

IMPRESARIO WITHOUT PROFIT

Metropolitan Opera Tenor Helps Bring Music to El Salvador In August and to Northwestern United States in the Fall

By HOWARD TAUBMAN

GABOR CARELLI is a tenor who does small character roles at the Metropolitan Opera. He has taken important parts in opera and operetta, but at the Metropolitan he is one of that band of useful singers who play and sing the secondary characters with professional ease. As a result many in the audience may not be aware of his contribution. If this disturbs Mr. Carelli, he can console himself with the thought that there are places where he is a leading musical figure.

There are two places, thousands of miles apart but both not far from the Pacific Ocean, where Mr. Carelli is not only an artist, but something of an impresario. He does not think that impresario is quite the word. When you use it, he points out mildly that an impresario takes risks, which he does not, and that an impresario makes a profit from his managerial activities, which he does not.

The communities he serves are El Salvador, the small Central American country that lies east of Guatemala and south of Honduras, and a region in the northwest section of the United States. In the former he has been spending August for the past three years; in the latter he works during the early fall.

His connection with El Salvador started in 1951. He was brought down with three other singers that year by the late Miguel Sandoval to appear in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The concert was to take place in the Teatro Nacional, but a few days before the scheduled date there

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was a fire that burned out the stage of the theatre.

There was a touch of irony in the way the fire started. The film, "The Great Caruso," was being run off for the benefit of the censor when the blaze started. It spread to the neighboring cathedral, and that was burned down, too.

Mr. Carelli and the other visiting soloists were staying in San Salvador, the country's metropolis, as the guests of the Government. They were disappointed that they could not perform, but they could see that the disappointment was graver to the 100 members of the Sociedad Choral de San Salvador, who had been rehearsing for a solid year for this performance.

Outdoor Setting

Mr. Carelli suggested that Beethoven's Ninth should be done in an outdoor setting as a benefit for the restoration of the cathedral. The plan was followed, and the occasion turned out to be a memorable one. The conductor was Yon Cubicec, a Rumanian who had worked in Vienna and who had found a refuge in El Salvador. Mr. Cubicec was responsible for the training of the chorus as well as for leading the eighty-piece Symphony Orchestra of the Army.

Both the chorus and the orchestra were impressive. They were a credit to the musical guidance of Mr. Cubicec. They were also, according to Mr. Carelli, a tribute to the enthusiasm of Oscar Bolanos, the country's Minister of War.

Mr. Carelli has been going back to El Salvador every summer, and his respect for Señor Bolanos has

grown with each visit. The señor apparently has two passions—music and chess. In the latter field he has been responsible for bringing some of the world's leading masters for international tournaments. In music he has served as president of the Sociedad Choral and has seen to it that the Army maintained a symphony orchestra of professional competence. In recent weeks Señor Bolanos has resigned his post as Minister of War, and it is believed that he is planning to run for the presidency of El Salvador.

In 1952 and 1953 Mr. Carelli and a number of singers including Eva Likova of the City Center and Lorenzo Alvarez of the Metropolitan returned to San Salvador to appear in such works as Haydn's "The Creation" and Verdi's Requiem, with Mr. Cubicec and his chorus and El Salvador's Army orchestra. By 1952 the stage of the Teatro Nacional had been rebuilt (the cathedral is still in ruins), and the visitors also went to Santa Ana, the country's next largest town, for opera concerts.

Next August El Salvador's music



J. H. Meyer

Gabor Carelli.