

# Music

## Martha Graham Presents Modern Dance Group

Martha Graham, one of America's foremost interpreters of the modern dance, brought her dance group to Irvine Auditorium Saturday night in a recital sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Modern Dance Group.

Miss Graham's art is characteristic and highly individual. Her movements are sharp, angular and distorted. The posturings are never "pretty" in the formal sense of the word. But in her supple body and eloquent hands there is simple grace, and in her swift gyrations and more poised attitudes there is a sure effectiveness and appeal.

### Simple Impressions.

The impressions Miss Graham strives to evoke are simple and single. Her figures are stark and primitive, and her designs elemental and plain. Her message is primarily that of stirring the imagination; the social awareness that is so often present is incidental.

All this was evident in a distinctive program Saturday night. The opening "Imperial Gesture," intended as a study in arrogance, didn't quite come off.

But the pioneer woman in "Frontier" and the tortured Spanish woman in "Deep Song" were projected vividly, the heroic touch injected in both. The shrewd "Satyric Festival Song" showed a fine leaven of humor, as did the more

ironic "Harlequinade."

### Talented Group.

In the choreography for her dance group Miss Graham displayed a fine feeling for mass and form. "Act of Judgment," in "American Provincials," and "American Lyric," brought the severe posings of the group into sharp play; in "Primitive Mysteries" the contrast of individual to group was nicely balanced.

The group of 12 dancers with Miss Graham are all remarkably talented. They helped to make the evening distinctive, and shared with Miss Graham the applause of a large and enthusiastic audience. Louis Horst, Miss Graham's musical director, played at the piano, and also shared in the tributes.

—A.B.

Philadelphia (Pa.) "Record." Jan. 16. 1939.