

Civic Opera's 'The Merry Widow' to Open Wednesday at Lake Harriet



MINA LOX



Miss Jonson



Hickey



Bloom



Johnson



Hufstad



Samuel

LONGEST run of the Minneapolis Civic Opera season is that scheduled for this week's production, "The Merry Widow."

Five performances are to be given at the Lake Harriet outdoor stage, opening Wednesday at 8 p.m. and continuing nightly through Sunday.

In addition, the final dress rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the lake will be open to the public without charge.

Tonight at 8 p.m., rounding out the season's opening week, will be final performances of "The Old Maid and the Thief" and "Trial by Jury."

Franz Lehar's "The Merry Widow" operetta, tuneful and sparkling, calls for the most elaborate costuming and staging yet turned out by the Civic Opera staff.

In addition, the cast is the largest of the season and the Civic Opera ballet will make its initial appearance of the year.

Charming music and intriguing lines have made "The Merry Widow" a long-time favorite in this country and abroad. Set in Paris, the operetta centers about Sonia, a young widow whose beauty is hurt none by the fact she has an inheritance of 20 million francs.

Baron Popoff, the ambassador from her native country, Marsovia, has received instructions from his government to see to it that Sonia marries another Marsovian and thus keep her money in that country. Popoff, aided by Nisch, the embassy messenger, has selected Prince Danilo, an embassy attache, to be her husband.

Sonia rebels at having her destiny made to measure—and, besides, she wants to take a fling at Gay Paree, which she does. Finally, however, she and the prince take

each other for better or worse.

Title role is sung by Mina Lox, soprano, her debut with the Civic Opera. Patrick Hickey, tenor, is Prince Danilo and Edwin Johnson, bass, has the role of Baron Popoff. Richard Bloom, tenor, plays Camille de Jolidan, John Rafael is St. Brioché, Joanne Jonson is Natalie, Merle Hufstad is Cascada, Peter Jacobson is M. Kadja, Sonya Swan is Olga and William Sowden is Nisch.

In the ballet corps, directed by Marianne Gallinger Casoria, are Nadine Hofer, Demaris Hofer, Meredith Nelson, Marilyn Hutchinson, Diane Larson, Barbara Blackwell, Dick Tychsen, Eddy Jacobson, Peter Jacobson, Gary Bowen, Rolf Haugen and LaVern Luger.

Conductor again will be Gerard Samuel, directing the Minneapolis Pops orchestra. Admission price is \$1 for adults, 15 cents for children.