

"MARITANA" SCORES

Second Cast Sings Well

There was a crowded house at Theatre Royal last night to see the second cast appear in Vincent Wallace's popular light opera "Maritana," which is being presented by the Elder Conservatorium Opera Class under the direction of Mr. H. Winsloe Hall, with Mr. Harold S. Denton as producer.

All the principal parts were taken by different singers except that of Don Caesar, the leading male role. The new tenor, James Currie, was billed to appear, but acute laryngitis will prevent his taking part for the rest of the show. Those who heard his rich voice at the rehearsal on Friday night will regret that the public will not be able to hear him.

Improved Don Caesar

John Jonas sustained the part excellently last night. His acting was lifelike, and his voice, although still uncertain on the top notes, showed improvement on previous performances.

Beryl Kekwick scored a well-deserved hit as Maritana. Her voice is perhaps the sweetest of all in the production. Historically she substitutes a certain charm and daintiness for the vivacity displayed by the Maritana in the first cast—Alison Lane. She was at her best in the favorite aria "Scenes That Are Brightest."

Evelyn Kekwick sang well as Lazarillo. One of the most effective numbers of the evening was her duet with her sister, "O Sainted Mother."

As the villain Don Jose, Len McLaughlin did not quite come up to expectations. Lack of stage experience probably handicapped him. However, he has a deep, resonant voice, and should do well.

Pleasing Voice

Lindsay Dawkins made the most of his part as the king, and the audience showed its appreciation of his pleasing baritone. Harold Porter as the marquis, Marjorie Hill as the marchioness, and Harold Burrows as captain of the guard were up to standard.

The show went with more swing last night. Practically all the characters have found their feet, and the remaining performances tonight, tomorrow, and Friday should be well worth seeing. The ballet under Phyllis Leitch and the chorus, both of which have performed well from the start, were in good trim last night. The costumes and scenery were as spectacular as usual.

The second cast will appear again tonight and Friday, and the first cast, headed by Alison Lane and John Jonas, will be seen tomorrow night.