Critics Call Opera Season's 'Best Fare'

By ROBERT ZELENKA
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The Houston Grand Opera Association's production of Lucia Di Lammermoor" on the nights of January 25 and 27 was perhaps, the best of Houston's musical fare so far this season.

In the cast were Gianna De'Angelo as Lucia, Enzo Sordello as Enrico, John Alexander as Edgardo, Raimondo was played by John Macurdy, Arturo by James Fromme, and Normanno by Joseph Blank. Alisa, Lucia's companion, was played by Lorene Michalopulos.

DONIZETTI's opera is romantic and colorful; the cast and orchestra captured the beauty of this "gentle masterpiece."

In the early part of the first act the orchestra drowned out some of the chorus, but after the harp solo in the second scene all was well.

The parts of the four principals —Lucia, Enrico, Edgardo, and Raimondo — were played with nearly equal skill. However, Miss D'Angelo, Lucia, stood above all in her mastery of the character and part.

THE HIGH POINT of the opera came in the first scene of the third act. This scene, which climaxed the passion and madness of Lucia, contained Miss D'Angelo's most beautiful and beautifully done aria of the opera. At its end (on Saturday night) she was brought out for seven curtain calls; the tribute given her was, in simplest words, most deserved.

The Houston Grand Opera Association has done a consistently good job in its presentations, with the earlier "Faust" and the more recent "Lucia Di Lammermoor."

The next production will be Moussorgsky's tragic opera "Boris Godunov." The opera will be presented, in English, on the dates of March 29 and 31.