

April 21, 1946

# Columbia Announces Premieres For American Music Festival

World premieres of two works for orchestra by Charles Ives will be among the significant musical features of the second annual Festival of Contemporary Music at Columbia University May 10-12. The concert devoted to the Charles Ives music is scheduled for Saturday evening, May 11, in McMillin Academic Theater. It will be given by ensembles from the Juilliard School under the direction of Edgar Schenkman, with Mordecai Bauman as baritone soloist. The two Ives works to be heard for the first time will be "The Unanswered Question" and "Central Park in the Dark." Symphony Number Three, the first New York performance of the Second String quartet and the Second Violin Sonata will also be included in the program.

Another world premiere will be included in the Festival's opening evening, Friday, May 10, with Martha Graham and company giving a new ballet with choreography by Miss Graham and music by Samuel Barber. Aaron Copeland's "Appalachian Spring," winner of last year's Pulitzer Prize in music will complete the Friday evening program.

The concert and nation-wide broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company orchestra on the afternoon of May 11 will include William Schuman's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, with Beveridge Webster as soloist, and the first New York performances of Ernst Bacon's suite "From These States" and Louise Talma's "Toccata for Orchestra." As a part of the concert program but not included in the broadcast will be a performance of Roger Sessions' Suite from the "Black Maskers."

The concert of the chorus and orchestra of the High School of Music and Art, under the direction of Helen Clark Moore and Alexander Richter, on the afternoon of May 12, will also include premieres. They will be Roy Harris' "Melody for Orchestra" and Norman Dello Joio's "A Jubilant Song," both written expressly for this program. The program will also have orchestral

works written for the High School of Music and Art by Aaron Copeland, Morton Gould, Paul Creston and David Diamond, and choruses by Randall Thompson, William Schuman and Samuel Barber. This and the other concerts of the Festival will be broadcast over WNYC.

The NBC concert will be conducted by the winner of the annual award to an American conductor whose name will be announced in the near future.

An additional event of the Festival, planned especially for out-of-town guests, will be the production of Gian Carlo Menotti's commissioned opera, "The Medium," Monday evening, May 13, in Brander Matthews Hall. Menotti's new opera will be given its premiere by the Columbia Theater Associates in collaboration with the Department of Music on May 8. Menotti was commissioned to write the opera by Columbia University on the Alice M. Ditson Foundation, the purpose of which is the development of American music.