

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 29

FOR RELEASE:

Sunday, March 26, 1961

or after

WALTER PISTON CONCERT AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A Walter Piston concert, with the composer conducting, will be given at the Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, March 30, at 8:30 p.m. In this third Composers' Showcase concert of the season, Mr. Piston will conduct the New York Chamber Soloists in his "Divertimento for Nine Instruments" (1946); the Curtis String Quartet will play the "String Quartet No. 4" (1951); and Lillian Fuchs, viola, and Luigi Silva, cello, will perform the "Duo for Viola and Cello" (1949). Also on the program, the first all-Piston concert held in New York, are the "Sonata for Flute and Piano" (1930) and "Three Pieces for Flute, Clarinet and Bassoon" (1926). Composers' Showcase is directed by Charles Schwartz.

Mr. Piston will discuss his work following the performance.

Tickets for the concert, \$3, may be purchased at the Museum, 11 West 53 Street, or by mail. Museum members receive a 25 per cent discount on one or two. Tickets include admission to galleries, open every Thursday until 10 p.m. Dinner and refreshments are available.

One of the leading composers of our time, Mr. Piston has written seven symphonies and chamber music for various instrumental combinations. His work is known for its elegance, style, and craftsmanship. Born in Rockland, Maine (1894), he was a student of Nadia Boulanger in the early 1920's, has in turn taught such younger musicians as Elliot Carter and Leonard Bernstein. He was a professor of music at Harvard from 1926 until his retirement last August.

"I believe in making my music as clear as possible," says Mr. Piston. "I believe in music which has something to say. Principles of form and design are as important today as ever. I am interested in content, not so much in the outer clothing. Music must communicate - but, of course, the listener has half the responsibility. I deny being a classicist. I am contemporary. But I'm not avant-garde."

Composers' Showcase and its counterpart, Jazz Profiles, will continue to present Thursday evening concerts at the Museum. Together, the two non-profit organizations are the only regular concert series entirely devoted to contemporary music and modern jazz.

Photos and further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. CI 5-8900.

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Thursday, March 30, 1961 8:30 PM

A WALTER PISTON PROGRAM

1. THREE PIECES FOR FLUTE; CLARINET AND BASSOON 1926
Allegro scherzando
Lento
Allegro
Samuel Baron - Flute Charles Russo - Clarinet
Morris Newman - Bassoon

2. STRING QUARTET NO: 4 1951
Soave
Adagio
Leggero vivace
Con fuoco

THE CURTIS STRING QUARTET

Jascha Brodsky - Violin Max Aronoff - Viola
Mehli Menta - Violin Orlando Cole - Cello

3. SONATA FOR FLUTE AND PIANO 1930
Allegro moderato ~~con grazia~~
Adagio
Allegro vivace
Samuel Baron - Flute Harriet Wingreen - Piano

INTERMISSION

4. DUO FOR VIOLA AND CELLO 1949
Allegro risoluto
Andante sereno
Allegro brillante
Lillian Fuchs - Viola Luigi Silva - Cello
5. DIVERTIMENTO FOR NINE INSTRUMENTS 1946
Allegro
Tranquillo
Vivó

THE NEW YORK CHAMBER SOLOISTS

Gerald Tarack - Violin Samuel Baron - Flute
Ynex Lynch --Viola Melvin Kaplan- Oboe
Alexander Kouguell - Cello Julius Levine - Bass

ASSISTING ARTISTS

Alan Martin - Violin Charles Russo - Clarinet
Morris Newman - Bassoon

CONDUCTED BY THE COMPOSER

Mr. Piston will discuss his work with Mr. Schwartz following the concert .
Written questions are invited.

Composers' Showcase is sponsored and presented by Contrasts in
Contemporary Music, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.