

First Opera for Radio to be Ready by Autumn

Hard at work on his first opera for radio, Gian-Carlo Menotti said today that the work, commissioned last spring by the National Broadcasting co. and now bearing the title, "The Old Maid and the Thief," will probably be ready for its premiere next fall over the NBC networks.

Menotti, whose first major work, "Amelia Goes To the Ball," had its Metropolitan Opera premiere on March 3, is putting the finishing touches on the arias of "The Old Maid," as he calls it, and is plunging into the work of orchestration.

"This is to be simply a story adaptation with music," the composer said. "I composed the music and wrote the story, in English, side by side. I believe that opera should be a marriage of words and music."

Menotti has adopted a special technique for his radio opera. Action in any one place is never longer than five minutes. To indicate these rapid changes he will use a narrator, whose sole function will be to announce the shift. He will say, "Now we are at the market," or "here we are in the street."—only that, no more.

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Tonight's headliners, classified:
Dramatic

6:45 p. m. — Famous Fortunes (WGN): life of James Pierpont Morgan.

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Discussion

9:45 p. m. — Dale Carnegie (WMAQ): getting a job after 40.

10:15 p. m. — Rep. Knute Hill (WCFL): "Planning for Plenty."

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Variety

7:30 p. m.—It Can Be Done (WLS): Edgar A. Guest and originator of "Tramp Trips." . . . Al Jolson (WBBM): and Andy Devine.

8:30 p. m. — Jack Oakie (WBBM): and Charlie Butterworth.

9 p. m. — Swing School (WBBM): Benny Goodman and co.

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Wednesdaytime

9:30 a. m.—Church of the Air (WIBA): the Rev. Cameron P. Hall.

1 p. m.—Your Health (WMAQ): "Protecting Perishable Foods."

3:30 p. m.—National P. T. A. (WENR): "Art and Music" for leisure time.