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Hotel Continental,
Cambridge, Mass.



June 16, 1942.

Mr. Erich Hawkins,
66 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hawkins:-

Since receiving your first letter, I have communicated with several composers who have asked me to commission them in various ways, inquiring from them whether they would be interested in such a work as you have suggested for Miss Graham. Among those who have answered are Vittorio Rieti and Bernard Wagenaar, either of whom apparently would be delighted and well equipped to write a dance.

I am writing this to you because I must consider two things. The first is, that I cannot offer more than \$500.00 for such a composition, and the second is that I could not guarantee the performance of such a work after its completion, but, on the other hand, it would give me great pleasure to contribute to so ^{fine} fair an artist as is Miss Graham, and I feel sure that if it were successful, she would not lack opportunities to present it under other auspices.

You may be disappointed at my thought about commissioning artists who are far less famous than the ones you mentioned, namely, Copland and Hindemith; but I believe you would also sympathize with me in desiring to help along less well known composers, whose works would receive splendid publicity by being performed by Martha Graham.

I am writing this only as a suggestion and in order



to know your reaction, for, before doing anything of the kind, I wish to have the advice and coöperation of Dr. Spivacke in the Library of Congress, and of course, if you feel that a lesser price and a lesser reputation would not be acceptable to you or Miss Graham, I should wish to know it before taking any further steps in the matter.

With kind regards, please believe that I am

Very sincerely yours,