HK standard 1974年5月13日

BARBARA FEI FOR PROMENADE CONCERT

WELL-KNOWN Hongkong soprano Barbara Fei will return to the stage once more on May 19 accompanied by the Hongkong Philharmonic Orchestra in a promenade concert.

Barbara Fei has been praised as one of the finest interpreters of Chinese folk and classical songs. She is able to speak a variety of Chinese dialects. Moreover, she speaks a number of foreign languages and excels in French and German songs.

In 1963, Barbara Fei founded the Allegro Singers, a choral group which specialises in the singing of Chinese folk and classical songs. The group is still in existence.

She began her study with the noted voice teacher, Chao Mei-pa, who is now Professor in Singing at St Jose University, USA She then went to Paris to further her studies under the famous soprano, Madame Lotteshoene. During her stay in Paris, she gave a number of recitals and also performed on radio and television. Since her return to Hongkong, she has been invited on several occasions to sing in Taiwan, Singapore, New Zealand and the United States.

In this promenade concert, Barbara Fei will sing Arias from "The Song of the Grassland" by Lo Tsung Ping and Jen Ping, Seven Spanish Songs For High voice by De Falla, accompanied by the Hongkong Philharmonic conducted by Lim Kek-Tjiang. The rest of the programme will include Strauss' Overture to "Die Fledermaus", The White-Haired Girl by Chu Wei, selections from "The Sound of Music" by Rogers and Bizet's Carmen Suite.

BARBARA FEI

1974年5月

Concert popular with young

BY OUR MUSIC CRITIC

The Hongkong Philharmonic Orchestra gave a "promenade" concert on Sunday afternoon before a near-capacity audience, and the programme was repeated again in the evening.

It was good to see young people filling the Concert Hall; they enjoyed the offering of lighter and popular music with which they were more familiar, and the performance of contemporary Chinese songs and orchestral works.

The programme got off to a cheerful start with Overture to "Die Fledermaus" by Strauss. The strings were better co-ordinated than they have been in some recent concerts and the lilt of the melodious Johann Strauss famous waltz rhythms was caught so that one forgot the blazingly hot weather outside.

The "Carmen" Suite No. 1 was well played with the conductor, Lim Kek Tjiang, giving us good contrasts of pace and colour in the six popular melodies from Bizet's famous opera.

The trumpet and trombones were heard to great advantage in the opening."The Toreadors" and the solo woodwind instruments in the following pieces of the suite again demonstrated the technique and excellent playing of this section of the new "professional" orchestra.

The percussion and rhythm section had much to do in the effective scoring of this suite, and castanets were used most effectively in the dance "Seguidilla," in which there were well played passages for the oboe.

Selections from the ever-green musicale "The Sound of Music" and the colourful "The White-Haired Girl" by contemporary composer Chu Wei, based on folk melodies of Hopei, concluding in a brilliant fashion the orchestral selections and the audience responded with enthusiastic applause.

Barbara Fei, popular resident soprano, sang two arias from "The Song of the Grassland" by Lo Tsung-hsien, arranged by Chen Neng-chi with lyrics by Jen P'ing.

Miss Fei's striking stage appearance in an orange and beige Chinese gown, and her excellent diction and confident performance won her a warm round of applause.

The arias were dramatic, and the orchestral accompaniment effectively scored, and played although a little over-loud in balance with the vocal line at times.

Seven contrasting and beautiful settings by De Falla of Spanish popular songs came after the interval.

Miss Fei was at her best in the expressive "Asturiana," which was in slower tempo and had lighter instrumental accompaniment, and also in "Jota," a very popular folk-song with infectiously rhythmic accompaniment.

I also liked the way her voice rose clearly above the orchestral accompaniment in "Nana."

Conductor Lim and the HKPO and guest artist combined to give an entertaining and enjoyable programme, proving that this type of "promenade" concert has a large following of enthusiastic listeners, and music-making without strain for the players.