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MUSICAL EVENTS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY's second annual festival of contemporary American music, most of which took place in the McMillin Academic Theatre, began with a ballet bill offering Martha Graham and her company in their superb production of Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" and a first performance of "Serpent Heart," a variation on the Jason-Medea myth, with a score by Samuel Barber. This new ballet has tension and tragedy, but it seems somewhat prolonged. The score, discounting a few diffuse passages, is written with power and craftsmanship.

—ROBERT A. SIMON