"Magic Flute" headlines Montana University Arts Festival

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"MAGIC FLUTE" HEADLINES
MONTANA U ARTS FESTIVAL

The appearance on the University-Theater stage of Nicola Moscona, a leading basso of the Metropolitan Opera Company, will make the University of Montana production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" one of the most lustrous events in the annals of Montana theater.

Moscona will sing the role of Sarastro at the evening performances of the opera, which will be sung in English. It will run in the University Theater May 11, 13, 14 and 15 at 8:15 p.m. and May 12 at 2:30 p.m. The box office (243-4581) will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 8, through Tuesday and from noon to curtain time on the dates of performances.

"The Magic Flute" takes top billing on the three-week program of choral, instrumental and dance recitals, lectures, exhibits and other features of the Montana Fine Arts Festival-18th Century, according to Dean Charles W. Bolen of the School of Fine Arts. The festival opens on campus Monday (May 9) and continues through Sunday, May 29.

Boris Goldovsky of the Goldovsky Opera Institute, New York City, former emcee of the "Opera News of the Air" feature of the Metropolitan Opera Saturday broadcasts, will lecture on "The Magic Flute" Thursday, May 12, at 8:15 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

Moscona's opera, concert and oratorio performances have won acclaim in Rome, Milan, Mexico City and other world capitals, including Athens in his native Greece. He sang 28 times with Toscanini and was the last soloist chosen by the maestro. He has appeared with orchestras conducted by Bruno Walter, Leonard Bernstein, George Szell and Dimitri Mitropoulos, has starred on Broadway, and has been featured in (more)
television spectaculars and in the film, "The Great Caruso."

The Met star, who counts 100 major roles in his repertoire, is equally at ease in German, French and Italian opera. During the 1965-66 season his roles have included Mephisto in "Faust," Colline in "La Boheme," Fernando in "Fidelio" and Ramfis in "Aida."

Edd Blackler, Missoula, a senior music major, will sing the part of Sarastro at the Thursday matinee of "The Magic Flute." Other principals are Elsie Mielke, Harlowton, as Pamina; Lee Mathews, Sunburst, Tamino; Janet Boyer Kenney, Missoula, Queen of the Night; Doug James, Missoula, the bird-man Papageno, and Melvon Ankeny, Victor, Monostatos.

The cast includes Bert Brewer, Don Collins, Anna Dahlstrom, Doug Dunnell, Linda Porter James and Don MacDonald, all of Missoula; Dennis Burns and James Selway, both of Dillon; Ruth Silvius, Fort Benton; Judith Stowe, Great Falls; Susan Emrick, Conrad; Kathy Wruck, Laurel, Diane Morrow, Baker; Ira Robison, Valier, and Gary Guthrie, Livingston.

Dr. Firman H. Brown, Jr. is director of the production; John L. Lester is musical director, and Dean Bolen is producer.

Other fine-arts faculty members involved are Richard H. James, Jr., designer and technical director; Eugene Andrie, orchestra director; Dr. Joseph Mussulman, chorus director; George D. Lewis, assistant musical director, and Gayle Cornelison, technician. Costume design is by Austin Gray, a sophomore music major from Neihart, and choreography is by Dana Carter, graduate assistant in the Department of Health and Physical Education.

As the, perhaps, most distinguished opening night in Montana theater history approaches, the pace of behind-the-scenes activity in the University Theater is mounting to a frenetic pitch, with some 50 students building sets, constructing costumes, and attending to the myriad details that go into producing a full-scale opera. (more)
Between hammering and sawing sessions on stage and cutting and stitching bees in the costume room, the cast, the 30-voice chorus and the 30-piece orchestra are painstakingly polishing their performances to a high professional gloss.

The concerted effort of all this dedicated talent assures that the University production of "The Magic Flute" will do justice to the Mozart masterpiece.