

performances there will be no need for amplification of the live program source . . . utilizing the natural acoustics of the theater," he added.

The Asolo Center will house the Asolo State Theater, now in its 26th year. The Theatre, Inc., an institute for professional theater and film training, and the Charles MacArthur Center for American Theatre with its library and theater memorabilia. Actress Helen Hayes is the Honorary Chairperson of the MacArthur Center.

Florida State University's graduate conservatory will continue in cooperation with the complex. The new facility will provide high caliber training to aspiring actors, technicians and other trades allied with theater, film and television production. The Asolo will continue its professional theatrical presentations in repertory, while The Theatre, Inc. will feature celebrity performers in premier theatrical presentations.

"This center represents a cultural, educational and economic alliance that is unique in the country," Asolo State Theatre executive director Richard Fallon said. "We will have the opportunity to provide training in the various aspects of theater and film while providing high quality, exciting entertainment to our audiences."

The budget for design and construction of the facility is \$10 million dollars. The Florida Legislature has granted \$5.5 million dollars and Reynolds personally has pledged \$1 million. Local citizens have launched a campaign to raise an additional \$3.5 million dollars of which \$920,000 has been raised to date. Those amounts already raised, plus accrued interest of \$381,292, bring the total dollars to \$7,801,292.00.

## The London International Opera Festival

A new and younger audience for opera. That is one of the main aims of the London International Opera Festival, which has its premiere during March and April 1986. The Festival is a celebration of opera: opera in the classical tradition with the Royal Opera and the English National Opera, opera through recitals at the Wigmore Hall, opera through films and discussion at the National Film Theatre, and generally in the streets and restaurants around Covent Garden and its Piazza.

The Festival will feature some of the world's leading singers, including Monserrat Caballé, Marilyn Horne, June Anderson and Samuel Ramey. There will be a concert by the accomplished British singers, Cathryn Pope and Arthur Davies, and the open air events of the Festival feature hundreds of young people, who have won acclaim for their joyful and professional approach to opera.

Opera is an area of the Arts which has often been viewed as only relevant to a minority audience, but recently that audience has broadened, and it is the intention of the Festival to bring an even wider range of people to it, by combining the truly popular with the more esoteric, to increase enjoyment and awareness across a variety of works. By presenting events at the Royal Opera House, in the Piazza at Covent

Garden, at the London Coliseum, at the National Theatre, at the National Film Theatre and the Wigmore Hall, and in the daily meeting places around the area a great number of people, many of whom would not perhaps consider opera as part of their interests, will be brought to it as a new and young audience. The Festival also plans to present operas which the opera-going public have made clear they wish to see but which have rarely been produced in London because of cost and are in fact usually only performed under festival conditions.

The Festival is produced by David Buchler and Lionel Rosenblatt. David Buchler is a partner in the accountancy firm, Arthur Andersen and Co., and Lionel Rosenblatt is a partner in a firm of City solicitors. The Director is Evvy Edwards, who was formerly Arts Director at Sutton Place. Their passionate interest in opera and a desire to bring to it a new and younger audience made them put their heads together to work out a way to fulfil their dream.

The London International Opera Festival is the result of their vision and endeavours and they have been greatly encouraged by the support of the Festival's sponsors, Hillsdown Holdings plc, and by a generous award under the Minister for the Arts' Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme, which is administered by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Festival is a Youth Subscription scheme. The London International Opera Festival has initiated and set up a subscription scheme in conjunction with the Royal Opera House, the English National Opera, the Wigmore Hall and the National Film Theatre by which anyone under the age of 30 can buy good seats at events at those venues for £23. This represents a saving of approximately 50 per cent. on normal ticket prices and it is the first time that there has been such a scheme involving these four venues.

Many Festival events will be completely free of charge. The first of these is "Scenario", an exhibition of set designs in the Olivier Theatre foyer which opens the Festival. Details are on page 8.

The Piazza at Covent Garden is the stage for several other events which the public will be able to enjoy free of charge. Notable among these is the full length production by Prince William School, Oundle, of "The Bartered Bride", performed in costume by 200 children from the school. An interesting comparison to their performance can be made four days later when Smetana's opera is staged by the ENO at the London Coliseum.

Children of all ages will love the world premiere of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. This is another free Piazza events which has been specially commissioned for the Festival and is pure street opera.

Many young people will be taking their Easter holidays during the Festival and special events have been arranged for them at the Royal Opera House and at the National Theatre. At a very low cost they will have the opportunity to go backstage,

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