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NIEMAN

AUCTIONS AND ANTIQUES

CHRISTIE'S

Oct. 2-3 at 10 A.M.: The monthly "House Sale," two sessions aimed primarily at new collectors and featuring a wide range of furniture, paintings, drawings, rugs, and other decorative items. ♦ Oct. 4 at 10 A.M. and 2: The house auctions the Harvey Plotnick Library on the Development of Quantum Physics and the Theory of Relativity, a compendium of books, pamphlets, letters, and manuscripts by such figures as Einstein, Newton, Max Planck, and Pierre and Marie Curie. The highlight of the collection is the Einstein-Besso Working Manuscript, in which the great scientist and his close friend make an early attempt to prove the theory of relativity. (20 Rockefeller Plaza, at 49th St. 636-2000.)

DOYLE

Oct. 8 at 10 A.M.: Jewelry, watches, and objects of vertu. (175 E. 87th St. 427-2730.)

SWANN

Oct. 2 at 10:30 A.M.: Early printed books, including works from the fields of religion, law, literature, and philosophy. ♦ Oct. 2 at 2:30: Books on medicine, science, and natural history. Hieronymus Brunschwig's "Dis ist das Buch der Chirurgia," considered the first important surgical treatise in German to be printed, is a highlight of the sale. (104 E. 25th St. 254-4710.)

CLASSICAL MUSIC OPERA

METROPOLITAN OPERA

"Elektra," with Deborah Polaski, Karita Mattila, Mariana Lipovšek, Wolfgang Neumann, and Alan Held; James Levine conducts. (Oct. 2 and Oct. 5 at 8.) ♦ "La Cenerentola," with Sonia Ganassi, Joyce Guyer, Patricia Risley, Juan Diego Flórez, Alessandro Corbelli, Simone Alaimo, and John Relyea; Edoardo Müller. (Oct. 3 at 7:30 and Oct. 8 at 8.) ♦ Giordano's "Andrea Chénier," one of Plácido Domingo's favorite verismo vehicles, with Sylvie Valayre, Juan Pons, and Wendy White; Levine. (Oct. 4 at 8.) ♦ Franco Zeffirelli's production of "Turandot," with Andrea Gruber (in the title role), Hei-Kyung Hong, Vladimir Galouzine, and Hao Jiang Tian; Carlo Rizzi. (Oct. 5 at 1:30.) ♦ "Carmen," with Denyce Graves (in the title role), Mary Mills, Clifton Forbes, and Ludovic Tézier (making his debut, as Escamillo); Yves Abel. (Oct. 7 at 7:30.) (Metropolitan Opera House. 362-6000.)

NEW YORK CITY OPERA

The final performance of Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's "Dead Man Walking," with Joyce DiDonato, John Packard, Robert Orth, and Adina Aaron; John DeMain is the conductor. (Oct. 2 at 7:30.) ♦ "Don Giovanni," with Peter Volpe (in the title role), Twyla Robinson, Alison Buchanan, John Osborn, and Michael Wanko; Steven White conducts the Harold Prince production. (Oct. 3 and Oct. 8 at 7:30.) ♦ "Madama Butterfly," with Maria Gavrilova, Mika Shigematsu, Scott Piper, and Charles Robert Stephens; Brent McMunn conducts. (Oct. 4 at 8 and Oct. 6 at 7:30.) ♦ A new production of "Salomé" continues its run, featuring Eilana Lappalainen (in the title role), Linda Roark-Stummer, Richard Berkeley-Steele, Brandon Jovanovich, and Mark Delavan; George Manahan. (Oct. 5 at 1:30.) ♦ The house's sturdy John Copley production of "The Marriage of Figaro" returns for the season with some interesting casting choices, notably Nathan Berg as Figaro and Amy Burton as the Countess, both of whom excel as much in the finely spun craft of art song as they do in works for the lyric stage. Also with Ying Huang, Kirstin Chávez, Myrta Paris, Christopher Schaldenbrand, and Kevin Glavin; Steven Mosteller. (Oct. 5 at 8.) (New York State Theatre. 870-5570.)

DICAPPO OPERA

Not many people know that New York has a third professional opera company—which happens to be ensconced in a cushy modern theatre on the

Upper East Side. Dicapo's season begins with "L'Elisir d'Amore," staged by Michael Capasso and conducted by Elaine Rinaldi. (Dicapo Opera Theatre, 184 E. 76th St. 288-9438. Oct. 3-5 at 8 and Oct. 6 at 4.)

NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL: "GALILEO GALILEI"

Philip Glass's latest operatic pageant concerns the sixteenth-century scientist, whose support of Copernican planetary theory got him in so much trouble with the Catholic Church. (Mary Zimmerman wrote the libretto, with input from the composer and the redoubtable librettist Arnold Weinstein.) William Lumpkin conducts the Eos Orchestra; John Duykers heads the cast. (Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. 718-636-4100. Oct. 3-5 at 7:30. These are the final performances.)



Eilana Lappalainen sings the title role in "Salomé" at City Opera on Oct. 5.

AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

"THE EGYPTIAN HELEN"

Strauss's "Die Ägyptische Helena" is perhaps the roughest nut among his later operas: Hofmannsthal's libretto, about the married life of Helen of Troy, is not only bewildering but absurd (an omniscient seashell serves as one of the characters). Yet there is a lot of fine music, in the composer's lush and sparkling style, and the conductor Leon Botstein's concert airings of neglected operas have offered some pleasant surprises in the past. Making it more tempting is the assignment of Deborah Voigt to the title role; the other singers include the tenor Carl Tanner, the mezzo-soprano Jill Grove, and the baritone Christopher Robertson. (Avery Fisher Hall. 868-9276. Oct. 6 at 3.)

ORCHESTRAS AND CHORUSES

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Lorin Maazel's first season with the Philharmonic has gotten off to an impressive start: the conductor's all-Beethoven opening concert evinced not only his legendary command of detail but a noticeable affection for the music he led. His next subscription series finds him in what might be

trickier territory, that of the late-Romantic blockbuster: Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain," Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto (with the incandescent Lang Lang), and Sibelius's Symphony No. 2. He knows these pieces cold—but their passionate qualities need just as much attention as their surfaces. (Oct. 3 and Oct. 8 at 7:30, Oct. 4 at 2, and Oct. 5 at 8.) (Avery Fisher Hall. 875-5656.)

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Carnegie Hall begins its season with a trio of concerts by the magnificent Midwest ensemble. Oct. 2 at 7: Opening night, a program of Falla ("Nights in the Gardens of Spain") and Ravel (including "Rhapsodie Espagnole" and "Alborada del Gracioso") will not only be festive but will allow the C.S.O.'s music director, Daniel Barenboim, to exhibit his talents as both conductor and pianist. ♦ Oct. 3 at 8: The other two programs showcase German and modernist repertory, favorites of Barenboim's and areas in which the orchestra can show off its brains as well as its brawn. The first features music by Brahms (the First Piano Concerto, with Radu Lupu), Schoenberg, and Wagner. ♦ Oct. 4 at 8: Music by Bach, Boulez ("Orignel" from "...explosante-fixe..."), featuring the flutist Mathieu Dufour, and Bruckner (the Ninth Symphony). (247-7800.)

VOICES OF ASCENSION

In a concert dedicated to the victims of last fall's terrorist attacks, Dennis Keene conducts an intimate performance of Brahms's "German Requiem," using the composer's accompaniment for piano four-hands. (Church of the Ascension, Fifth Ave. at 10th St. Oct. 2 at 8:15. No tickets required.)

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

Cecilia Bartoli is the guest for a program of arias and instrumental works by Vivaldi, Gluck, C. P. E. Bach, and others. (Carnegie Hall. 247-7800. Oct. 6 at 7:30.)

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Kurt Masur, the orchestra's principal conductor, comes back to New York for a pair of concerts. Oct. 7 at 8: 2002 is William Walton's centenary, and, although his music may not be universally loved, the brooding yet glamorous Viola Concerto is one of his unquestioned masterpieces. Yuri Bashmet plays it in a concert that also includes music by Prokofiev (the Symphony No. 5 in B-Flat Major) and Strauss. ♦ Oct. 8 at 8: Masur conducts Beethoven's First Symphony and Bruckner's Seventh. (Carnegie Hall. 247-7800.)

RECITALS

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME CONCERTS

Every fall, thirty lucky artists and scholars in a range of disciplines, supported by fellowships, converge on the Academy's grand pile on the Janiculum Hill to pursue their work in a near-idyllic setting. Composers, many of them prominent, have been part of the Academy's life since the twenties, something the organization is celebrating with a series of concerts at Weill Recital Hall. The first program includes chamber and vocal works by such alumni as Elliott Carter, Samuel Barber (the String Quartet, from which the great "Adagio" is derived), Lukas Foss, and Stephen Hartke; the soprano Susan Narucki, the percussionist Daniel Druckman, and the Borromeo String Quartet are among the featured performers. (Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall. 247-7800. Oct. 2 at 8.)

MUSIC AT MERKIN CONCERT HALL

Oct. 2 at 8: Concertante, a vibrant young string ensemble, performs a classical program laced with an ethnic flavor, including Dvořák's Quintet with Double Bass and Osvaldo Golijov's "Last Round," a tribute (for two duelling quartets and a bass) to the fistfight-loving tango legend Astor Piazzolla. ♦ Oct. 3 at 8: Taking its cue from the Philharmonic, perhaps, the players of New York Philomusica open their season with an all-Beethoven program featuring the String Quintet in C Major and a chamber version of the Fourth Piano Concerto (with Robert Levin). ♦ Oct. 6 at 3: The musicians of New York Philharmonic Ensembles (including the harpist Nancy Allen and the hornist Erik