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Culture Comes to Call

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Picture yourself listening to a symphony in Carnegie Hall. Dream about an opera in the Metropolitan. Visualize that singer performing in the San Francisco Opera House. The setting at Iowa State may be different but there IS a chance to enjoy the leading stars in the music world right here on the campus.

Biggest news to Iowa State music lovers this year was the presentation of Bizet's exciting opera "Carmen" in November. Maria Russo as the fiery Carmen, Beverly Sills as Micaela and Armand Cosentino singing Don Jose, highlighted the cast of 75. The Wagner Opera Company, bringing Iowa State its first opera, played to a capacity audience of 2,000.

Igor Gorin

Listeners to the Telephone Hour, Firestone Hour or other radio programs welcomed the opportunity to see in person Igor Gorin, baritone. A top name in the fields of concert, opera, radio and television, he appeared January 11 in the second of the Music Council Concerts.

For 33 years the Iowa State College Music Council has brought concerts such as these to Ames audiences. A student activity card admits all college students. Five hundred season tickets to the series of four concerts are sold to faculty members and townspeople annually.

As the curtain closed the first concert, the seven member Council was already busy selecting artists for next year’s series. The Music Council is composed of a faculty member from each division and a junior and senior student member. To please the public, the Council aims toward a series offering a violin or piano artist each year, a singer (alternating male and female), and a symphony orchestra.

Local talent

Yet this array of concerts does not end the musical offerings available on the campus. Every year the Iowa State Symphony Orchestra, the Concert Band and Singers present three concerts each showing an amazing degree of professional polish.

These concerts provide a needed supplement to a technical education. Concert goers are finding that music can thrill and relax, entertain and enrich. Thousands of Ames residents and students are discovering this through the efforts of the Iowa State Music Council and faculty of the Department of Music.