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[News Release on University Artist Course Series Operas]

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News Release from:
University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota
January 26, 1961

For Immediate Release

Two one-act operas will be presented January 30t in the fourth of the University Artist Course series at 8:30 p.m. in Edson Hall at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The operas, staged by the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis) Opera Workshop, are "Il Campanello" (The Evening Bell), a melodrama by Gaetano Donizetti, and "The Boor", an opera buffa composed by University faculty member, Dominick Argento.

"Il Campanello" is the story of an elderly druggist who has married a young and beautiful maiden but who is thwarted in his efforts to celebrate his honeymoon by his bride's previous beau.

"The Boor", based on a play by Anton Chekhov, is the story of a widow who has been in mourning for many months. A man comes to collect-a bill from her and eventually brings her out of her mourning.

"The story is a traditional one, which has been used from time to time since antiquity," said Dominick Argento, composer of "The Boor", in a recent interview. He has had extensive training in composition under several masters and has received Fulbright and Guggenheim grants for study in Italy. The premiere performance of "The Boor" in New York in 1957 placed Argento in the front rank of American opera composers, it was stated in a recent issue of Horizon magazine.

The Morris program will be the first appearance of the year for the Opera Workshop which was set up last year to enable students to learn and perform operas. The group received excellent reviews in its Winter '60 debut.

Paul Knowles, director of the Workshop, believes in painstaking staging and characterization in depth. No movement or vocal inflection is left to chance in the final performance; everything has been planned and thoroughly mastered in rehearsal.

As a matter of policy, all Opera Workshop productions are done in English. "Finding good translations can be a problem", director Knowles said. "Often the standard translation is done in the Victorian English tongue, which is sometimes hard for Twentieth-Century Americans to understand." The translation used in the "Il Campanello" production is a revision of several British and American versions.

The Workshop tour has been arranged by James S. Lombard, director of Concerts and Lectures at the University of Minnesota.