDE (Calgary, July 5-10).
 INDIAN DAYS (Banff, July 15-18).
 RELIGIOUS FEAST (Ste. Anne de Beaupré, Quebec, July 26).
 EMPIRE GAMES (Vancouver, B.C., July 31-Aug. 7): Top athletes of British Empire to participate.

Denmark

- VIKING FESTIVAL (Frederikssund, June 15-26): Pageant with cast of 400.
 HAMLET FESTIVAL (Elsinore, June 18-27): Richard Burton, Claire Bloom to head cast from Old Vic.
 REGATTAS: (Copenhagen, June 19, 20; Svendborg, July 22-26; Silkeborg, Aug. 21).

- MIDSUMMER (Nationwide, June 23, 24).
 U. S. INDEPENDENCE DAY (Rebild Park and Aalborg, July 4): Celebration in park provided by Americans.
 ASPHALT BALL (Nykobing, July 18).

Finland

- SIBELIUS FESTIVAL (Helsinki, June 10-18): The Sibelius symphonies, violin concerto, solo songs.
 LUMBERJACKS' CHAMPIONSHIP (Rovaniemi, June 24).
 SPORTS MEETS (Helsinki): Workers' Athletic Festival, June 25-27; Marathon Championship, July 25.
 DRAMA FESTIVAL (Nurmijarvi, July 17).

France

- MUSIC FESTIVALS (Marseille, June 1-7 (ballet); Casals Festival, Prades, June 7-20; Fontainebleau, June 11-20; Strasbourg, June 11-20; Angers, June 13-20; Arras, June 16-20; Lyon-Charbonnières, June 18-July 8; Bourges, June 25-27; Arles, July 1-11; Toulon, July 2-15; Aix-en-Provence, July 10-30; Avignon, July 15-27; Perpignan, July 20-Aug. 10; Evian, July 25-Aug. 3; Orange, July 31-Aug. 6; Aix-les-Bains, Aug. 1-10; Monton, Aug. 3-15; Vaison La Romaine, Aug. 27-30; Besançon, Sept. 8-12).
 FOUNTAIN DISPLAYS (Versailles, June 6, 20, 27, July 11, 18).
 D-DAY ANNIVERSARY (Annelles, St. Mere Eglise, June 6): Salute 10th Anniversary of landings in World War II.

Germany

- MUSIC FESTIVALS (World Music Festival, Düsseldorf, June 1-17; operettas, Koblenz, June 28-Sept. 12; Wagner Festival, Bayreuth, July 22-Aug. 22; Opera Festival, Munich, Aug. 12-Sept. 9).
 AUTO RACES (Travemunde, June 3-6).
 PAGEANT (Rothenburg, June 5-7): Presentation of the historic "Master Draught."
 FILM FESTIVAL (Berlin, June 18-29).
 GERMAN DERBY (Hamburg, July 4): Horse race.
 "DER KINDERZECH" (Dinkelsbühl, July 16-25): Play based on episode in Thirty Years War.
 HISTORIC PLAY (Straubing, July, Aug.).
 GRAND WEEK (Baden Baden, Aug. 25-31).

Hawaii

- KAMEHAMEHA DAY (Throughout Territory): Parades, feasts, pageants honor Islands' first king.
 49th STATE FAIR (Honolulu, June 25-July 5).
 HUKILAU (Oahu, June 26): Fishing festival.
 DISTRICT FAIRS (Kona and Naalehu, July 3-5).
 BON DANCING (Buddhist Shrines, July 3, 4; 10, 11; 17, 18; 24, 25).

Holland

- HOLLAND FESTIVAL (Amsterdam, The Hague, Scheveningen, June 15-July 15): "Otello," "The Magic Flute," choral concerts by Netherlands Bach Society, ballet, drama.
 CHEESE MARKET (Alkmaar, June-Sept.): Public sales on Fridays.

Israel

- MUSIC FESTIVAL (Haifa, June 1-8): Israel Philharmonic Orchestra to be featured.
 PENTECOST (Jerusalem and Mt. of Beatitudes, June 6).
 FEAST OF WEEKS (Nationwide, June 7).
 FEAST OF ST. JOHN (Jerusalem, June 24).

Italy

- MAY FESTIVAL (Florence, June 1-20): Operas—Spontini's "Agnes of Hohenstaufen," Weber's "Euryanthe," Puccini's "Girl of the Golden West," etc.—and symphony concerts.
 JOUST OF THE SARAZEN (Arezzo, June 6).
 FLOWER CARPETS (Genzano, Ravello): June 17-20.

Norway

- BERGEN FESTIVAL (Bergen, June 1-15): Oslo Philharmonic, Vegh String Quartet, folk dancing, singing, Eugene Ormandy, Nathan Milstein, Jussi Bjorling, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf.
 MIDSUMMER (Nationwide, June 23, 24).
 SKI MEET (Stryn, July 1-5).
 YACHTING WEEK (Oslofjord, July 1-7).

Portugal

- FIESTA (Amarante, June 5).
 FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY (Lisbon, June 12): Parades, dancing to honor saint born in Lisbon.
 FEAST OF ST. JOHN (Braga, Oporto, Evora, June 23, 24): Music, fireworks, fairs.
 "COLETE ENCARNADO" (Vila Franca de Xira, July 11): Red Waistcoat festival.

Spain

- CARNATION FESTIVAL (Sitges, June 6-20): Streets carpeted with flowers; climax at Corpus Christi festival.
 CORPUS CHRISTI (Nationwide, June 17).
 MUSIC, DANCE FESTIVAL (Granada, June 21-July 2): Third international celebration.
 RUN OF THE BULLS (Pamplona, July 4-11).
 RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL (Santiago de Compostela, July 23-27): Little Holy Year, since the feast of St. James the Apostle falls on Sunday. Many pilgrimages.

Sweden

- STOCKHOLM FESTIVAL (Stockholm, June 2-9): Handel's "Orlando Furioso," ballet.
 FLAG DAY (Stockholm, June 6): Royal family usually takes part.
 MIDSUMMER (Nationwide, June 25, 26): Dancing, folk music.
 CHURCH BOAT RACE (Leksand, July 1-5).
 ALLEGORICAL PLAY (Leksand, July 10-20): "The Road to Heaven."
 OPERA (Froso, July 15): "Arnljot," about Viking era.
 "PETRUS DE DACIA," (Visby, July 20-Aug. 10): Operatic play about life of thirteenth-century monk.

Switzerland

- MUSIC, DANCING FESTIVALS (Narcissi Festival, with Rome Opera, Montreux, June 5-20; Rose Weeks, Geneva, June 9-24; Swiss Musicians, Basel, June 10-13; Federal Song Festival, St. Gau, June 25-29; Braunwald, July 12, 15; Engadine, July 20-Aug. 20).
 "HOSPES" (Berne, June 1-21): Swiss tourism, cookery exhibition.
 CORPUS CHRISTI (Einsiedeln, June 17).
 FILM FESTIVAL (Locarno, July 1-12).
 "WILLIAM TELL" (Interlaken, July 3, 11, 18, 22, 25, 29; Aug. 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 22, 29; Sept. 5).

USA

- MUSIC FESTIVALS (Summer Opera, St. Louis, Mo., June 3-Aug. 31; Philadelphia, Pa., June 11; Folk Song Festival, Ashland, Ky., June 13; Pacific Coast Festival, Santa Barbara, Cal., June 24-July 4; Central City, Colo., June 26-July 24; Aspen, Colo., June 28-Sept. 5; Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass., July-Aug. 15).
 —ROBERT MEYER, JR.

Further information may be obtained by writing World Calendar, The Saturday Review, 25 West 45th St., New York 36, N. Y.