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Betty Allen at Artists Course

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News Release from:
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota
August 29, 1963

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Area

One of the major concerts to be presented by the 1963-64 University Artists Course of the University of Minnesota, Morris will bring to west central Minnesota Betty Allen, who will come to Morris directly from her appearance with the Artists Course in Northrop Auditorium in Minneapolis.

Hailed by New York World-Telegram critic Louis Biancolli as "The most sumptuously gifted mezzo-soprano in America today," Miss Allen has been acclaimed by both audience and critics wherever she has appeared.

Among 10 major New York appearances last season, she sang five times at Carnegie Hall, made a distinguished Lincoln Center debut and appeared as soloist in Philharmonic Hall and Town Hall concerts.

Miss Allen made eight major appearances in New York City in the 1961-62 season. Among these she sang the mezzo lead with Joan Sutherland in Bellini's "La Sonnambula" and the Bach B minor Mass with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. She sang again with Joan Sutherland in Bellini's "I Puritani" in one of Miss Allen's three appearances with the American Opera Society last season.

Long a favorite soloist in Berlin where she is constantly in demand for recordings with HMV, Miss Allen sang at the Beethoven Festival in Bonn and performed in Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" at Braunschweig. She toured the Scandinavian countries and South America, where standing ovations became routine. She won the Argentine critics' citation as the "best foreign singer to visit Buenos Aires".

Her concerts in the Far East last summer were equally acclaimed. She has return tours of South America, Europe and the Far East scheduled through 1965.

Betty Allen's rapid rise to fame since she began her music education just 11 years ago parallels that of her famous soprano counterpart, Leontyne Price, who was her classmate at Wilberforce College. The Montreal Star has called her "one of the great voices of our time -- recalling Flagstad or Eileen Farrell in carrying power.

Her appearance in Morris is awaited with great anticipation since, as the New York Times put it, "Few singers put together programs of such variety and taste."

Joining Betty Allen on the Artists Course schedule this season will be the Little Singers of Tokyo and the Four Freshmen. The series will open on September 18 with "An Introduction to the Lively Arts". As a bonus, the University of Minnesota, Morris theater group will present a special production.

Tickets for the entire series of five events are \$6.50 per person and may be ordered from the University of Minnesota, Morris business office or from your local chairman.