

EASTMAN THEATRE CONCERTS

... Program ...

George Gershwin and Du Bose Heyward's

"PORGY and BESS"



Monday Evening, January 8, 1945



EASTMAN THEATRE
of THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
Rochester, New York

Monday Evening, January 8, 8 P. M.

The Rochester Civic Music Association
and

CHERYL CRAWFORD

In Association With

JOHN J. WILDBERG

present

GEORGE GERSHWIN and DU BOSE HEYWARD'S

"PORGY and BESS"

(Founded on the play, "Porgy," by Du Bose and Dorothy Heyward
with

ETTA MOTEN — WILLIAM FRANKLIN — AVON LONG

EDWARD MATTHEWS

THE EVA JESSYE CHOIR

ALEXANDER SMALLENS, *Conductor*

TIBOR KOZMA, *Assistant-Conductor*

Music by George Gershwin

Book by Du Bose Heyward

Lyrics by Du Bose Heyward and Ira Gershwin

Directed by Robert Ross

Choral Director, Eva Jessye

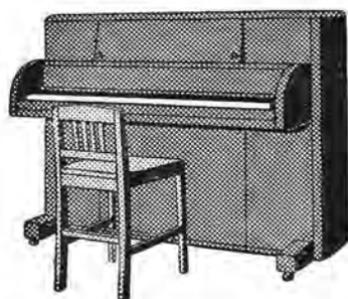
Settings by Herbert Andrews

Costumes supervised by Paul du Pont

C A S T

(In the order in which they appear)

Maria.....	Georgette Harvey
Lily.....	Catherine Ayers
Annie.....	Musa Williams
Clara.....	Harriet Jackson
Jake.....	Edward Matthews
Sportin' Life.....	Avon Long
Mingo.....	Jerry Laws
Robbins.....	Henry Davis
Serena.....	Alma Hubbard
Jim.....	William C. Smith
Peter.....	Russell Cooper
Porgy.....	William Franklin
Crown.....	Warren Coleman
Bess.....	Etta Moten
Policeman.....	Roger Gerry
Detective.....	Richard Bowler
Undertaker.....	Coyal McMahan
Lawyer Frazier.....	Charles Welch
Nelson.....	Charles Colman
Strawberry Woman.....	Catherine Ayers
Crab Man.....	Leslie Gray
Coroner.....	Clinton King



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Residents of Catfish Row, fishermen, children, stevedores, etc.:

The Eva Jessye Choir:

Olive Ball, Euabel Riley, Louisa Howard, Assotta Marshall, Sadie McGill, Annabelle Ross, Zelda Shelton, Lillian Cowan, Nell Plante, Edna Walker, Musa Williams, John Diggs, Leslie Gray, Jerry Laws, William C. Smith, Charles Colman, Coyal McMahan, Oscar Plante, George Fisher, Charles Andrews, Margaret Davis.

Children:

Harvey McGill, Viola Williams, Gwendolyn Jackson, Lionel Le Gall, Raymond Bernard.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Scene 1—Catfish Row. A summer evening.

Lullaby, "Summer Time".....Clara
"A Woman Is a Sometime Thing".....Jake and Ensemble
Entrance of Porgy: "They Pass by Singing".....Porgy
Crap game in Fugue

Scene 2—Serena's Room. The following night.

"Gone, Gone, Gone".....Ensemble
"Overflow".....Ensemble
Arioso: "My Man's Gone Now".....Serena and Ensemble
Train Song: "Leavin' Fo' de Promis' Lan'".....Bess and Ensemble

ACT II

Scene 1—Catfish Row. A month later.

Rowing Song: "It Takes a Long Pull to Get There".....Jake and Ensemble
"I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'".....Porgy
Divorce Scene: "Woman to Lady".....Porgy, Bess, Frazier and Ensemble
Duet: "Bess, You Is My Woman Now".....Porgy and Bess
Picnic Song: "Oh, I Can't Sit Down".....Orphan Band and Ensemble

Scene 2—A Palmetto Jungle. Evening of the same day.

"It Ain't Necessarily So".....Sportin' Life and Ensemble
Duet: "What You Want With Bess".....Crown and Bess

Scene 3—Catfish Row. Before dawn, a week later.

"Time and Time Again".....Serena and Ensemble
Street Cries, Strawberry Woman, Crab Man
Duet: "I Love You, Porgy".....Porgy and Bess

Scene 4—Serena's Room. Dawn of the following day.

"Oh, de Lawd Shake de Heaven".....Ensemble
"A Red Headed Woman".....Crown and Ensemble

ACT III

Scene 1—Catfish Row. The next night.

"Clara, Don't You Be Downhearted".....Ensemble

Scene 2—Catfish Row. Early morning.

"There's a Boat That's Leavin' Soon for New York".....Sportin' Life and Bess

Scene 3—Catfish Row. Five days later.

"Where's My Bess".....Porgy

"I'm On My Way".....Porgy and Ensemble

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES:

ACT I

Scene 1—Catfish Row. A summer evening.

Clara sings a lullaby to her baby. Robbins enters the crap game while his wife begs him not to play. Porgy comes on and also joins the game. He is accused of being soft on Crown's Bess. Crown and Bess enter. The crap game culminates in a fight between Crown and Robbins in which Robbins is killed. Crown escapes, while Bess seeks sanctuary in Porgy's room.

Scene 2—Serena's Room. The following night.

The "saucer burial" of Robbins who has died penniless. Friends contribute to the funeral expenses. A detective enters and, to secure a witness to the Robbins murder, arrests Peter. Serena is told that unless the body of her husband is buried on the following day it will be given to medical students. The undertaker enters and agrees to buy the body on the following morning.

ACT II

Scene 1—Catfish Row. A month later.

Porgy and Bess are at their window. Sportin' Life, the dope peddler, enters. Lawyer Frazier comes to sell Bess a divorce from Crown. Sportin' Life offers Bess dope and is threatened by Porgy. The Negro community leaves for the picnic. Bess goes, leaving Porgy alone in Catfish Row.

Scene 2—A Palmetto Jungle. Evening of the same day.

The picnic party pauses for a final celebration on the way back to the excursion steamer. Bess is detained by Crown, who has been in hiding on the island. He forces her to remain with him for the night.

Scene 3—Catfish Row. Before dawn. A week later.

Bess has returned to Catfish Row and her voice raving in delirium can be heard from Porgy's room. Serena leads a prayer for Bess' recovery. Street vendors enter, crying their wares. Bess joins Porgy on the doorstep. They confess their love for each other and Porgy promises to protect her from Crown. A bell sounds the hurricane alarm and Clara, whose husband, Jake, is out with the fishing fleet, falls in a faint. The storm descends on Catfish Row.

Scene 4—Serena's Room. Dawn of the following day.

The storm is raging while the frightened Negroes sing and pray. A knock is heard at the door which they believe to be the summons of death. Crown enters. He ridicules Porgy. From the window Clara sees that Jake's boat has been wrecked. Clara gives her baby to Bess to keep until she returns and rushes out. Crown laughs at the frightened Negroes, defies the storm and leaves to help Clara. He warns Bess that he will return for her.

ACT III

Scene 1—Catfish Row. The next night.

In one of the rooms a group of women is mourning for the dead of the storm. Sportin' Life enters and intimates to Maria that Crown is still alive. In Porgy's room Bess can be heard singing to the baby. Crown enters and approaches Porgy's door. He is seized by Porgy and, in the ensuing fight, is killed.

Scene 3—Catfish Row. Early morning.

The detective and coroner enter, determined to discover Crown's murder. They interrogate the residents of the court, but are unsuccessful. The coroner insists that Porgy go with him to identify the body of Crown at the inquest. Filled with superstitious terror at the thought of looking at the victim's face, Porgy refuses and is dragged away. Bess is approached by Sportin' Life, who tries to persuade her to go to New York with him. She refuses. Sportin' Life leaves a small packet containing "happy dust" upon her doorstep and departs. In despair of losing Porgy she picks up the "happy dust."

Scene 3—Catfish Row. Five days later.

Catfish Row awakens and starts its day. Porgy is brought home by the police patrol. He has played craps in jail and with the proceeds has bought a dress as a present for Bess. Knowing that Bess has left with Sportin' Life and overcome with sympathy for Porgy, his friends withdraw. Porgy now calls Bess, who does not answer. He learns that Bess has gone to New York. Calling for his goat and cart, he sets off in search of her.

Thursday Evening, January 11, 8 P. M.

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Guy Fraser Harrison, Conducting

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. . . EMERSON

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