



Eleanor Steber

When Eleanor Steber sang for the 1940 Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air, a star was born.

Her triumph in the auditions launched a glorious career in Grand Opera. She became one of the first totally American-trained singers to become a headliner at The Met.

The Wheeling soprano made her Metropolitan debut as Sophia in "Der Rosenkavalier" and went on to sing more than 50 leading roles at the world-famous opera company in New York. In fact, she holds the honor of having sung more premieres at The Metropolitan than anyone else.

Before her rise to stardom, The Metropolitan had never mounted such operas as "The Abduction from the Seraglio", "Arabella", "Vanessa", and "Wozzeck".

Miss Steber enjoyed a wide international following, in addition to having a multitude of American fans. She made cultural tours in behalf of the U.S. State Department and appeared in 15 Asian countries and has been heard in Europe at such music centers as Bayreuth, Edinburg, Salzburg, Vienna, Belgrade, and Brussels.

Under the labels of RCA, Columbia, and Odessey, she has made numerous recordings, which have been widely acclaimed.

Eleanor studied piano as a child in Wheeling and also studied voice with her mother, Mrs. William Steber. After graduation from Warwood High School, she attended and was graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She studied under the tutelage of the late William L. Whitney.

For 10 years, Miss Steber starred on "The Voice of Firestone" radio and television shows. She was soloist for the program's first telecast. She has been a frequent guest on television shows.

Among her accomplishments has been the singing of three such diverse operas as "La Traviata", "Lohengrin", and "The Girl of the Golden West" on three consecutive nights. She made front-page news when she sang Desdemona in "Othello" and Fiordiligi in "Cosi Fan Tutte" in one day at The Met.

The year 1980 is particularly significant since in December she will celebrate the 40th anniversary of her Metropolitan debut.

Miss Steber has been honored with election to the West Virginia Hall of Fame and with honorary degrees from West Virginia University, Bethany College, Florida Southern, Ithaca, Temple, and the New England Conservatory of Music.

She now teaches at the Juilliard School of Music at Lincoln Center and holds classes at her Ansonia Hotel apartment in Manhattan and at her estate on Long Island.

The Eleanor Steber Music Foundation has been established to provide financial assistance to young singers.