

Bennington College
Bennington, Vermont.
July 22, 1943.



Dear Aaron:

I was so relieved to get your letter with your re-action to the revised script this morning. I will say that mildly I have been on pins and needles. I am glad you think it is better than the first one. I do know that when I hear your music it will give a new and different life to the script. Once the music comes I never look at the script. It is only to make a working base for the composer and myself. Now it exists in words, in literary terms only and it has to come alive in a more plastic medium which music is to me. So please feel free to let the music take its own life and urge.

I am worried over the time element. I have not heard from Carlos Chavez. I have been expecting some word daily but none has arrived. I do know that he is in the group of Manana people and that is bad. I have written. I am waiting to begin as my work here finishes this week. I finished the piece I have been working on. It was shown in preview last Sunday and will be repeated this week-end. I did not make it a public performance as it is strange material and I wanted a chance to make my mistakes and correct them as far as possible. I did not even know whether it would hold as a work but it seems that it will. I am relieved but terribly let down as one always is. I feel the two days after such a thing as though I had been beaten. My nerves seem to sit out in public. Hunter Johnson did the music. Some day I will tell you about it. The name of it is "Deaths and Entrances". It is a piece of tragic theatre.

I do not know what to tell you about the postponement you suggest. I am certain that Mr. Spivacke is all geared to go and that this will not be to his liking. As far as I am concerned I am in an embarrassing position. I made arrangements with my company that these works would take place at that time. They have made their plans for the year accordingly. I would have to see what they could do about re-routing their own concerts. You see several of them have activities that take them on small tours and as there are several schedules to work around we have to be very careful in our plans. Of course I am anxious to get to work on these works. It seems that this piece I have just finished was a preparation and I am in the swing of it more than I have been. I do know, however, that you are pressed for time and that there do come times when it is hard to work, particularly if you are waiting and postponements come as they have with the film. That waiting is hard. I do wish we could get it ready for fall. Will you think about it a little further and see what you think? I will write to Mr. Spivacke today and see if there has been any further word from Chavez. Of course we can only do what we can do but I do hope it can go through as scheduled or as nearly so as possible. I had a letter lately from Mr. Spivacke in which he said they were saving the dates around the 31st of October. By that he said the 29th, 30th and 31st. They think there will be at least two performances in Washington. There are also some plans about New York, I believe. Mrs. Coolidge's birthday is on October 31st and that was the reason for that date.

I am hurrying to get this in the first mail to you. I do agree that it would be better to have the entire piece come at one time. I know