

Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra Enters Fifth Season



NANCY SHADE, SOPRANO

The Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra's fifth season will be an exciting mixture of the familiar and the innovative. Set for six concerts for the 1984-85 season, the Tropicana Hotel and Casino will again sponsor the Holiday "Pops" Concert on December 16 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. It will include a variety of holiday favorites: "The Many Moods of Christmas" of Shaw-Bennett, "Christmas Festival Suite" by Leroy Anderson, the "Winter" Concerto of Antonio Vivaldi with Kalman Banyak as soloist, the adagio team from Tropicana's "Folies Bergere" performing in Albinoni's "Adagio in G Minor." The Peter Bugal Singers will sing a medley of Christmas carols concluding with "O Holy Night." The July 4 "Pops" Concert at 2:00 p.m. in the Tropicana Hotel's Tiffany Theater will be a tribute to Americana, with excerpts from "The Music Man," "Oklahoma" and "Carousel," and the ever popular "Yankee Doodle Dandy" with singers and dancers. Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," will feature George Skipworth, pianist. Sousa's "Stars and Stripes" and other patriotic favorites will highlight this holiday concert.

Music Director of the Las Vegas Symphonic and Chamber Music Society, Virko Baley, said "I believe that programming a symphony season is not unlike creating a menu for a huge feast. It must, of course, contain the tried and true but, to

be truly exciting it also must have pleasant surprises. It must delight with the unexpected and awe with the discovery of the unknown."

The concerts at the Artemus Ham Concert Hall includes such works as Beethoven's "El Amor Brujo" by Manuel de Falla, "Piano Concerto in A Minor" by Robert Schumann and Brahms' "Variations on a Theme by Haydn."

"The January 6th concert will be truly original," Baley said. "The center piece will be a master work of the 20th century. Manuel de Falla's "El Amor Brujo" (Bewitched by Love). As a concert piece it is well known, especially the movement known as "Ritual Fire Dance." But few have been fortunate enough to see it as the composer intended it to be presented as a symphonic ballet."

Baley enlisted the talents of choreographer and dancer, Luisa Triana. Triana and Baley have created a unique opportunity to combine great music performed by a symphony orchestra with a company of extraordinary Spanish dancers. It will be a true feast for the eye as well as the ear.

The program will also include Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio espagnol," about which Tchaikovsky wrote to the composer... "Your 'Spanish Capriccio' is a colossal masterpiece of instrumentation, and you may regard yourself as the greatest master of the present day."

Of special interest to opera lovers will be a fully staged production of Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow." Scheduled for February 5th at Artemus Ham Concert Hall, the production will be conducted by Maestro Stefan Minde of Portland Opera, directed by Michael Kurkjian, who directed last year's highly successful "Don Pasquale." Set designer for "The Merry Widow" is Ellis Pryce-Jones and choreographer is Michael Zaplatilek.

Madelene Capelle, well known Las Vegas soprano, will perform the lead role in "The Merry Widow." Capelle will perform in concert halls and opera houses in Europe including France, Germany and Italy during August and September. Capelle has an invitation to sing at the White House and the Governor's Mansion in Nevada.

On the April 9 concert, the sensational young pianist, Christopher O'Riley will perform one of the most popular of piano concertos, Schumann's. O'Riley has taken top prizes in many important competitions including the Montreal International Competition, the Leeds Competition and the Van Cliburn Competition. O'Riley has performed in recital that include the Kennedy Center and the Ambassador Auditorium and has performed with the symphonies of San Francisco, St. Louis, Montreal and with the National Orchestra of New York at Carnegie Hall.

Of special interest to Maestro Baley will be the

first United States performance of Boris Lyatoshinsky's Second Symphony, written in 1936 which will be performed at the April 9 concert. Lyatoshinsky is a Soviet Ukrainian composer whose works are well known and often performed in Eastern Europe. Baley said, "It is a monumental work, a fresco. Lyatoshinsky was deeply influenced by the expressionists and this symphony is genuinely dramatic."

On May 7, the world renowned opera star Nancy Shade will perform Gustav Mahler's "Songs of a Wayfarer" and will sing two of Bizet's Carmen arias.

Richard Soule, UNLV Department of Music faculty member and principal flutist with the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra will perform Mozart's "Second Flute Concerto."

That concert will also include the first performance of Virko Baley's Soliloquy for orchestra. It is based on motives of the 18th century Ukrainian choral composer Artem Vedel.

Season tickets are now on sale for the 1984-85 season of the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra. Prices are \$48.00 for select and \$54.00 for preferred. Current season ticket holders have until September 30 to renew their tickets. Individual tickets are on sale one month prior to each concert. Senior citizens, students and military can buy individual tickets at a discount.

Patron categories are the following: Contributing Patron, \$250; Sustaining Patron, \$500; Silver Grand Founder, \$1,000; Gold Grand Founder, \$2,000 and Conductor's Circle, \$5,000 or more. With a patron contribution, one is given a minimum of 2 choice season tickets. Patrons are also invited to all post-concert receptions and will be invited to the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra VIP Soiree in November.

Funds for the 1984-85 concerts will be provided in part by a grant from the Nevada State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For information regarding the concert series and ticket information, please call 739-3420. The symphony office is now located at Grant Hall, Room 205, UNLV.

Hackett Showcase To Mint

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...sidered including singers, dancers, comedians, musical groups and revues.

Hackett has been

appearing with his father in selected engagements throughout the country and his relaxed understated wit has been the cohesive element in the past success of the Showcase at the Sahara.

"We will be presenting the stars of tomorrow," stated Close who recently took over the helm at the Mint. "We will be looking for those acts who have a definite chance for future bookings in the Merrimint Theatre Lounge."

Entertainers interested in appearing on the Showcase should contact the Mint entertainment office for interviews and scheduling.

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