

Zagreb Radio Symphony

Gum to Conduct Yugo Orchestra

By Hong Sun-bee
Staff Reporter

Gum Nanse, resident conductor of the Korea Philharmonic Orchestra, has been selected to be principal guest conductor of the Zagreb Radio Symphony in Yugoslavia for three years, starting this upcoming season.

He will be the first Korean to commit to an Eastern European orchestra, though the engagement does not cover a full season each.

Originally, he was offered the position of resident conductor with the orchestra of the old city which is Croatia's state capital.

The 42-year-old conductor will work with the radio symphony for a minimum period of two to three months each season.

Gum, fourth-prize winner of the 1977 International Karajan Conducting Competition, said humbly, "The invitation is in recognition of the growth in Korea's national strength more than the recognition of my ability as a conductor."

"I want to use this occasion as a stepping stone for the export of Korean music and musicians to Europe. I will ask the Zagreb orchestra to include Korean composers' works in its concert program and to invite Koreans to perform as soloists," he added.

The invitation came on the heels of his performances in September with the European Master Orchestra in Yugoslavian and Hungarian cities. The tour earned him critical reviews from local newspapers that traditionally hold back from complimenting foreigners.

Principal orchestral members from seven European countries meet once a



Gum Nanse

year to give concerts under the name of the European Master Orchestra.

The artistic director of the Zagreb Radio Symphony contacted Gum Nanse in Seoul in November, offering him a resident conductorship.

But, he said, he could not leave the Korean Philharmonic Orchestra at a time with the post of music director being still vacant after the departure of Won Kyong-su one year ago. He is the only remaining resident conductor of the state-funded orchestra.

"And I had no deep knowledge about what is going on at music halls in Eastern Europe. So, after contemplating for several months, I decided to start my career with the Zagreb orchestra in the capacity of principal guest conductor," he said.

He was promised first-rate remuneration by the radio symphony.

The boyish and willowy conductor will fly to Yugoslavia early in April to conclude the terms of engagement and sign the contract.

He will make his debut in November, and will take the podium at the Croatian State Opera also during the season. He was asked by the opera company to conduct one of three productions for the upcoming season - "Nabuco," "Aida" and "La Traviata."

Next year, his activities will be extended to other socialist countries in Europe. He has engagements with the Prague Radio Symphony of Czechoslovakia and the Sophia Radio Symphony of Bulgaria.

up to now, I have concentrated on standard symphonic pieces, and did not work with opera much. I must widen the range of my repertoire to include works that appeal to the local audiences and prepare myself for opera," he said.

The conductor said he would be able to concentrate more on music with his work with the Western orchestra because every musician is professionally trained for the job far more than a Korean orchestral member is.

Asked what are the requirements to becoming a good conductor, he replied "Time. In music, there are things that one can learn from teachers and the others that one acquire by himself. I'm just a beginner."

Korea-born conductors active on the Western music scene are very rare. They include Kwak Sung, music director of the Austin Symphony, and violinist Chung Kyung-hwa's brother Myung-hoon who is music director of the Saarbruechen Radio Symphony.

"Born to a composer father and a mother who is a life-time devotee to the education of pre-school children, Gum Nanse studied oboe at Seoul High School of Music and Arts and majored in music composition at Seoul National University's College of Music before enrolling at the Music College of Berlin. He is married to violinist Hong Chung-hee.

He has been with the KPO since 1979 except when he underwent a one-year conducting course at the Munich Opera in 1987.

One of his younger brother Noh-sang has been named resident conductor of the orchestra of the special city of Kwangju.

When Thomas' Allen became the first Englishman to open the 1988 season at La Scala, Milan - and incidentally, also the first to sing the title role Mozart's "Don Giovanni" there - it seemed no more than his right.

After all, he had been acclaimed as the finest lyric baritone of his generation in Britain, and his international career had already taken him to the Salzburg Festival, the Munich Festival, the Vienna State Opera, the Paris Opera and the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

La Scala - with a prestigious opening in front of an illustrious audience that included Italy's President Francesco Cossiga and the Prince of Wales, and with some tickets selling for more than 1000 pound each - appeared to set the seal on that success. Not so, according to the ever down-to-earth Allen. "It actually seemed like another day's work," he says. "A rather wonderful day's work, as it happened, but a tough day's work nonetheless."

The audience rose to him. So did the critics, one describing his performance as "a miracle of vocal acting." For La Scala's musical director and the opera's conductor, Riccardo Muti, it was a total vindication of his belief in the English singer.

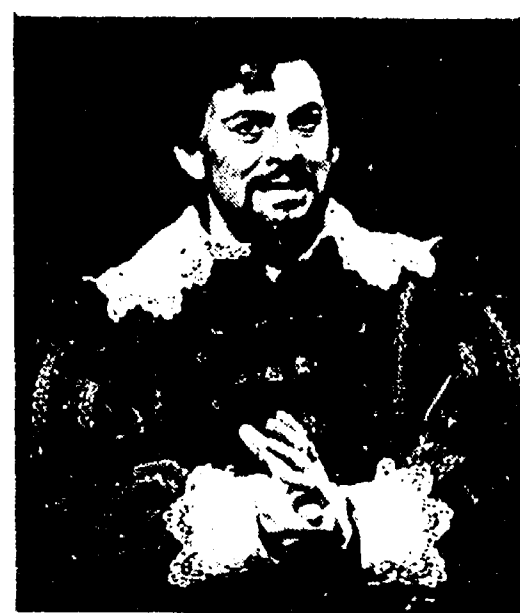
He says: "For me, Tom is a wonderful combination of great actor and singer. His sense of theatre, generosity and dedication to his work are very rare. He is probably the most interesting and subtle Giovanni in the theatre today."

Says Allen: "Riccardo has been after me for a long time, which is very flattering. I have always had to turn him down because of prior commitments but, in the end, the Metropolitan kindly released me from some performances in 'Die Fledermaus' so I could get to La Scala."

There are already plans for him to take his Giovanni, along-with the rest of the Scala company, to the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

The glittering world of the international opera circuit is all a far cry from Allen's roots in the industrial north-east of England. If he had not become a singer he could easily have been a professional golfer, and was junior champion in his home club at Seaham, county Durham.

His youth he



Thomas Allen

played an exhibition match with champion Dai Rees and even now, he teams up with the likes of actor Sean Connery for BBC Television's International Pro-Celebrity Golf tournaments.

Built like a rugby player - he played on the right wing in his student days - his early years were spent torn between sport and music. He sang in the church choir, played the organ at wedding and reckons he got his usual bent from his father, an accountant who had once run a dance band.

Young Allen started as a boy soprano but recalls: "My voice suddenly dropped into my boots when I was 12 and I was hustled hastily into the ranks of the baritones." Later he toyed with the idea of a career in medicine but changed his mind and was accepted by London's Royal College of Music (RCM).

His sights were then firmly fixed on specialising in lieder and oratorio and today, despite his consuming operatic schedule, he makes time to return to the concert platform under such conductors as Haitink, Solti, Giulini, Previn and Abbado. This spring he sang Mahler's "Des Knaben Wunderhorn" with Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Boston and at the Carnegie Hall, New York.

It was not until his last year at the

RCM that Allen attempted opera, standing in for a missing student in the school's latest production. The director told him: "If you do not do opera, you are a fool."

Recalls Tom: "I had only been to the opera a couple of times and was a dreadful snob about it thinking, in my superior way, that it was a rather crude art form. I still think that the principal elements of singing can be glossed over on the opera stage but, when everything works, opera is the most thrilling theatrical medium there is."

And it is as a wonderfully dramatic man of the music theatre that he has made his name. He was snapped up straight from college by the Welsh National Opera, gaining three years of valuable stage experience, including his first performances of Benjamin Britten's "Billy Budd," a role he has been closely associated with ever since and has recently returned to in a new production for the English National Opera. Both the composer and Sir Peter

Pears - the man who first played the part of Captain Vere - acclaimed his early performances in the role and, since then, he has sung it in New York and at London's Covent Garden. "I have been carrying a flag for Budd for years," he says. "It is a fascinating piece, full of all sorts of possibilities and unexplored avenues."

But it has mainly been three great:

Mozartian baritone roles - the Count in "Figaro," the lead role in "Don Giovanni" and Papageno in "The Magic Flute" - that have been his passport to international success. Later this year he sings the Count in Vienna and the Don in Munich, as well as with the Royal Opera at Covent Garden, where he was a company member for six years, before going freelance in 1978.

What makes the Allen sound so special? He is the first to admit that he does not possess the largest baritone voice in the world but it is wonderfully rich and firm, and its lyrical qualities have allowed him to take on some pretty special roles. (LPS)

Syberberg's Films to Be Presented

The Goethe-Institut Seoul presents three German films directed by Hans-Jürgen Syberberg for three days starting today at its auditorium.

The films deal with personalities associated with German composer Richard Wagner, a great figure in philology and social movements of Germany as well as in music, in the 19th century.

"Ludwig II - Requiem for a King" is to be presented today. The factual epic departs from the biography of Ludwig II but interprets the fate of Ludwig II. who ardently supported Wagner's operas.

In the remarkable movie shown through the king's irrational dreams, Ludwig II meets many historical and mythological figures including Marie Antoinette, Lola Montez and Hitler. All these meetings are a far cry from reality.

On Friday, "Winifred Wagner" will be screened. This documentary based

on an interview with Winifred Wagner, grandchild of Richard Wagner, reveals many aspects of Hitler's relations with Wagner.

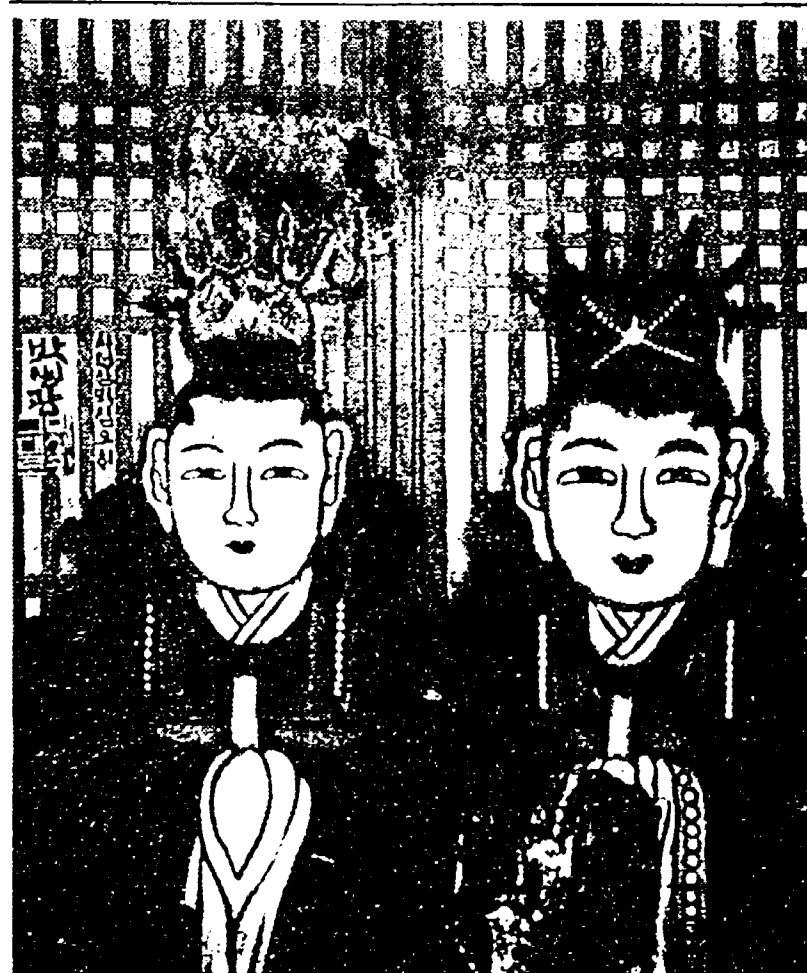
Until 1945 Winifred had been the director of the Bayreuth Festivals held annually in August for Wagner's operas only.

"Parsifal," slated for Saturday at 4 p.m., is a film version of Wagner's last opera. He died a year after the composition of "Parsifal."

The film discloses that the way Wagner interpreted Parsifal, a legendary knight in the middle ages, is heavily influenced by Buddhism.

THE WORD FOR TODAY

CRITICAL, Given to faultfinding or severe judgments. Woe be unto the person who lives with such an attitude. Eventually he will find himself without friends.



This is "Lattice Window and Shamanism" by Park Saeng-gwang, one of nine painters whose pictures are on display at the Hyundai Art Museum. The 14-day show ends Feb. 28.

At Hyundai Art Museum

'Imagination of Korea' on Show

"Imagination of Korea" paintings are on show for a 14-day run at the Hyundai Art Museum at the Korea Trade Center Building.

The exhibition which ends Feb. 28 is aimed at looking into the real colors of Korea through pictures painted by Koreans.

Nine leading painters were selected for the show to deliver messages of things Korean and display Korean images.

The nine are Kim Chong-bok, Park

Saeng-gwang, Park Song-hwan, Oh Sung-wu, Lee Tae-won, Chio Yong-rim, Hong Sok-chang, Hong Chong-myong and Lee Suh-ji.

The pictures on display accents the rediscovery of national identification through Korean customs and folklore.

Of significance is a "get-together of paintings pictures drawn by artists who have explored the world of beauty representing Korea," said Lee Kyung-sung, director of the National Museum, of Contemporary Art.

TOWN CRIER

EXHIBITION

EIGHT SCULPTORS present their works at Gallery Seomi (546-9740) Feb. 16-March 2.

FIVE WESTERN PAINTERS' show at Chongjaik Gallery (549-3112) Feb. 17-March 3.

MODERN GRAPHICS of West and East Germany at Walker Hill Art Center Feb. 8-March 8.

FRENCH ARTIST BURAGLIO exhibition at Won Gallery (734-3434) Feb. 15-24.

Ceramic arts by JANG JIN at Saem Art Gallery (545-1174) Feb. 14-24.

PARK SOO-RYONG'S oils at Shinsegye Department's Living Center Feb. 21-26.

OILS YU BYONG-YOP at Hyundai Gallery (549-6880) Feb. 13-28.

HWANG HO-SUP's show at Gallery Hyundai (734-6111) Feb. 10-25.

The late KIM HWAN-KI's "dessin and gouache - Pusan, Paris and New York" at Hyundai Gallery (734-8215) Feb. 10-25.

"KOAM" LEE UNG-NO's paintings at Hoam Art Gallery in Sosomun Jan. 1-Feb. 26.

Some 30 EUROPEAN POSTERS by such masters as Pablo Picasso and Van Gogh at Gallery Naksack (393-1939), Feb. 1-27.

CALIGRAPHISTS active outside Seoul exhibit their works at Seoul Arts Center (580-1114), Feb. 1-26. Close on Mondays.

SHIN MOON YONG, selected as "artists of the month" by the National Museum of Contemporary Art, display his paintings at the National Museum on Feb. 1-28.

PHOTO EXHIBITION of Cho Yong-boo at Pine Hill Gallery (735-8890) slated for Feb. 1-28.

CONCERT

VERDI'S "RIGOLETTO" produced by the National Opera Company at 7 p.m. Feb. 23-28 at National Theater main hall (274-1151/9). Korea Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Hong Yun-taek will accompany the opera, and Nah Yong-su will conduct National Chorus Company.

HUNGARIAN VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'S performances at Sejong Cultural Center main hall at 7 p.m. Feb. 26-27 conducted by Korea-born Yu Chong based in the U.S. Program: Bartok's Rumanian Folk Dance, Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik," Bach's Violin Concerto in E

Major, Barber's Adagio for Strings and Rozsa's Concerto for String Orchestra on Feb. 26, Leo Weiner's Divertimento No. 1, Haydn's Cello Concerto, Puccini's Crisante-mi and Tchaikovsky's Serenade on Feb. 27.

KANGNUNG CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S concert at Seoul Arts Center concert hall (580-1114) at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23, under the baton of Kwak Chin-yong. Program: Zuppe's Overture to "Dichter und Bauer," Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in minor, Haydn's Symphony No. 101 "Die Uhr" and Saint-Saens' Suite "Le Carnaval des Animaux." Soloist will be violinist Kim Eu-myong.

CHONJU CITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S concert at Seoul Arts Center concert hall (580-1114) at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 under the baton of Yu Yong-su. Program: Rossini's Overture to "Il Barbiere di Siviglia," Beethoven's Concerto No. 5 "Emperor" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Soloist will be pianist Lee Kyung-sook.

CHONGJU PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S concert at Seoul Arts Center concert hall (580-1114) at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25 under the baton of Kim Pyong-gyu. Program: "Finlandia," Symphonic Poem "Finlandia," Haydn's Cello Concerto and Bizet's Suite "L'Arlesienne." Soloist will be cellist Lee Dong-oo.

KAZUHIITO YAMASHITA'S guitar recital at Sejong Cultural Center main hall on Feb. 28. Program: Sor's Introduction, Bach's Sonata No. 3, Tarrega's "Recuerdos de la Alhambra," Granados' "Tona-dilla" and Dvorak's "New World" Symphony.

EVENING OF BACH by Tokyo-based flutist Kim Chang-kook at Munye Theater main hall at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26. Violinist Kim Min, cembalist Chae Mun-gyong, cellist Yun Mi-gyong and flutist Song Yong-ji will make guest appearance.

CINEMA

"MOON WALKER" at Myongbo Theater (274-2121) and Myongbo Art Hall (732-2131).

"NO WAY OUT" at Korea Theater (778-8361).

"THE LAST EMPEROR," a great epic on China by Bernardo Bertolucci, Daehan Theater (278-8171-5).

"MOSCOW DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TEARS," a Soviet film by Vladimir Man-shov, Chungang Theater (776-8866).

"THE LIE," an Italian film by Giovanni Soldati, Hollywood Theater (742-1481).

"DIE HARD" at Dansongsa Theater (764-3745).

"THE SALSA" at Myongdong Theater (332-5107).

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT SEOUL (754-9831) will show three films directed by Hans-Jürgen Syberberg: "Ludwig II" on Feb. 23, "Winifred Wagner" on Feb. 24 and "Parsifal" on 25. All the schedules start at 6:30 p.m.

DRAMA

"AUDIENCE INSULT," written by Peter Handke, will be staged by the 76 Company at Sinsun Theater (312-7959), Sinchon, Feb. 15-March 31, at 4 and 7 p.m.

"NUTS," a play written by Tom Toper, will be staged by the Rodem Company as its debut performance at Batangol Theater, Taehangno, Feb. 15-March 14, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

"HUSH, HUSH, HUSH!" written by Lee Hyon-hwa, will be performed by the Root group (743-3675) under the direction of Kim Do-hun at Munye Theater. Feb. 15-28, at 4 and 7 p.m.

"DUET FOR ONE," written by Tom Kempinsky, directed by Song Mi-suk, Yun Sok-hwa and Choi Chong-won in the leads, the Samullim (34-5915), performance extended to March 26, at 7 p.m.

"TOUCH AND GO," comedy written by British playwright Derek Benfield, will be performed by London's West End stars at the Hotel Inter-Continental Seoul, slated for March 2-4. Cocktails and dinners are available before performance. For more information call 553-8181.

"LIKE WIND, LIKE RIVER," a musical drama for youths performed by Minjung Group at Hyundai Toart Hall (552-2233) from Feb. 10 to March 4 at 4 and 7 p.m.

"LE PIEGE POUR UN HOMME SEUL," a detective story written by Robert Thomas, dramatized by Kim Ho-tae, at Madang Cecil Theater (737-5773), slated for Feb. 1-28 at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

"I LOVE SUN-AE," an experimental comedy based on "Yi Su-il And Shim Sun-ae" in a bid to remove genres of performance arts. Performed by Yeonmudae at Theater Space (763-0771) from Feb. 7 to March 7 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"THE APRIL 9," a satiristic drama on the suppression in Park Chung-hee's era. Performed by Yonwoo Group at Small Theater Yonwoo (744-7970) from Feb. 1 to 26, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

"DOUBLE JEU," written by Robert Thomas, performed by Semi Group under the direction of Kim Un-hee at the Small Theater Nunkack (565-9863) from Jan. 7 to Feb. 28 at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT SEOUL (754-9831) will host "Night for Poem Recitation" for poet HWANG JI-WOO on Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Hwang, himself, will interpret his works including "From Winter Tree to Spring Tree" in detail at the event.

SEOUL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S dinner dance at 7 p.m. March 4 at Swiss Grand Hotel Ballroom. Ticket price is W35,000 per person, and will be available through board members only. Reservations through Mrs. Jane MacCoy at 744-0567 and Joan Compas at 534-6209.

SEOUL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S Association's NEWCOMER'S COFFEE on Wednesday, March 8, at 10 a.m. Contact with Mrs. Louyse Keating at 798-0020.

WOMEN'S AGLOW CHRISTIAN'S FELLOWSHIP meeting on Wednesday, March 1, at 9:45 a.m. at Ambassador Hotel. For details, call Mrs. Brenda Slone at 252-6496 and Mrs. Sun-hee Cho at 533-3237.

LOTUS LANTERN International Buddhist Center will have "Vegetarian Pot Luck" on Feb. 25 and "Special Tea Ceremony" on March 11. For further information call 735-5347.

TOURS

A BIRD-WATCHING TRIP to Chunam Reservoir, an internationally-famous grounds for migratory birds near Masan, Kyongsang-namdo, on Feb. 25-26 under joint sponsorship of The Korea Times and the Hongkong Bank. Buses will depart The Korea Times parking lot at 1 p.m. Feb. 26. Contact Miss Hong at 732-4151 ext. 2359 or 734-6873 for further information.

DANCE

"La Fille Mai Gardee" and "Marche Joyeuse" presented by UNIVERSAL BALLET Company at Little Angels Arts Center (452-6035) at 3 and 7 p.m. Feb. 26-March 1. Choreographer Roy Tobias.

PUSAN

European ladies of Pusan International Women's Association will host a luncheon on March 8 at Paradise Beach Hotel, Haecundae, beginning at 11:30 a.m. For servations, call 623-6850.

MOVIE PRESENTATION at the Pusan Centre Cultural Francais (622-3600) through February including "Le Roi Rouge Kim Il-sung," "Le Cri Hibou," "La Passion Beatrice" and "Z."