

the Oslo Philharmonic. He has the distinction of conducting the only complete recorded performance of Wagner's *Götterdaemering* starring Kirsten Flagstad as Brunhilde.

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, one of the world's greatest living sopranos, will be in Vancouver for four weeks of the Festival during which time she will appear as soloist in symphony concerts as well as in her own recital and an all-Bach concert.

Two internationally-renowned Canadian musicians will figure prominently in the 1959 Festival; violinist, Betty-Jean Hagen who has won an international reputation in a relatively short time will perform as soloist in a symphony concert conducted by Mr. von Karajan. Zara Nelsova, generally acclaimed as one of the great cellists of our time, will be soloist in a symphony concert the details of which have yet to be announced. Miss Hagen was born in Edmonton, Alberta and Miss Nelsova in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Opera plays a major part in the Festival again this year. Gluck's "Orpheus" is the choice of the Festival Society and the leading role will be taken by Sweden's Kerstin Meyer, a contralto whose portrayal of the Orpheus role has won her a top reputation in Europe. She is equally noted for her interpretation of *Carmen* and has appeared at the Vienna State Opera, the Opera of Venice, and the Salzburg Festival as well as with her member company - the Stockholm Opera.

The Hungarian Quartet will play several concerts during the Festival and the Bach Choir of Montreal, fresh from a tour of Europe including the Edinburgh Festival, will bring their thirty-voice chorus to the Pacific Coast for the first time.

In keeping with the Festival Society's objective to combine the cultural achievements of the Far East with those of Europe and North America, Japan will contribute the varied talents of the Takarazuka Dance Revue - a brilliantly costumed, spectacularly-staged ensemble of dancers and singers - all girls. This troupe will begin its North American tour in Vancouver.

Three Canadian composers have accepted commissions to write works for presentation during the Festival period. Mr. Harry Somers will compose a string quartet; Mr. Pierre Mercure, now living in Paris, will compose a symphony or a symphonic work; and Mr. Robert Turner will compose several songs.

The 1959 Festival play will be Schiller's "Mary Stuart" marking the 200th anniversary of the playwright's birth. Although negotiations with several name actors and actresses are continuing, Mr. Goldschmidt announced that

the director will be Mr. John Reich who was associated with Dr. Tyrone Guthrie in the successful Broadway production of this masterpiece. This same play won highest praise at the Edinburgh Festival and at the Old Vic in London this year.

Plans are well advanced for a large Film Festival, presenting the best features, documentaries and other categories of films from at least 25 countries.

The Vancouver Art Gallery will house one of the most comprehensive exhibitions of French Canadian art and handicrafts ever presented. Mr. Gerard Morisset, Curator of the Provincial Museum of Quebec, is assembling the exhibit. He will include paintings, sculpture, furniture, and silver work from the time of the earliest settlers to the present day.

Other personalities and events will be announced as negotiations are completed. Mr. Goldschmidt pointed out that the Festival will be the first event in Vancouver's new auditorium after its opening. The auditorium, one of the finest structures of its kind on this continent, seats 2,900 people. It has elaborate stage and lighting facilities, and is fully air-conditioned. Auditorium officials expect it to be completed on June first, 1959.

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## OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Prime Minister announced on December 16 that the 2nd session of the 24th Parliament will open on January 15 1959.

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## URANIUM OFFER

Mr. J.M. MacDonnell, Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce, has announced that in response to a call for tenders Canada has offered to supply the International Atomic Energy Agency with 3,200 kilograms of uranium to be sold by the Agency to the Japanese Government for its atomic energy programme.

The Canadian Government has offered to supply the uranium free of charge to the Agency; the money which will be received by the Agency from Japan as payment for this uranium, if the Canadian offer is accepted, will enable the Agency to carry forward its programme of developing and expanding the uses of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Since the Agency was established, Canada has been one of its strong supporters and the offer by the Canadian Government is intended to provide an additional measure of support. Further, the supply by Canada of uranium to Japan through the Agency will assist the growing co-operation between Canada and Japan in this field.