

Program Note, Martha Graham

The music for the dances which Martha Graham will present with her company in the John Hancock Hall tomorrow evening has been written particularly for the dance, with two exceptions. These are the music for "Lamentation" by Zoltan Kodaly and the music for "Satyric Festival Song" by Imre Weiss-haus.

Louis Horst, Miss Graham's musical director, has composed the music for "Celebration," "Frontier" and "American Provincials." "Celebration," which will open the program, is subtitled "A Dance of Rejoicing." "Frontier," a solo dance, with its subtitle, "American Perspective of the Plains," is probably one of Miss Graham's most popular dances. It has almost become her artistic "trademark" even as "The Swan Dance" was for Pavlova. "American Provincials" is in two parts—"Act of Piety" and "Act of Judgment," having to do with the Puritan tradition.

"Lamentation," a solo dance, attempts to depict the agony of grief. "Satyric Festival Song" is Miss Graham's way of impudently poking fun at the very gestures for which she is so well known. Although the spelling in the title, and the subtitle, "Interlude for a Satyr Play," indicate that the composition was meant for Greek drama, "satiric" might just as well have been substituted for "satyric."

The "Indian Episode" and the "Emancipation Episode" are from Miss Graham's dance drama, "American Document," for which Ray Green wrote the music. The "Indian Episode" is in two parts: "Native Figure," a solo dance, by Martha Graham, and "Lament for the Land," a dance for the company. The rhythms of "Emancipation" are supposed to suggest the rhythms and the movement of the Negro spirituals.

"Imperial Gesture," a solo dance subtitled "A Study in Arrogance," is meant to show the way the body reacts under imperialism. In "American Lyric," the group dance which closes the program, Miss Graham wants to show the interplay, the coming together and the intermingling of a group of people.

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