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University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota
January 19, 1961

For Immediate Release

OPERA COMES TO UMM

The problems involved in transporting cast, scenery, costumes, orchestra and directors of the University of Minnesota Opera Workshop by bus from Minneapolis to Morris are finally being solved before the Workshop makes its first appearance of the year on January 30 at Morris. The group will present the fourth of the University Artist Course series in Edson Hall at the University of Minnesota, Morris at 8 p.m.

Collapsible stage scenery, constructed to fit through the door of a bus, was the answer to the major problem facing the Opera Workshop. The cast, according to Director Paul Knowles, builds and paints its own scenery in addition to learning and performing operas. When the Workshop was set up last year, scenery was made out of mattress boxes and paper mache. But since then a fund has been established enabling the cast to get better scenery and to rent costumes.

Opera Workshop came into existence as a course for undergraduate, graduate and extension division students on the Minneapolis campus. Director Knowles feels that choral singing is emphasized a great deal in the Midwest area with very little opportunity for the soloist to perform. All of the operas sung by the group are in English.

Two one-act operas, "The Boor" and "Il Campanello" (The Evening Bell), will be presented in Morris.