

MARTHA GRAHAM

66 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

November 7, 1942.



Dear Aaron:

I do not know whether or not I told you that Carlos Chavez had accepted the other commission from Mrs. Coolidge. I think I am the most fortunate dancer any where to have you and Chavez. I cannot believe it as yet.

I am working on an idea which I hope you may like better than the script you have. At least I remember you said it might be nice to be less severe. As you put it I think you said a combination of "Our Town" and the script I sent you. I cannot have it at once as it takes me a little time to think it thru. But I am trying not to use the fact that you are busy as an alibi.

Have you any objections if I take the script "The Daughter of Colchis" and rework it to submit to Chavez? I mean by that, to make it less provincial, not so markedly New England but to preserve the rest as it is. As long as I first sent it to you I should like to feel that you would feel this to be all right as far as you are concerned.

Naturally I would not consider doing a Mexican theme as that would be a sheer presumption on my part. Also after seeing "Don Domingo" I feel quite strongly about such a situation. I am certain I should be furious if I were Mexican. But I thought I could submit this with the undercurrent of the barbaric in it, I mean the Daughter.

Will you just drop me a post card telling me how you feel about this, whether I should go ahead or whether you would rather wait until you had seen the other script? I hope you are not in the army as a soldier as that would be a waste. I also hope your work is going well.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha".



Aaron:

I realize in going over this with the timings that you may have begun on the score the other way and that it will involve too much work to change. In any event if that is so you will need the ending around the former plan with the INDIAN GIRL omitted. Will you wire me here?

In any event unless you have gone ahead on the idea of the Episode with the Uncle Tom(s) Cabin scene I shall omit that. All this seems rather involved, I know. But I realize anew how difficult it is to use the American material and it has not shaped well to my touch.

Please wire me or let me know as soon as you can when you have a moment. As soon as I get the Chavez score I shall start on that so that will give you quite a bit more time. I do hope, however, that I can have it by the first or second week in September as I have to arrange costumes, sets and all around the quality of the music and not just arrange them.

Best,