

"Sold Out" sign on Met billboard announcing debut makes Anna happy.

At home in Milan, Mario cues Anna while she sits at piano practicing operatic roles.



The great moment had come for the unknown girl; as she stepped onto the vast stage and began to sing, an expectant hush fell over the toughest audience in the world

School and Wayne, Pa., daughter of a shoemaker of Italian descent, had turned down two earlier invitations from the Metropolitan Opera Company in order to learn her trade first. From her high-school chorus, she had gone to Philadelphia's Curtis Institute where the great violinist Zimbalist telephoned a top functionary in the New York music world and exclaimed, "Keep your eye on Anna Moffo. She's one in a million!"

From Curtis, she had gone through Italy's famous "blood-belt," the circuit of opera houses attended by patrons so fanatical that they are merciless when a performer fakes or errs. When Anna felt she had won their respect, she accepted the Met's third bid.

Now, though crowds swarmed around Anna in her dressing room, one person's absence made her happiness less than complete. Mario, her husband, had remained behind in Trieste to direct a play. His voice on the overseas phone the previous night had been warmly reassuring, as it had during her preparation for each of the 36 difficult roles she had mastered in four years of study in Italy. She would never forget her first role as Madame Butterfly in an Italian TV production.

Mario Lanfranchi, the director, had looked at her symmetrical five feet, seven-and-one-

half inches and exploded. "You are too big! Butterfly is frail, she is weak, she is tiny."

But Anna got the part. Under Mario's reluctant coaching, she sang the role on TV and immediately won invitations to appear in most of the opera houses in Italy. She also won over the director's heart and within a year they were married.

His experience and vision augmented her talent and smoothed many a rough edge. He taught her to employ movement and design to enhance her splendid figure. He drilled her in "La Traviata" until she was letter-perfect and then sent her to America for her big test. He would be by a phone now, waiting to hear the news of her debut.

When her call to Mario got through, she told him of the Met's plans for her next season, and of the acclaim. Then she was silent so long he thought the connection had been broken. She was thinking of the ovation that afternoon, of the concerts across America that agents were offering, of a proposed TV spectacular. Success was sweet, she knew, but there were other values.

"Are you there?" Mario asked.

"I'm thinking."

"Thinking what?"

The Met's newest star and the happiest of women replied, "That I'll be coming home as fast as I can."

on MONDAY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 14 at 2 P.M.
SUBSCRIPTION PERFORMANCE
GIUSEPPE VERDI
LA TRAVIATA
CONDUCTOR: ANNO REICHA
PRODUCTION BY TYRONE GUTHRIE
SETS DESIGNED BY ALBERT SMITH
COSTUMES DESIGNED BY WOLF GERSON
STAGE DIRECTOR: NANI BUSCHI

VIOLETTA ANNA MOFFO
ALFREDO SOLD OUT
GIORGIO GERMONI
FLORA BENOIX
GASTONE
BARON DOUPHOL
MARQUIS D'ORIGNY
DOCTOR GRENYL
ANNINA

ANNA MOFFO
CESARE VALLETTI
ROBERT MEMBOLA
HELEN VARRI
BARON CABELLI
CALVIN HADEN
GEORGE CEAMNYET
LOUIS SHARRO
TENEZA STRAZZA
LOU MARCELLA

ROPOULITAN
OPERA
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17 at 8 P.M.
SUBSCRIPTION PERFORMANCE
GIACOMO PUCCINI
MANNA BUTTERFLY



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