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Bonnie Jo Robbins joins San Francisco Opera

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Bonnie Jo Robbins, Montana Centennial Queen and 1966 graduate of the University of Montana, has received a contract with the San Francisco Opera Company, reports her former voice teacher at the University, Mrs. Jane Hevener Lea.

Miss Robbins, 23, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Robbins of Great Falls, is one of a group of singers selected from 130 candidates. She learned that the company was auditioning singers when she was representing the Montana Highway Department as hostess at the Montana Pavilion in the San Francisco Cow Palace for 10 days in February. She began rehearsals with the company last week.

Miss Robbins, who majored in music and Spanish at the University, has been employed by the Montana Highway Department since her graduation in June 1966. As an undergraduate, she belonged to Jubileers and Opera Workshop and was song leader for Tanan of Spur, sophomore honorary. She is a member of Sigma Kappa social sorority and Mu Phi Epsilon professional music sorority.

In her junior year she was named Centennial Queen. During her reign she made a 31-day trip to New York and back on the Centennial Train and spent a summer as an official hostess at the Montana Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. While in New York she took lessons with Dr. William P. Herman, whose students include Roberta Peters, Patrice Munsel, Mary Martin and Jan Peerce.

During her last two years at the UM she studied voice with Mrs. Lea, and earlier, with John Lester. As a high school student in Great Falls she was a voice pupil of Mary Moore.