WPA Musical Project to Present Major Concerts This Fall.

Dr. Nikolai Sokoloff, Director of the Federal Music Project, made public today a partial list of the major concerts to be performed this Fall by the professional musicians on Works Progress Administration rolls.

These programs will bring opera, operettas and the great music of the symphonic literature, famous oratorios and choral works to a vast audience. Tabulated audience figures for WPA concerts and performances exceeded 32,000,000 between January 1 and September 15.

Popular approval of opera as it has been reflected in performances by the WPA music forces has led to a large expansion in this field for the coming season.

There were 15,102 persons on the Federal Music Project rolls on September 1.

Probably the most ambitious and comprehensive program in the history of chamber opera in America has been announced by the Federal Music Project for New York City. Eight of these capsule operas have been listed for performance and they range from the work of a Thirteenth Century trouvere to contemporary and modernistic composers.

Success of the venture in June when Ernst Toch's "The Princess on the Pea" with Weber's "Abu Hassan" as a companion piece played in a Broadway theater for three weeks has persuaded the WPA music leaders that there is a definite place for short operas which do not fall in the field of light opera of the Broadway variety nor of grand opera such as is heard at the Metropolitan. These performances will be staged in conjunction with the Federal Dance Theater Project.

Besides the Toch and Weber works the repertoire will include "The Romance of a Robot" by Frederick Hart, young American composer on the faculty of Sarah Lawrence College; "Spie1 oder Ernst," by Emil Nikolaus von Reznicek, a Czechoslovakian; "Der Czar laesst sich photographieren," by Kurt Weill; "Le Jeu de Robert et Marion," by Adam de la Hale, first produced in Naples in 1285; Haydn's "Der Apotheker," and Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Mozart and Salieri". Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffman" also will be presented. All of the operas will be sung in English.

The WPA music forces in Boston have five operas ready for the Fall season which include "Marta alla Piazza" by Paul Hastings Allen, which and its American
The premiere late this month although it has been heard in Italy, and d'Albertain's "Die Toten Augen" (The Unseeing Eyes), and Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman". The other operas are Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" and Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel." The last two were performed in August to audiences of 14,000 in the famous old Boston Opera House. Boston's Federally sponsored opera started its Autumn season September 18.

Newark will hear through the WPA Essex County Opera Company full stage performances of Flotow's "Martha" to be followed by Aubert's "Fra Diavolo." Among other light operas tentatively selected for presentation are: "Chimes of Normandy," "Black Russians," "Said Pasha" and "Fatinitza." The WPA opera forces in Essex County are sponsored by the American Institute of Music-Art and Drama of Montclair.

In California cities there will be a wide expansion of the lyric drama plans of the Federal Music Project program. In addition to Gluck's "Orpheus", Wolf-Ferrari's "Jewels of the Madonna", Nikolai's "Worried Wives of Windsor" and Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann," already in the project units' repertoire, there will be performances of Beethoven's "Fidelio" and Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" in San Francisco; an original light opera, "Isle of Coo Coo" by Homer Grunn, a California composer, and operatic and choral works in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Bernardino and San Diego. The Gilbert and Sullivan operas will be presented by project musicians in various parts of the state and a light opera company has been set up in Los Angeles with a chorus of thirty, twenty principals and an orchestra of thirty. Another original contribution to the lyric drama will be staged by the vocal forces of the San Francisco project. It is a "play with music" in the form of a series of stage cartoons and its co-authors are Ernst Bacon, Phil Mathias and Raisch Stoll. It is called "Take your Choice".

The Portland, Ore., WPA Orchestra, in conjunction with some of the established choral groups, will present two and possibly three operas during the Fall and Winter.

The WPA music forces in Cleveland which have already experienced popular success in presentations of the Savoy operas and the "Chimes of Normandy" are intensively rehearsing for more ambitious operatic offerings. The first opera will be Verdi's "Il Trovatore" for early Fall performance to be followed by Bizet's "Carmen," and from the chamber opera repertoire, Mozart's "Bastien-Bastienne" and Haydn's "Der Apotheker." On September 15 the Cincinnati units presented "Finafore" on a stage constructed in the form of a ship on the surface of Burnett Woods Park Lake, and this will be repeated during the Fall.

In Omaha where Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and Beethoven's "Fidelio" were presented in concert form as music appreciation studies last Spring, the WPA Orchestra with established choral groups in the city will present the "Mikado" on October 15 as
its first stage production of the new music season.

In Florida where performances of grand opera have been presented with success in Jacksonville, Miami and Tampa, plans for the Fall and Winter call for a statewide tour. Besides "Aida" and "Rigoletto", with which the WPA orchestras, choruses and principals are familiar, the list of operas under consideration includes "Madame Butterfly", "Pagliacci", "Carmen", "Hansel and Gretel", "The Bartered Bride", "Il Trovatore" and "Martha". Three Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and three musical comedies are also scheduled for performance. In cooperation with the Theater Project the Spanish operetta "Los Gavilanes" (The Hawk) was presented September 9, 11, 12 and 13.

While the main function of the major WPA choruses in Florida is to prepare for the operas, they also have in rehearsal for Fall performance several of the standard oratorios such as "Elijah", "The Messiah" and "The Creation".

Projects for pageants in cooperation with the Federal Theater forces contemplate one to be illustrative of the history of Florida from the arrival of the Conquistadors to the present. It is proposed to have this first fiesta at St. Augustine, the oldest city in America. Other episodes of the pageant will be staged in Pensacola and Key West.

The WPA musicians also are preparing to take part in fiesta day celebrations, such as the Gasparilla in Tampa, the Festival of the States in St. Petersburg, the Orange Blossom Festival in Central Florida, Miami's "Birthday" celebration, and Ybor City's fiesta honoring "King Tobacco".

The Illinois Symphony Orchestra and the American Concert Orchestra, principal Federal Music instrumental units in Chicago, will again emphasize the presence of American compositions in the three series of programs scheduled for the Fall.

The Symphony Orchestra will open a series at Loyola University October 18 with concerts on succeeding Sunday afternoons. The American Concert Orchestra will begin a series of Tuesday afternoon concerts at the University of Chicago on October 13. The third series will be given in Winnetka, a North Shore suburb.

Ambitious programs for others of the 162 symphony and concert orchestras and the thirty-eight choral projects have been announced, although the plans for the New York, Philadelphia and Boston Symphony Orchestras are not complete. Philadelphia concluded its Summer outdoor season last Wednesday with a performance of Tchaikowsky's Overture "1812" in the Grand Court of the Museum of Art on the Parkway. The full orchestra of 100 men and the concert band of ninety will be augmented by a unit of artillery. The overture calls for cannon as percussion instrument.

The Federal Music Project plans in Boston besides the operas contemplate
performance of several of the great oratorios to be presented at Harvard University and the Boston Opera House.

There also will be regularly scheduled symphony concerts in Providence, Worcester, Hartford, Bridgeport, Syracuse and Buffalo. Several of these orchestras, like the WPA Symphony in Jacksonville and the North Carolina State Orchestra, will make statewide tours.

Newark concert goers will hear a Brahms Cycle in which the four symphonies and the piano and violin concerti will be played by the WPA Civic Symphony Orchestra. The decision to present these programs is a result of the success of the Beethoven Cycle of last Spring. At other programs Schumann's Rhenish, Schubert's C major and the Second Sibelius Symphonies will be heard. The Beethoven Ninth (choral) Symphony will be presented during the Winter.

A series of seven programs to start the first week in October in colleges, universities and senior high schools will be given by Milwaukee's WPA Symphony Orchestra. These concerts will present a comprehensive review of symphonic music from Bach to present day Americans. Short talks will be incorporated in the programs outlining the lives of the composers and their place and importance in musical history. This will be in addition to the regular program of classical and popular concerts. Composers to be represented on the American program are Carl Eppert, Ferde Grofe, MacDowell and Dett.

The Tulsa WPA Symphony Orchestra was to appear late this month in the Indian Exposition in the pageant "The Trail of Tears", when the Indian music of the program will be accompanied with dramatic interpretations by Indian dancers, singers and a narrator. This work deals principally with the removal of the Five Civilized Tribes into Oklahoma.

In its regular season this orchestra will present six symphony concerts and four concerts with the choral group in which Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise", Grieg's "Olaf Trygvasson", and works by Rossini, Coleridge-Taylor and Handel will be heard. There also will be a program devoted to the compositions of four Oklahomans, Robert Wolfe, Paul Wesley Thomas, Samuel Addison McReynolds and Samuel J. Childers.

The Milwaukee and the Tulsa orchestras also are to give additional programs in various cities of their states.

At Mission Grove, Medicine Lake, in Minnesota the Twin Cities Civic Orchestra, the WPA symphonic unit of Minneapolis and St. Paul; the Twin Cities Band and the Twin Cities Jubilee singers have just taken part in a Harvest Festival, occupying a week.

In Michigan, Detroit's WPA Civic Orchestra is to give concerts every two weeks devoted to the classic symphonic literature together with many representa-
tive American compositions, and, with the Detroit Civic Choir, it will present
Verdi's "Requiem".

The Grand Rapids WPA Orchestra in collaboration with the Grand Rapids
Symphony Orchestra has announced a series of six subscription concerts at which
well known soloists will be featured. There also will be twenty children's
concerts in the public and parochial schools. With the Civic Festival Chorus, an
organization of 300 voices, there will be performances of a Mahler choral symphony
and William Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast".

A feature of the season will be the organization of an all-state WPA Symphony
orchestra of 100 players, to be recruited from the most talented performers of the
twelve units in Michigan. The orchestra will be taken on a concert tour to the
larger cities of the state.