

sought. This last symphony, at the least, is the work of the man who has fought and suffered and seen existence in always broader perspectives and with more compassion for the human lot. These impressions, at least, are aroused by a first hearing of Prokofieff's Sixth symphony.

## MODERN OPERAS

PARIS has still not seen a stage performance of Alban Berg's "Wozzeck," but on Dec. 22 the French Radio is sponsoring a concert version of the work at the Champs-Élysée. The work will be sung in French with Jean Lovano in the title role, Ilona Laszlo as Maria and George Jouette as the sergeant. Jascha Horenstein will conduct the work, with the Orchestre National as the symphonic aggregation. There will be ten rehearsals with the cast and orchestra. It will be the second major performance in recent months, for the opera was given in September at the Venice Festival.

Another modern work that has been revived is Arnold Schoenberg's "Erwartung," a forty-five minute, one-woman opera written in 1909. It was given recently at the Zurich Opera to honor the composer's seventy-fifth birthday. The work was sung by Dorothy Dow, Texas soprano, in her second season with the company.

fewer concerts than in the previous season. A slow September, with only thirteen events, seemed to bear them out. But with the ending of November, traditionally one of the big months of the season, one is in a better position to check their prognostications. Statistics show they were definitely too gloomy.

If the current acceleration continues, this season may even surpass the last one. November has beaten the same month of the year before. There were 215 events in November, 1948, including operatic performances, recitals and orchestral concerts. Last month there were 228. It looks, however, as if 1947-48 will continue to be the record-setting season for a long time. Its November total was 264.

**OPERA:** The Opera Workshop of Columbia University, which last season presented Vaughan Williams' "Sir John in Love," early in 1950 will produce a new work composed in America. It is "The Barrier," a two-act, modern tragedy laid in the South. Langston Hughes has prepared the libretto from his play, "Mulatto." The music has been composed by Jan Meyerowitz, a German-born composer who came here three years ago.

**INSTRUCTION:** After singing with the San Francisco Opera, Rose Bampton took advantage of being on the West Coast to go to

Los Angeles to work with Arnold Schoenberg on his cycle of fifteen songs, "Book of the Hanging Gardens," which she is singing this afternoon with the New Friends of Music.

When Miss Bampton sang them first for the composer, he asked her if she had learned the music by the intervals. She answered by asking how else could one study the atonal songs. By thinking only in terms of melody, the composer replied, according to her report. She stretched her imagination, worked hard and after several days of trying found she could see it the composer's way.

**CONFUSION:** Last month the duo-pianists, Arthur Whittmore and Jack Lowe, and the Cincinnati Symphony, under Thor Johnson, found themselves caught in complications when they assembled to rehearse Vaughan Williams' Concerto for Two Pianos. The work, so the story goes, was originally written for a single piano and was introduced by Harriet Cohen at a London "Prom" concert in 1933. Then it was converted into a concerto for two pianos, which was played in London by Cyril Smith and Phyllis Selick.

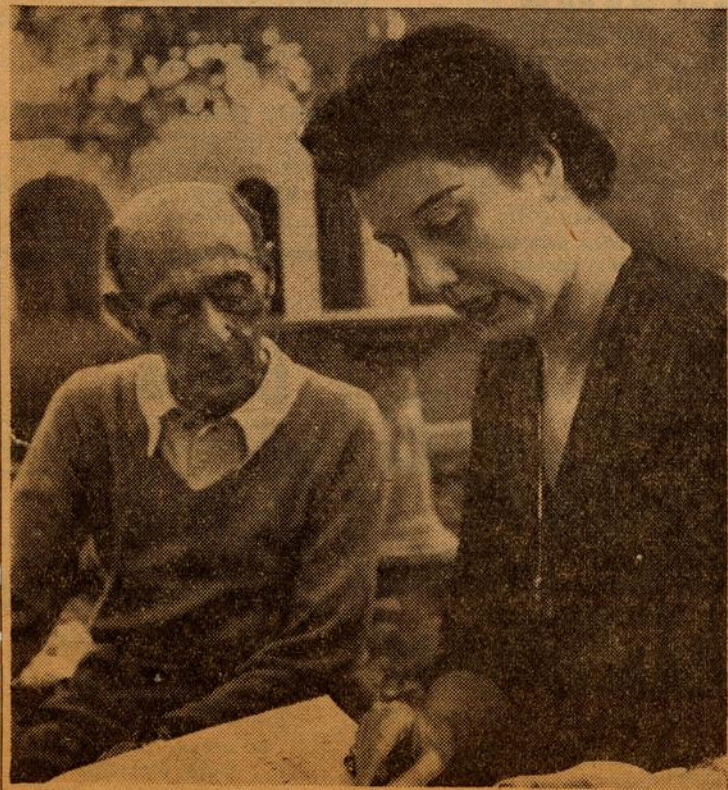
A manuscript of the two-piano version reached Eugene Ormandy, and Whittmore and Lowe got it from him and proceeded to learn it. When they reached Cincinnati they found the version in the hands of the orchestra had a different ending from the one they had learned. Pianists and the conductor decided they preferred the soft close to the spectacular one in the pianist's version. Having three days before the concert, the team had time to learn the new ending.

A further complication emerged when the New York office of Vaughan Williams' publishers, the Oxford University Press, said it did not know of a concerto by the composer for two pianos and that the orchestral parts it had sent to Cincinnati were for the concerto for a single piano.

**NEW WORKS:** "Turangalila," the new symphony by Olivier Messiaen that Leonard Bernstein will conduct with the Boston Symphony here on Saturday, is so long that it will occupy the whole program with five movements before the intermission and five after it. It calls for solo parts for both the piano and the electrical instrument, the Ondes Martenot.

**TENTH:** When Gustav Mahler died in 1911 he left behind the note and sketches of a Tenth symphony. In the Twenties the composer's son-in-law, Ernst Krenek, prepared a score from the most complete sketches, which were for the first and third movements. It was performed in Prague in 1924.

## COMPOSER AND SINGER



Ross Madden (Black Star)

Rose Bampton consults with Arnold Schoenberg in preparation for a song cycle of his which she will sing at Town Hall today.

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