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Opera Singers To Be In San Antonio Beginning Feb. 11

SAN ANTONIO.—A score of top-ranking opera singers will converge upon San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium, beginning Feb. 11, to sing leading roles in the four productions of the 1950 Grand Opera Festival, again under the guidance of Musical Director Max Reiter of the San Antonio Symphony.

Bizet's "Carmen" will open the sixth annual Festival, Saturday night, Feb. 11. Following will be "The Marriage of Figaro" in English, Sunday matinee, Feb. 12; "La Traviata", Saturday night, Feb. 18, and "Tristan and Isolde", Sunday matinee, Feb. 19.

Singing in "Carmen" will be Winifred Heidt in the title role; Ramon Vinay, Don Jose; Robert Merrill, Escamillo; Nadine Conner, Micaela and Frances Bible, Disere Ligeti, Dorothy MacNeil, Luigi Vellucci, Michael Rhodes and Lloyd Harris.

Dorothy Kirsten heads the "La Traviata" cast which also lists Giuseppe di Stefano as Alfredo; Giuseppe Valdengo as Germont;

Mary Kreste, Disere Ligeti, Dorothy MacNeil, Luigi Vellucci and Michael Rhodes.

Astrid Varnay and Max Lorenz will sing the title roles in "Tristan and Isolde", with Blanche Thebom as Brangaene; Marko Rothmueller as Kurvenal; Lorenzo Alvary as King Marke, and Michael Rhodes, Luigi Vellucci and Lloyd Harris.

The experienced, 100-voice San Antonio Chorus, Charles Stone, director, will lend breadth to the "Carmen" and "Traviata" performances, and the full San Antonio Symphony will be in the pit. Ruth Russell Matlock is choreographer for ballets in the Saturday night operas, and new sets have been designed by Marcel and Emile Robin for all productions.

Anthony L. Stivanello of New York will come for his sixth season as stage director.

The selection of operas for the 1950 Festival was based upon an extensive poll, conducted among some 21,000 Southwest opera fans who attended the 1949 Festival.

Tickets for the four operas — at \$1.50, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5, and \$6, including federal tax — are available at the Municipal Auditorium box office. Mail orders, accompanied by a check or money order, should be directed to Symphony Society of San Antonio, 916 Maverick Bldg.

Stars Of San Antonio's Opera Festival



Here are a dozen of the opera singers who will have leading roles in the Symphony Society of San Antonio's sixth annual Grand Opera Festival, which opens at Municipal Auditorium there Saturday night, Feb. 11. They are (top row, left to right) Winifred Heidt, title role in "Carmen"; Nadine Conner, as Micaela in "Carmen"; Giuseppe di Stefano Alfredo in "La Traviata"; Musical Director Max Reiter, founder of the famous Festival; Ramon Vinay, Don Jose in "Carmen"; Walter Cassel,

as the Count in "The Marriage of Figaro"; and Frances Yeond, his Countess. Centered are James Pease, who will sing the title role in "Figaro", and Max Lorenz, as Tristan in the great Wagnerian opera; (bottom row, left to right) Astrid Varnay, who will sing Isolde; Dorothy Kirsten, Violetta in "Traviata"; Virginia MacWatters, Susanna in "Marriage of Figaro", and Robert Merrill, the Toreador in "Carmen."