The Opera Club of Mount Airy

Presents

"HEARTS ENDURING"

(A MOOD DRAMA IN ONE SCENE)

FEATURING LUEVA BRAY and CARRINGTON PAULETTE, MEMBERS of the DRAMA WING of the OPERA CLUB.

AND

"THE TELEPHONE"

A MUSIC THEATRE REPERTORY GROUP PRODUCTION
FEATURING AMELIA CARDWELL, Soprano, AND TED
BODENHEIMER, Baritone

BOTH PRODUCTIONS UNDER THE PERSONAL DIRECTION of CLIFFORD E. BAIR

MARCH 17, 1951_____8 o'Clock

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# "HEARTS ENDURING" By John Erskine

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| Не  |                 | Carring | ton | Pa | ulette |
|-----|-----------------|---------|-----|----|--------|
| She |                 |         | LuE | va | Bray   |
|     | Scene: Far away |         |     |    |        |
|     | Time: Long ago  |         |     |    |        |

This miniature drama was written by John Erskine some years ago as an experiment. Says the author: "I have suffered annoyance from my ability to forsee what will happen on the stage before it happens, and to know what the actors will say before they say it . . . . . I speak of those more numerous moments when we are bored with waiting for the action and dialogue to catch up with us. It was my intention to make a drama with much economy of material that the imagination of the audience would be fully occupied from beginning to end, with as little opportunity for relaxing attention as would be permitted in a well-wrought shortstory . . . . . I wished to discard all scenery and properties which would not enter the play directly as part of its language. The image of the Virgin suggests an atmosphere of devotion, the mood in which I desired the story to be heard. The man's costume suggests the Middle Ages—as close a date as one needs for a fairly universal situation. The fireside and the fagots suggest a peasant hut, and the light generalizes the two characters by making the man and woman little more than the shadows in the room, distinguishable chiefly by their voices. I wanted the audience to weigh carefully everything they saw and every word they heard."

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#### Cast

| Lucy                     | Amelia Cardwell           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ben                      | Ted Bodenheimer           |
| Accompanist              | Sarah Ingram              |
| The scene is Lucy's apar | rtment. Time: The present |
| (By special arrangement  | with G. Schirmer and co.) |

This little comedy by Gian Carlo Menotti was successfully given on Broadway together with the same composer's "Medium". It concerns a young lady named Lucy who is forever talking on the telephone. She has several enlightening conversations over it—even inquiring about the health of one friend's aunt, uncle, cousin, dog and cat!—while her date in vain waits to talk to her. He is so desperate that when she leaves the room for a minute he attempts to cut the line, feeling that then she must pay some attention to him instead of the phone. But it rings again before he can finish, and Lucy discovers him "in the act". He finally gives up, goes around to the corner drugstore, and telephones his proposal to her. She accepts in delight, and begs that he not forget her lips? No. Her eyes? No. Her telephone number!

THE MUSIC THEATRE REPERTORY GROUP is in its fourth successful year as North Carolina's first professional Touring Opera Company. Its debut was made at State College, Raleigh, in a performance of Menott's one act comic opera, THE OLD MAID AND THE THEIF, in 1947. Sets and costumes are designed and owned by the company, as are all its properties. It is therefore in a position to offer its productions to schools, clubs, and civic organizations at a price within modest budgets. The work of this company has received recognition from leading music journals and other magazines and newspapers throughout the country.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next attraction on the agenda for this season is a three act play called "Jenny Kissed Me". The date is set for April 30 and May 1st. at Rockford Street Auditorium. Some people taking parts are Ben Graves, Nancy and Liz Reece, Tom Macon, Evelyn Hawks, Sidney Jones, Claude Midkiff and a group of High School girls. Anyone who would like to have the fun of helping us with the technicalities, come around to Opera Club Headquarters any Tuesday night.

We made \$108.00 on our Art-Craft Show. Pretty good, wasn't it? Pays MORE than a month's rent!

Our good-looking ushers are the High School boys who have joined the Opera Club this year. Their names are: Charles Carter, Virgil Christian, Bob Finch, Gene Ford, G. L. Gentry, Albert Johnson, Dickie Phillips, Fontaine Reece, Robert Smith, Jack Taylor, Mack Wood. They are planning to sell soft drinks between acts of "Jenny Kissed Me". To help pay the rent, of course!

We are making no apologies for giving you such a short entertainment tonight, but are suggesting that if you haven't had enough, you might join the Lions Club and their "Harmoneers" at Rockford Street School!
