

Postlude

Mayor Rules 'Bomarzo' Is Too Raw for Buenos Aires

By Paul Hume

ALBERTO GINASTERA'S operatic smash hit, "Bomarzo," has been banned in Buenos Aires. The premiere of the opera, scheduled for the Teatro Colon on Aug. 4, was canceled last Tuesday at the order of the mayor of Buenos Aires. His reasons: "Excessive reference to sex, violence, and hallucinations."

Since the initial performance of "Bomarzo," given in Washington by the Opera Society on May 19, the opera has been so enthusiastically acclaimed that Columbia Records recorded the entire Washington production and Conductor Julius Rudel scheduled four performances by the New York City Opera next spring.

The banning of Ginastera's second opera suggests strongly that Buenos Aires is suffering

from the political changes of recent years. His first opera, "Don Rodrigo," had its world premiere in the Teatro Colon several seasons ago. While its story was less sex-oriented than "Bomarzo," it included scenes that depended entirely upon both sex and violence.

CLEARLY the ban on "Bomarzo" is the result of a new regime rather than any artistically informed decision. The novel by Manuel Mujica Lainez, from which the author fashioned his own libretto for

the opera, won the John F. Kennedy Prize for Literary Distinction, an Argentine award, the year after it was published. And it is less than two years since Alban Berg's sensational opera, "Lulu," was sung in the Teatro Colon. In the final scene of "Lulu," the heroine is murdered by Jack the Ripper.

Ginastera called the mayor's action a "blatant case of censorship based on no other references than newspaper clippings," according to Reuters. The ban was also pro-

tested by the president of the Argentine Writers Association.

Other operas, ranked in varying degrees of greatness which depend for much of their effect upon sex and hallucinations include "Salome" by Richard Strauss after the Oscar Wilde play, and Verdi's "Macbeth" after W. Shakespeare. As for violence, to remove from the world's stages those operas that center around massive doses of this little item would be to decimate it. Out the window would go "Tosca," "Turandot," "Trovatore," and "Elektra," for a start.

IF THE MAYOR'S pronouncement is allowed to stand, what will become of Anna Russell's famous dictum: "You can get away with absolutely anything in opera as long as you sing it."

That the ban was not totally unexpected was indicated by Ginastera's wife, who said, "Everybody considered the

banning as impending and we were only awaiting the official decision."

No, children, you may not go to hear "Boris Godounoff." It has hallucinations. "Carmen?" Heavens, no. It's full of s-x.

Population 198,938,000

Associated Press
The Census Bureau yesterday estimated the total population as of June 1 at 198,938,000 including servicemen overseas. Census officials expect the total population to reach 200 million either late this year or early next year.

N.Y. Theater Group Granted \$900,000

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Ford Foundation will give the APA-Phoenix Theater, one of the Nation's leading resident professional acting groups, a

public sources. Foundation, Inc., the non-profit corporation which operates APA-Phoenix Theater, must match the Ford grant.

