

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

presents

CELIA HUDSON

pianist

Sunday, May 8, 1966

5:30 p.m.

Carriage Barn

P R O G R A M

SONATA IN F, K. 533 and 494 . . . . . MOZART

Allegro  
Andante  
Rondo

SONATA FOR PIANO (1918) . . . . . CHARLES GRIFFES

I N T E R M I S S I O N

VARIATIONS AND FUGUE ON A THEME BY HAENDEL, OPUS 24 . . . . . BRAHMS

Charles Tomlinson Griffes was born in Elmira, N.Y. in 1884. He studied piano, theory and composition in Berlin with the intention of becoming a concert pianist until his composition teacher, Humperdinck (Hansel and Gretel) convinced him that he should devote his energies to creative work. Griffes returned to the United States in 1907 and taught at a boys' school in Tarrytown, N.Y. until his early death at age 36. His music is reminiscent of Debussy, whose music Griffes admired; like Debussy, he became fascinated with oriental music. His most well known works are for orchestra: a segment of his ballet, 'The White Peacock', the 'Pleasure Dome of Kubla Kahn' and 'Poem' for Flute and Orchestra. His more prolific solo piano pieces (Four Roman Sketches, Fantasy Pieces, Tone Pictures, etc.) and songs (from Blake to Oscar Wilde, Heine to Ancient Chinese and Japanese) are virtually unknown. The Piano Sonata, written in three unbroken movements, was Griffes' last and by far his most exciting work. It is a highly emotional outpouring; its structure is developed upon the concept of the raga. Raga, (literally color or mood), is a melody type - more a specialized tonal frame than a mode - which has "ethical" and "emotional" significance in Hindu music. This work, breaking away from Griffes' more traditional bounds, showed great promise of what was to come, had the composer lived longer.