

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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No. 27
FOR RELEASE:
Friday, March 30, 1962
or after

COMPOSERS' SHOWCASE PRESENTS A THEODORE CHANLER MEMORIAL CONCERT AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A memorial concert in tribute to Theodore Chanler will be the fourth Composers' Showcase presentation of the season at the Museum of Modern Art on Thursday, April 5, at 8:30 p.m. Nadia Boulanger and three of her most distinguished former students, Aaron Copland, Walter Piston and Virgil Thomson, all friends of Chanler, will participate. Chanler, who died on July 27, 1961, was also a student of Mme. Boulanger. The program will consist of compositions by Chanler conducted or performed by Mme. Boulanger, complemented by Copland, Piston and Thomson in performances of works of their own. Composers' Showcase, now in its fifth year, is under the direction of Charles Schwartz. Tickets for the concert have been sold out.

Mme. Boulanger will conduct a small women's group of the American Concert Choir (Margaret Hillis, Director) in the first performance of "Chorus of Nymphs" from "Circe's Isle," Chanler's unfinished opera with a libretto by Hester Pickman. Begun in 1959, this is the composer's last work. Mme. Boulanger will also appear with Beveridge Webster in Chanler's "The Second Joyful Mystery," a fugue for two pianos; will accompany Donald Gramm, baritone, in the cycle, "Eight Epitaphs," and in three other songs, "These, My Ophelia," "The Lamb," and "The Doves"; and, with Carroll Glenn violin, will perform the "Nocturne for Violin and Piano." With the exception of the excerpt from "Circe's Isle," all Chanler works on the program were written during the 1920's and 30's.

In addition, Aaron Copland will conduct the first New York performance of his "Nonet for Solo Strings" - three each violins, violas and cellos. Commissioned in 1960 by the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, this work is dedicated to Nadia Boulanger "after forty years of friendship." Walter Piston will conduct members of the New York Chamber Soloists and assisting artist in his "Divertimento for Nine Instruments" (1946) and Virgil Thomson, at the piano, will accompany Donald Gramm in five of his "Old English Poetry" (1955) songs. Two of these, "John Peel" and "If Thou a Reason Dost Desire to Know," will receive their first New York performances.

Theodore Chanler, who wrote slowly and with many revisions, and who was ill during the last twenty years of his life, did not leave a large body of work. Much of his music consisted of songs. He also wrote "The Pot of Fat," a chamber opera, and a mass, a ballet, and other instrumental and chamber works. While his lyrical and sensitive music has not been well known to a large public, Chanler has been a favorite of many musicians.

On May 10, the final Composers' Showcase concert of the season will feature the music of three younger composers: George Perle, Mel Powell and George Rochberg.

Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director,
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