

Opening Scheduled Tonight for Music Center Pavilion

Full House Expected for Gala Event

Christmas will come early for music lovers when The Pavilion, gem of The Music Center, is presented to the Southland at its grand opening tonight.

A distinguished capacity audience of 3,250 will gather in the gorgeous glass and granite-walled theater when doors open at 6 p.m.

An hour later the downbeat of Conductor Zubin Mehta's baton, launching the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra into a special opening concert, will signal the beginning of a Week of Dedication extending through next Sunday.

Heifetz to Play

It will be a week of memorable musical events, headed by the appearance of the world's foremost violinist, Jascha Heifetz, as opening night soloist in Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D Minor.

Heifetz, now a resident of Los Angeles, has seldom performed as a soloist with orchestra in recent years. He last played with the Philharmonic here in the Hollywood Bowl in 1956.

Those privileged to gather at The Music Center tonight will witness the birth of a new era in Southern California music and the hard-won realization of a dream of many years.

First of Three

The Pavilion is the first completed of a \$33.5 million complex of three stately theaters rising at the apex of the Civic Center.

For two decades the community has longed for a great center for the performing arts here, and for almost as long efforts to build one by conventional means met only with frustration.

It was not until 1959, when Mrs. Norman Chandler, president of the Southern California Symphony Association, envisioned a Living Memorial to Peace, to be built with privately subscribed funds on the seven Los Angeles County-owned acres, that realization dawned.

Millions Raised

The Music Center Building Fund Committee's pledge of a staggering \$18.5 million is virtually complete and a bond issue floated by the non-profit Music Center Lease Co. assures the balance.

North of The Pavilion, beyond the Plaza Mall, which overlies a huge underground parking garage, the Mark Taper Forum and the Center Theater are soon to rise, surrounded by a graceful 48-ft. colonnade.

The Forum will seat 750 for intimate drama, recitals and chamber music, while the Center Theater is designed to accommodate 2,100 for legitimate drama, light opera, and other theatrical events.

Will Be Leased

The three theaters will be operated, under lease, by the Music Center Operating Co., a non-profit corporation. They will belong to Los Angeles County for the benefit of all Southern California.

Two feasts of the senses are in store for the first audience tonight.

The soaring, five-level Pavilion, designed by Welton Becket and Associates, architects and engineers, already has been called one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

And in a flood of great mu-

sic listeners will be able to judge what is hoped to be an acoustically perfect interior, designed with the advice of Dr. Vern O. Knudsen, Paul Veneklasen and Dr. Robert Leonard.

One of The Pavilion's features is a permanent acoustical canopy overhanging the huge stage and adjustable to three positions to meet varying requirements.

Mehta will conduct the Philharmonic in Richard Strauss' "Fanfare," William Schuman's "American Overture," and "Feste Romane" of Respighi.

Cliburn Recital

The Week of Dedication will continue Monday night with a recital by Van Cliburn, brilliant young American pianist, and on Tuesday and Wednesday the Philharmonic Orchestra will present the first pair of symphony concerts of its regular 1964-65 season.

Thursday evening and Friday afternoon the orchestra will play its second symphony pair with Robert Casadesu as piano soloist, and Friday evening will be given over to American popular music and jazz.

On this occasion the audience will hear Nat King Cole's "Salute to The Music Center" with Count Basie's orchestra and an all-star cast of popular artists.

Light Opera

"Light Opera Album," produced by Edwin Lester, general director of the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera Assn., will be presented Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

The performance will include highlights drawn from 200 years of the musical theater, beginning with John Gay's "Beggar's Opera" of 1728, and ending with Bernstein's "West Side Story."