

Al Chautauqua

'Carmen' To Open Opera Season

CHAUTAUQUA, N.Y.—The Chautauqua Opera Association, under the direction of Leonard Tresh, will stage "Carmen," its first opera this season, at 8:00 p.m. Friday and next Monday at Norton Hall.

Sometimes called "the perfect opera," "Carmen" will feature mezzo-soprano Joanna Simon, in the title role, tenor Nicholas de Virgilio as Don José and Chautauqua's chief solo artist, Julia Lovett, as Micaela. Baritone Ralph Griffin, the Barber of Seville last season, is Escamillo.

Based on the French novel by Prosper Mérimée, the fast-paced opera uses brilliant orchestration and dramatic use of local color to portray the fated story of Carmen and Don Juan. Included in the production is the famous "Habanera" song sung by Escamillo. "Flower Song," one of the most famous tenor songs, and Carmen's "Habanera" which describes her feelings about love.

The opera's choreography is by Salia Sabatini, head of the Chautauqua Dance Department. Joanna Simon, portraying the alluring gypsy, made her professional debut with the New York City Opera as Desdemona in "The Marriage of Figaro." In 1967, her performance as Desdemona in the world and New York premieres of Alberto Ginastera's "Bomarczo" vaulted her to success.

Another role written expressly for her, the lead in the world premiere of Thomas Pasatieri's "Black Widow" with the Seattle Opera earned her a page in Newsweek magazine.

For the past two seasons, she has appeared at the Salzburg Festival in Cavalieri's "Représentation de l'Antinoë et d'Oran" and in concert with Herbert von Karajan. She is a regular performer in summer music festivals such as Ravinia, Tanglewood, the Hollywood Bowl and Saratoga and has appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. Griffin, Johnny Carson, and Dick Cavetti shows and What's My Line.

One of the latest additions to her operatic repertoire is Boulez's "Le Désert de Rossini" which she recently performed with the New York Philharmonic, under the direction of Leonard Bernstein.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Nicholas de Virgilio began his early training with the Metropolitan Opera Studio and the National Company of the Metropolitan Opera. After appearing in 1963 at the Tanglewood Music Festival, he was chosen for the leading role in Britten's "War Requiem" and performed in the American premiere with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

During the same year, he was selected to sing at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Mass at Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston. After appearing for two seasons with the San Francisco Opera Company, De Virgilio made his European debut in 1968 in a new production of "Carmen" at the Brussels Treaty de la Monnaie. In 1969, he made his Metropolitan Opera debut portraying B.F. Babbalanza in "Madama Butterfly," a role he is slated to perform at Chautauqua August 3 and 6.

Julia Lovett, a native of Savannah, Georgia, where she began piano studies, graduated with honors in 1971 from the Eastman School of Music. She became leading soprano with the Eastman Opera Theater and in 1971 made her debut with the Chautauqua Opera Company as Sophie in "Der Rosenkavalier."

Later that season, Miss Lovett portrayed Tuptim in "The King and I" and, in 1972, Susanna in "Figaro" and Marenka in "The Bartered Bride." Later this season, she is slated to appear in "Madama Butterfly."

A popular performer at Chautauqua last year, Ralph Griffin earned his Bachelor of Music degree at North Texas State University. In 1970, he studied opera in Stuttgart, West Germany, as a Fulbright Scholar of Music.

He has debuted in recital appearances in Los Angeles and West Germany in addition to radio and television appearances in Hollywood, Chicago, New York and Belgium, Brussels.



Julia Lovett

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Also scheduled to appear in "Madama Butterfly," Griffin has been a favorite at Chautauqua, portraying Demetrius in "A Midsummer Nights Dream," Kinsasha in "The Bartered Bride" and Figaro in "The Barber of Seville" in 1972.

Tickets for the reserved seats may be purchased at the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, Trotter and Dilks in Warren, Pa., the Norton Hall Box Office at the University of Buffalo Campus, the Winter Company in Erie and the Weatherlane in Olean, N.Y.



Joanna Simon

GOREN ON BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
The Crown Thru North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
▲ K J 107
♦ 10 9 8 7
♥ A 3
♠ 9 8 6 4 2

EAST
▲ A 3
♦ 10 9
♥ K 8 6 4 2
♠ 9 8 5

SOUTH
▲ 4
♦ A K 6 4 3
♥ A K 8 7 4
♠ A K 8 7 4

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

Ideally, the game of bridge should be played at an even tempo, with all bids and plays made at the same speed. Unfortunately, we are humans, not computers, and there are times when we must pause to consider the situation. East failed to do so on this deal, and the result was costly to his side.

West's suit is rather ragged for an overall, but the vulnerability was in his favor. He felt he could hardly come to much harm as any penalty would probably be offset by the value of what his opponents could make. Had South chosen to bid three clubs as a game try, three no trump might have been bid and made, but he felt that his distribution and two good suits warranted a leap to the major suit.

West led the ace of diamonds, and East showed his approval by signaling with the nine. West continued the suit to dummy's jack and

Generalized Itching

By Dr. T.R. Van Dellen

Generalized itching is a common and difficult sensation with which to contend. The problem is compounded when there is no rash or outward evidence of irritation. It is a symptom that is more easily controlled when confined to a single area such as the scalp, feet or anus. Antihistamine and cortisone-like ointments, creams and lotions are by far the most consistently effective remedies. Antihistamine tablets also are available. Calamine lotion, menthol powder, and camphor also are helpful.

Aspirin is one of our favorites, provided it does not cause bleeding under the skin or in the stomach. It relieves localized and generalized itching in much the same way as it causes pain. The nerve fibers that transmit pain sensations also transmit the feelings of skin irritation. Now and then, a pain reliever, such as aspirin, a sedative is helpful, since the latter helps to relax the individual.

Certain skin abnormalities produce itching. Dryness, one of the most prevalent, is common, especially in older persons. And more so, among those who take tranquilizers. Applications of cream or oil are helpful. Urticaria (hives) is more irritating because the swollen wheals contain histamine, an extremely irritating chemical. This is true whether the lesions stem from allergy to seafood or mosquito bites.

Pediculosis, a parasitic disease, serves as a good example of why finding the cause is the best remedy for itching. Once the causative agent is removed, the itching stops.

However, it is not always this easy. For example, itching may be the external manifestation of

a systemic disease involving certain liver and kidney disorders, internal malfunctions, including Hodgkin's disease and metabolic, neurologic and psychomotor disturbances. For this reason, persistent itching physicians often suggest a complete examination including laboratory tests, even when there is no rash or dryness.

TOMORROW: Teltale murmurs

Questions on medical topics will be answered by mail if stamped, self-addressed envelope accompanies request.

ABRAHAMIA
A reader writes: What is meant by the psychological cure of war? **REPLY**
Cure by suggestion is one of the major medical mysteries. Tell the child with an air of great confidence that the wart will go away if the rabs it with a kernel of corn, potato peeling, or whatever food, if usually pass away.

IRON PILLS
Y.W. writes: Do iron pills cause black stools? **REPLY**
Yes. Only a small percentage of iron taken by mouth is absorbed by the stomach and intestines. The remainder passes unchanged.

PSORIASIS
A reader writes: Is pemphigus caused by a germ? **REPLY**
The cause of this disorder is not known. Large water blisters develop over the skin, but these are external manifestations of an internal abnormality. This explains why the condition is serious and outwore process the sores.

PULSE WHILE HOWLING
A reader writes: Is a pulse of 130 normal while howling? **REPLY**
Yes, providing the rate

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