

April 1, 1947

MUSIC DIVISION

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Dr. Harold Spivacke
Chief, Music Division
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Spivacke:

Last week I went to Cambridge to talk over with Mr. Merritt at Harvard a number of problems in connection with the May 3rd performance of the Dance Company, and several of these questions now need to be taken up with you.

The first question, of course, is whether a third dance work should be added to the program. I spoke to Mrs. Coolidge on the telephone, and I told her that it would not be possible for Miss Graham to do the Milhaud work for this occasion. It was performed only the one time at the Library of Congress and has not been in rehearsal since then. Furthermore, a number of the dancers who were used are no longer with the company.

Mrs. Coolidge felt that the next choice would be the Hindemith work, "Herodiade". She did not feel that it would be wise or suitable to present "Appalachian Spring".

Mr. Merritt said that, from the standpoint of the Symposium as a whole, he would prefer not to include the Hindemith work, since a new work by Hindemith is to be sung by the Collegiate Chorale on the preceding night. All other composers are represented on the series by one work only. He suggested either "Cave of the Heart" by Samuel Barber, or "Errand into the Maze" by Gian-Carlo Menotti. While both of these works are new, neither, of course, is a Coolidge commission.

It seems to me that several factors should be considered in deciding this question. Mr. Merritt telephoned the contractor of the Boston Symphony to discuss the assembling of the orchestra for this performance. He said that there would be no difficulty in supplying Symphony men, provided they were free to leave Cambridge not later than 8 o'clock the evening of the performance, since there is a Boston "Pops" concert at 8:30 at Symphony Hall. The dance program is scheduled to begin at 6:15, and if only the Schuman and the Chavez works were performed, the musicians could easily be free to leave by 8. If a third work is added, it may be that players other than Symphony men will have to be used. It is then the question of how good they would be, and whether more rehearsal time might be necessary.

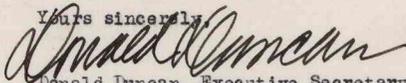
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It may be worth considering the advisability of having only the two works on the program. The Chavez piece runs about 35 minutes, and the Schuman work will be about 25. Last May when Miss Graham appeared at the Second Annual Festival of Contemporary American Music at Columbia University two works only were presented, "Appalachian Spring" and "Cave of the Heart", which was commissioned for that festival.

Previously I have not had occasion to inquire, and Miss Graham is not entirely certain about the financial arrangements intended for this performance. I am preparing a number of estimates of costs, and I would appreciate knowing what specific information you might need at this time and in what form this data would be most useful to you.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Duncan, Executive Secretary
MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

P.S. I will telephone you
on Monday, April 7th