

'Magic Flute' opens opera season

The Eugene Opera will open its eighth season Thursday night in the Hult Center's Soreng Theatre with Wolfgang Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

Underwritten by the Eugene Opera's first corporate sponsor, Merrill Lynch, "The Magic Flute" is the first of three operas to be presented during the 1983-84 season, according to the opera's general manager, James Toland. "Die Fledermaus" will be staged in December, and "La Traviata" in April.

Toland says the opera, which was written just prior to the Austrian composer's death in 1791, is "very theatrical and con-

tains the simple and comic, along with the noble and philosophical."

The setting for "The Magic Flute" is a mysterious temple in an "unknown and faraway land." It is a lyric drama that combines love, comedy, courage and magic against a backdrop of the struggle between good and evil.

The opera advocates enlightenment as the highest good because it leads to an exalted life, and asserts that good will triumph over evil.

Leading the cast is Robert Guarino, a tenor from New York City, who plays Tamino, a prince. Tamino falls in love with the daughter of the evil Queen of the

Night, Pamina, played by Carolyn Bowen-White from Lubbock, Texas.

The opera concerns the trials both must endure to gain a union between them.

"The Magic Flute is directed by Cita Hager, a guest director who was formerly with the Portland Opera. It will be performed in English.

Everyone involved with "The Magic Flute" is seeking to give this production an "American feel," says Toland.

The opera will also be presented on Oct. 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Except for the Oct. 2nd matinee, all shows begin at 7:30 p.m.



Photos by Mark Pynes

Tamino and Papageno search for their respective loves in "The Magic Flute," the first opera in the Eugene Opera's new season.

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