

Eoan Group Offers Opera and Ballet

ANOTHER milestone in the eventful career of the Eoan Group was passed with overwhelming success when it opened its opera and ballet season before the wildly enthusiastic audience which filled the City Hall last night. The production of Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" was a colossal feat for a cast of singers, many of whom had learnt the music and its Italian words laboriously note by note. Added to this was the task of acting convincingly each of its separate rôles.

Unbounded enthusiasm on the part of the singers, and unlimited patience expended on their training by Joseph Manca (their musical director), Gregorio Fiascanaro (their producer) and Vincent Costello (their chorus-master) were rewarded by the result achieved last night.

That it was far from the goal to which it aimed is neither here nor there. The fact that the raw material is there, waiting to be developed, is what matters.

May Abrahamse sang and acted the part of Santuzza with touching sincerity. Yusuf Williams, as Turiddu, displayed a voice of fine potentialities, which at the moment is too untrained for so heavy a strain.

HISTRIONIC TALENT

Sophia Andrews, as Lucia, showed real histrionic talent as well as possessing a voice of rich quality. Benjamin Arendse was one of the best actors in the cast as Alfio, with a baritone that should take him far. Shirley Smit was not convincing enough as the heartless coquette. Lola, and her song off-stage, was sweet enough, but lacked character.

Chorus work was excellent throughout, and for sheer volume of tone the Easter Hymn has never been equalled here. The orchestra, unfortunately, suffered all through the evening (except in the Intermezzo) by too much volume of sound from trombones, trumpets and timpani.



EOAN GROUP SEASON: Scene from the ballet "Spring Song", with choreography by David Poole, which is being presented at the City Hall in Cape Town by the Eoan Group in a season of opera and ballet. LEFT: May Abrahamse and Yusuf Williams, two of the principals in the opera "Cavalleria Rusticana".



Exciting Night

WHETHER you are newcomer here or old resident, don't miss the exciting nights of opera and ballet being presented by our Coloured citizens at the City Hall.

This is not only something unique in the world of entertainment but offers entertainment at a very high standard of achievement. To those who do not realize the latent (and developed) genius in our Coloured people it must be an eye-opener.

I was enthusiastic when the Eoan Group first presented "Traviata". I am more enthusiastic now since hearing their "Cavalleria Rusticana" in which Yusuf Williams in particular pleased me more than many