mezzo-soprano Rosalind Elias charmed an all-too-small audience at Sunset Auditorium last night.

Inexplicably for an artist of this reputation and appeal, there were a great many empty seats, presumably left by season ticket holders who had failed to notify the box office, since the Carmel Music Society series is invariably sold out. The audience on hand, however, made up in its enthusiasm for the absentees.

Warmth, zest, fine musicianship, and a full involvement in all her numbers characterize the offerings of this rather petite prima donna who belies the impression that operatic voices require huge physiques. Her opening "Vio che sapete" aria from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" immediately revealed her range, her liveliness and her subtlety of expression in the Cherubino role.

Contrasts

The program was a nicely selected series of contrasts, one effectively played against another. It continued with Santoliquido's sombre "Io my leva!" ("I arise from the center of the earth. I sit upon the throne of Saturn") from "Omar Khayyam," then the coyly playful tale of love, Sibella's "La Girometta," followed by the impressionistic falling of the snowflakes in Cimara's "Fiocca la neve," dying away softly in a minor key. Then a return to the chatter of the lovesick Cherosimo in "Non so pio cosa son," all skillfully and imaginatively presented.

A special accolade must be given to the Monterey Peninsula's own Camille Olaeta, who took over as pianist when Miss Elias' accompanist, Stanley Sontag, was unable to be present. Mrs. Olaeta had met the singer upon her arrival late the previous day and had had about 24 hours to master the repertoire. Once the lid of the grand piano was raised after "Fiocca la neve," so that the sound would not be muted, the accompaniment provided a most distinctive addition.

The complete professionalism of the singer was revealed in her lack of any hesitation in performing with a hitherto unknown aide, and her insistence in Mrs. Olaeta sharing in the repeated bursts of applause. The two worked extremely smoothly together and both appeared to be enjoying the association.

Auvergne Songs

The printed order of the songs in Joseph Canteloube's "Chants d'Auvergne" was changed by the singer who explained that she was mentally prepared to begin with the shepherds' call of the "Bailero," followed by the lullaby of "Brezairole," the advice to a girl to ask for wine rather than water in "L'alo de Rosto," concluding with the plodding rhythm of the peasant behind the plough in the worksong. "Viens par le pre." It was a finely fashioned group, sung with simplicity and conviction.

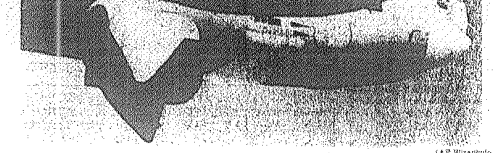
The wild gypsy melody of "Stride la vampa" from "Il Trovatore" provided a rousing conclusion to the first half of the concert, the harrowing scenes described around the campfire by the aged Azucena giving the Metropolitan mezzo a fine opportunity for the theatrical flair she can so well exploit. Her low register was thrillingly vibrant.

From the Italian and French of the first half, Miss Elias moved to the Spanish of de Falla and Obradors following the intermission. A great rhythmic sense was shown in "El Pano Moruno" and the plaintive "Asturiana." The long-held high notes of "Dos cantares populares" and the familiar "El Vito," with its flashing color, elicited a continued enthusiastic response.

English Group

The final song group was in English: Randall Thompson's "Velvet Shoes," walking in the snow, pictured with perfect enunciation and decorated with subtle nuances; Jean Berger's "Samba," delivered with an amusingly apt physical flair; Richard Hundley's "I Am Not Lonely," intensely expressive, and the spiritual, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," which seemed a summation of all the conviction and honesty which the artist had put into her program.

To the demand for encores, she responded with a Carmen full of authority and fire in the "Habanera," and a fond farewell in "I'll See You Again," from Noel Coward's "Bittersweet."



(AP Wirephoto)

Weird Craft Goes Aloft

An X24A manned lifting body, a wingless craft being developed by the Air Force for use in the manned space program, goes aloft at Edwards Air Force Base, suspended from the wing of a B52 mother ship for its first free test flight.

'Flying Bathtubs' Tested

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Like airborne bathtubs, two wingless experimental rocket craft glided gracefully from a height of 45,000 feet to 200-mile-an-hour landings—the latest step in the development of space shuttle craft.

A B52 jet bomber dropped the craft a few hours apart Thursday. It was the first time the two—the 22-foot-long HL10 and the 24-foot X24A — have flown on the same day.

Scientists hope that descendants of the craft will someday ferry supplies to orbiting space research stations, then re-enter the atmosphere and maneuver to the ground-like conventional planes.

The vehicles are wingless to withstand atmospheric friction but are shaped to provide aerodynamic lift like an airplane's.

Thursday's was the HL10's fourth powered flight. A U.S. Space Agency pilot, Jack Manke, fired its rocket engine and shot to 54,000 feet at 700 m.p.h. — 4,000 feet higher and 90 m.p.h. faster than on previous flights. The X24A simply glided, making its first free flight.

Flights are planned for both at 100,000 feet and 1,320 m.p.h. The X24A, built by Martin Marietta, is slightly different from the Northrop-built HL10.

Northrop also built an M2F2 lifting body that crashed during a landing in 1967. It has been rebuilt as the M2F3 and will fly late this year.

Ombudsman in Islands

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii, borrowing a 150-year-old idea from Sweden, has appointed a state ombudsman: Herman Doi, 43, an attorney.

competence in teaching two of his classes, quit after a two-day hearing in which he testified that he was a good and experienced teacher.

He said today he resigned when he learned that the board would not review his case and that members of it were not present at the hearing before a state hearing officer.

'No Chance'

"I simply decided I had no chance at all. That is why I resigned," Swenson said. He holds a master's degree in business administration and was lauded for teaching social sciences (his minor) at Chico for 5½ years.

Swenson said he exercised the seldom-used right

said.

William Carey, superintendent of schools, said the transcript would cost in excess of $500.

Evaluation

Swenson was evaluated as incompetent in two of the subjects he was teaching after classroom observations by his department head, the assistant principal.

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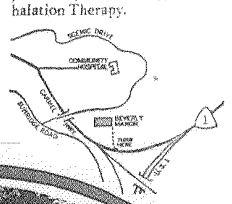

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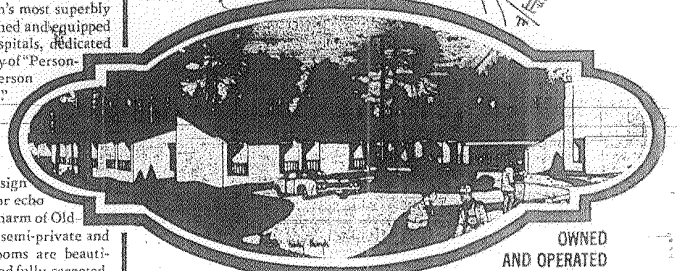

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Administrator

Mrs. Helen P. White, R.N.
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