

Grand Opera Heroines

By W. E. Hill

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Mme. Tiney Mutselhauer, the German opera diva, is singing "Erda" in "Siegfried," of which we show you one of the lighter moments, where "Erda" pops up out of the papier mache rocks and tells "Wotan" just where he gets off. "Erda" is one of those girls who sit at home and brood and seldom get a chance to say a word in public.



Russian opera heroines have their own troubles, which are unlike the romantic tribulations in the French and Italian operas; but they have just as sad a time in their way, getting their men folk away from the vodka jug.



Yes, this is "La Boheme," on a popular-priced Saturday night, with one of those "Mimis" who are usually a little healthier looking than the ladies who do the role on subscription nights. "Mimi" has just run in to try out her little hacking cough on "Rudolpho," who is saying, "But, Mimi, you are such a big girl to have such a weeny little cough!"



These rollicking choristers are apprentices in one of those big grand opera scenes where the public square or the street is overrun with urchins who pull hair and poke and play pranks on everybody for the sake of atmosphere. One of the nicest things about life is that there are no apprentices or street urchins around like the ones we find in grand opera.



These two chorus ladies are dealing with a situation of great stress in one of the popular Italian operas—probably "Lucia" or "Rigoletto," if we guess rightly. They are telling each other that "Gilda" is the kind of a girl who will come to no good end.



An unsung heroine of the last opera season is the opera box guest who hates Wagner and four times out of five is an unwilling Wagnerian. (This is the fifth box party Mrs. Peabody has been asked to, and wouldn't you know it would be Wagner again! She's pinching herself to keep awake, poor girl.)



This sweet young girl is one of the "Parsifal" flower maidens, and O, isn't she being allure itself, hurling cloth roses at Parsifal and calling him sweet names.



Another heroine of the opera season is the ladies' smoking room attendant, Mrs. Rose Goldbauer by name.



No, this isn't "Bruennehilde"; this is "Grimgerde," one of the Valkyries. She is up on a scenery rock looking at the view and wondering if those clouds mean rain.



Miss Beryl Oglethorpe, the American soprano, is warbling the voice of the forest bird offstage, in the second act of Mr. Wagner's "Siegfried."