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sent by hand to
music critic

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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From: Herbert Barrett
(5/14/40) Columbus 5-4640

Re: MEXICAN MUSIC PROGRAM

The program of Mexican music in the Auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art continues twice daily at 2:30 and 8:45 P.M., from Saturday, May 18th, through May 29th, including Sunday.

Eduardo Hernandez Moncada, eminent Mexican composer and conductor, assumes direction of the Orchestra and Chorus, especially assembled for this musical program, which complements the "Exhibition of Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art", now on view at the Museum.

Mr. Moncada, a native of Vera Cruz, is active in Mexico both in the Department of Music of the Secretariat of Education and as conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, of which Carlos Chavez is permanent conductor.

The Mexican program, arranged and supervised by Mr. Chavez, and directed by Mr. Moncada, presents a general idea of the music of Mexico, as detailed as possible within the limit of a concert. It will present music that flourished in Mexican civilizations in the last twenty centuries. The program is divided into nine major groups, including the Indian music of the ancient Mexicans; the music of Spanish origin implanted in Mexico; and finally, the production in Mexico of a mixture of these elements. It was Mr. Chavez' hope that the inspiration which originally gave rise to this music would "arrive here, living and fresh, across intervening years and miles."

The nine major groups of music of the Museum program include:

I. XOCHIPILI-MACUILXOCHITL

This was the Aztec God of music, the dance, flowers, and love. The name was chosen by Mr. Chavez as the title because its very sound seems to evoke the flavor of an ancient Indian culture. The special orchestra used for this piece consists of copies of archeological instruments, including flutes, teponaxtles (cylindrical pieces of wood hollowed-out, to produce a sound box) huehuetles, (Indian drums which are the hollowed-out trunks of trees) rasps of wood and bone, rattles, whistles of every size, and (to approximate the sound made by blowing into a conch-shell) a trombone.

II. SONES MARIACHI

A Mariachi is the name given to an instrumental ensemble found chiefly in the Mexican State of Jalisco. The word Son is the characteristic music of the Mariachi. It is gay music, which is concerned generally with love. The piece on this program was arranged by Blas Galindo, a young full-blooded Indian from Jalisco.

(contd.)

III. CORRIDOS MEXICANOS

The Corrido is a true folk ballad. The Corrido Singer is a modern troubadour, whose songs deal with crimes, violent deaths, bandit raids, natural catastrophes, railroad wrecks, wars and even the international monetary crisis. Corridos are sung at fairs and fiestas, and in many remote parts of Mexico, and are the equivalent of newspaper, magazine, radio and newsreel.

IV. MASS by DON JOSE ALDANA

This is an 18th century Mass, discovered in April, 1940, in the archives of the National Conservatory of Music, by the Mexican composer, Candelario Huizar. It is an example of Mexican religious music of the late colonial period. It was composed so that it could be sung any day of the year, and consists of the four sections of the Ordinary: The Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, and Sanctus.

V. MARCHA, VALS, CANCION

These were selected by Carlos Chavez, as typical popular music of the Mexican Republic. The MARCHA of the title is the most popular of all Mexico's military marches, LA MARCHA DE ZACATECAS, the waltz is CLUB VERDE, the song is an international favorite, LA ADELITA, a Mexican corrido of the 1910 revolution.

VI. HUAPANGOS

A Huapango is the name of a type of fiesta, celebrated particularly along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and in the adjacent tropical lowlands. The music is known as a "son" as it is in the mariachi, and is very gay, fast and rhythmic. There are thousands of "son" melodies varying with each performer. In general they are derived from 16th century Spanish music.

VII. LA PALOMA AZUL

"The Blue Dove" is typical of the genre of peasant sentimental song, probably descended from Italian Opera, which was enormously popular throughout Mexico in the 18th and 19th centuries.

VIII. YAQUI MUSIC

The Yaquis and the closely related tribe of the Seris live in the State of Sonora. They have preserved an almost archaic culture. Their music is vigorous and dramatic, and their orchestras have an astonishing variety of percussion instruments, including drums, water drums, rattles, rasps, bunches of dried butterfly cocoons, called "Capullos de Mariposa".

IX. LOS CUATRO SOLES - TWO DANCES

"The Four Suns", a Mexican Ballet written by Carlos Chavez, in 1925-1926, is based upon a Mexican legend of prehistoric times. The composer was interested in turning Mexican music away from exclusive imitation of Europe, and this represents a turning back to Mexican legend and art, as a source of musical inspiration. In this program, two dances from LOS CUATRO SOLES are being played. The first deals with the first "Sun" or epoch, which ended with the deluge. The second is a ritual dance of adoration of "Centectle", the goddess of maize, and is a dance of praise for the abundance and fertility of the earth.

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