

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

Charles A. Sink, President

Thor Johnson, Guest Conductor

Lester McCoy, Associate Conductor

First Concert

1954-1955

Complete Series 3138

Ninth Annual Extra Concert Series

ELEANOR STEBER, *Soprano*

JAMES QUILLIAN *at the Piano*

SUNDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 10, 1954, AT 8:30

HILL AUDITORIUM, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

PROGRAM

Donna Anna's Aria, "Non mir dir," from
Don Giovanni MOZART

Ständchen
Schlagende Herzen
Freundliche Vision
Du meines Herzen's Krönelein
Befreit } RICHARD STRAUSS

"Un bel di" from *Madama Butterfly*
Musetta's Waltz Song from *La Bohème*
"Vissi d'arte" from *Tosca* } PUCCINI

INTERMISSION

Villanelle
Absence
Zaïde } BERLIOZ

The Song of the Dew STRAVINSKY
Two Old American Songs Arr. AARON COPLAND
Long Time Ago (Ballad)
Simple Gifts (Shaker song)
Nancy Hanks KATHERINE K. DAVIS
Summer Evening ORVIS ROSS
I Saw the White Daisies KENT KENNAN

Columbia Masterworks Records

NOTE—The University Musical Society has presented Eleanor Steber on previous occasions, as follows: May 6, 1945; and May 1, 1952.

The Steinway is the official piano of the University Musical Society.

A R S L O N G A V I T A B R E V I S

PROGRAM NOTES

Donna Anna's Aria, "Non mi dir," from
Don Giovanni (Act II) MOZART

Don Ottavio gently chides his betrothed, Donna Anna, whose father has been slain by the Don, for postponing their wedding day, and she replies with this lovely aria—that she is not "cruel," he well knows that she loves him and that they will find happiness together.

Five Songs RICHARD STRAUSS

Ständchen (Serenade)—Open the door softly, that none may waken, with steps light as an elf's, run lightly to me in the moonlit garden. The nightingale shall dream of our kisses and the rose blush at our happiness.

Schlagende Herzen (Beating Hearts)—A youth, wandering over hill and dale while his heart beats loudly "Kling—Klang!" sings and gathers flowers. He dreams of his sweetheart, standing in the meadow, her heart, too, beating "Kling—Klang!" as she awaits him.

Freundliche Vision (Pleasant Vision)—I did not dream it; I saw it in broad daylight. A meadow full of daisies, a white house deep in verdure, and I am walking with one who loves me into the peace that awaits our coming.

Du meines Herzen's Krönelein (Thou, my heart's diadem)—Thou my heart's diadem of purest gold, outshining all others a thousand times. Thou art like the wild rose, unconscious of her loveliness, yet every passer-by must own her beauty.

Befreit (Released)—The husband comforts his wife as death draws near, "Oh, do not weep, my love! Bid me farewell and fondly kiss me. Leave our children with a mother's caress. Soon we shall both find release from sorrow."

Three Arias PUCCINI

Un bel di, from *Madama Butterfly*—Butterfly, who has been abandoned by Pinkerton, affirms her belief that some day he will return. One fine day a great ship will appear on the horizon—the boom of cannon will announce its arrival in the harbor . . . they will see *him* coming from a distance. Butterfly will hide for a moment just to tease him . . . he will call for her by the old names of endearment . . . so let fears be banished, for he will return, she knows it!

Musetta's Waltz Song, from *La Bohème*—Musetta coquettishly sings this charming waltz song to her lover, Marcel, who is sitting at a nearby table in the Café Momus. Without arousing the suspicions of her aged escort, she informs Marcel, with whom she quarreled, that she is still in love with him.

Vissi d'arte, from *Tosca*—Tosca, after saving her lover Cavaradossi, with a promise of herself to the wicked Scarpia, indulges in a passionate exposition of fate's cruelty. She has lived for music and love, never harmed a living thing, always aided the distressed, ever a fervent believer, her prayers offered to the saints—her recompense only sorrow and humiliation.

Three Songs BERLIOZ

Villanelle—It is spring; let us wander in the woods and tell each other of our love.

Absence—Return, beloved, for the flower of my life is faded without you and the world is waste.

Zaïde—"My city is Granada of the cool gardens, where Alladin's Palace rivals those of Cordova and Seville," sang the young Zaïde seated at the feet of the Queen. "Have

you no family, my child?" "Your affection is all my wealth, O my Queen. My father is this gentle sun, the Sierra my mother, and the stars my sisters." Yet in the night Zaïde wept. A cavalier spied the beauty, lifted her to his golden saddle. Granada, alas, is far away, but Zaïde still dreams of it.

The Song of the Dew STRAVINSKY

O mother earth, O dear one, O fruitful one, O brown one! The dingy hut is empty. Oh come celestial spirit, and bring us holy water; with faith we'll glean each droplet. We have lingered, we have languished, while our locks we plaited. Sad and weary, lonely pining, while we gleaned the dew drops. And at each cool drop we murmured and we sang in chorus, gently thrusting slender branches toward each other. Spinster shall remain a maiden. Would she be a bride? Bringest thou fine gifts, O maiden that wouldst be a bride? Blush not, show the mark so dainty that adorns thy nape. Blush not, give a cross of ash! Hear ye how in the yard proudly strutting, mounting guard, a fine cockerel crows high! Rustles spreading far and wide; soon, aye, soon, at eventide, each of you shall be a bride. A seat of earth well trodden, dull panes in every window, the dingy hut stands empty. He comes, the Holy Spirit, He casts o'er us His shadow. O sisters, praise the Maker!

Nancy Hanks—Abraham Lincoln's Mother
(Poem by Rosemary Benet) KATHERINE K. DAVIS

If Nancy Hanks came back as a ghost, Seeking news of what she loved most, She'd ask first, "Where's my son? What's happened to Abe? What's he done?" Poor little Abe, left all alone except for Tom, who's a rolling stone; he was only nine the year I died. I remember still how hard he cried. Scraping along in a little shack with hardly a shirt to cover his back, and a prairie wind to blow him down, or pinching times if he went to town. You wouldn't know about my son? Did he grow tall? Did he have fun? Did he learn to read? Did he get to town? Do you know his name? Did he get on?"

Summer Evening (Poem by R. H. Mottram) ORVIS ROSS

Down endless vistas of the evening cloud the golden shafting glitters, and the pomp of the day declines to wistful peace. The birds are still, and the human triflings cease. Folk are dispersed in garden, field, and lane, and the distant figures sprig the twilight plain. While, at high windows, voices low and mild are heard to hush softly the wakeful child. Calling his mother, inconsolable, a small boy weeps, but why, he cannot tell: "It is so lovely, lovely, and so far, the Heaven where you, and I, you say, must go. Empty—except one tiny evening star . . . Shall I find you there? Will the angels know?"

I Saw the White Daisies (Poem by Bliss Carman) KENT KENNAN

Over the shoulder and slope of the dune I saw the white daisies go down to the sea; a host in the sunshine, an army in June, the people God sends us to set our hearts free. The bobolink rallied them up from the dell, the oriole whistled them out of the wood—And all of their singing was "Earth, it is well!" And all of their dancing was "Life, life, thou art good!"

CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA OF AMSTERDAM, EDUARD
VAN BEINUM, *Conductor* Wednesday, October 27, 8:30 P.M.

Program: Symphony No. 4 BEETHOVEN
L'Après midi d'un faune DEBUSSY
Musique pour l'esprit en deuil ESCHER
Firebird Suite STRAVINSKY

CONCERTS

Extra Concert Series

ELEANOR STEBER, *Soprano* Sunday, October 10
CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA OF AMSTERDAM . Wednesday, October 27
EDUARD VAN BEINUM, *Conductor*
ROBERT SHAW CHORALE Monday, December 6
ISAAC STERN, *Violinist* Thursday, February 10
WALTER GIESEKING, *Pianist* Tuesday, March 22
Orchestras: \$3.50—\$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00—\$1.50
Other Concerts: \$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00—\$1.50

Choral Union Concert Series

THE SOCIETÀ CORELLI Friday, October 15
BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Wednesday, October 20
CHARLES MUNCH, *Conductor*
THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA Sunday, November 7
GEORGE SZELL, *Conductor*
JORGE BOLET, *Pianist* Monday, November 15
LEONARD WARREN, *Baritone* Sunday, November 21
VIENNA CHOIR BOYS Sunday, January 16
ZINO FRANCESCATTI, *Violinist* Monday, March 7
BERLIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Tuesday, March 15
WILHELM FURTWANGLER, *Conductor*
NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Sunday, May 22
DIMITRI MITROPOULOS, *Conductor*
Orchestras: \$3.50—\$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00—\$1.50
Other Concerts: \$3.00—\$2.50—\$2.00—\$1.50

Messiah

First Concert: Saturday, December 4, 8:30 P.M.
Repeat Concert: Sunday, December 5, 2:30 P.M.
LUCINE AMARA, *Soprano* CHARLES CURTIS, *Tenor*
LILLIAN CHOOKASIAN, *Contralto* DONALD GRAMM, *Bass*
UNIVERSITY CHORAL UNION AND ORCHESTRA
MARY MCCALL STUBBINS, *Organist*
LESTER MCCOY, *Conductor*

Tickets (either performance): 75 cents and 50 cents
On sale beginning October 15

Chamber Music Festival

BUDAPEST STRING QUARTET February 18, 19, 20, 1955
Season Tickets: \$3.50 and \$2.50; Single Concerts: \$1.75 and \$1.25
On sale beginning October 15

For tickets or for further information, please address: Charles A. Sink,
President, University Musical Society, Burton Memorial Tower.