PROGRAM NOTES

The Pavanne can be traced to the formal and austere court life of religious inquisitional Spain. The dance reflects the period in that its mood is one of power, slow moving strength and extreme formality. It is a dance of dignity and display in slow accented rhythm.

The Allemande was a court dance in Germany during the 16th century. The beauty of the dance lay in its slow and flowing grace, especially the arms. Its mood is one of sentiment in contrast to the more arrogant Pavanne.

The aim here is to catch the mood reflected by each but not to copy the original dances.

I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'-An expression of happy-go-lucky gayety and simple faith. The songs are from the American Folk Opera, "Porgy and Bess", with music by the late George Gershwin.

George Gershwin, (1898-1937) an American composer achieved fame as a writer first of musical comedy but later turned to more serious music. In this field his first achievement was his "Rhapsody in Blue" for piano and jazz-orchestra, performed repeatedly in America. In the field of serious opera his latest success was "Porgy and Bess".

City Portraits might be called case histories in terms of dance. The Girl and The Women are both victims of environment.

The music for the first Portrait was composed especially for the dance by Harvey Pollins after the dance was completed.

The second might easily be the sequel of the first. Since the dance follows a dramatic rather than a melodic line, percussion accompaniment is used.

The two Hebrew dances are from a suite of five dances for solo and group. The first is a lament and the second a dance of celebration. The music is of folk origin.


a. I went ten steps outside the gate,
   Which brought me to the ditches,
   And there I found some chicken skin,
   To mend my leather breeches;
   If there had been no chicken skin,
   I could not mend my trousers thin.

b. He climbed up the candlestick,
   The little mousey brown,
   To steal and eat tallow,
   And he couldn't get down.
   He called for his grandma,
   But his grandma was in town,
   So he doubled up into a wheel
   And rolled himself down.

c. Pat a cake, pat a cake,
   Little girl fair,
   There's a priest in the temple
   Without any hair.
   You take a tile,
   And I'll take a brick,
   And we'll hit the priest
   In the back of the neck.

The music of the Modern Pavanne is from "American Symphonette, No. II" by the modern American composer, Morton Gould.

DANCE RECITAL

By

DOROTHEA HANWELL

Assisted by

Edith Czech, Edie von Rechtensee

And

Students of the Music Department of Yenching University

Sage Hall

February 16 and 17

1940

8:00 P.M.
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Choreography of all dances by Dorothea Hanwell

Singers: Ch'i Yii-chen, Ch'ih Yuan-yuan, Mao Ai-li, Cheng Ju-kang, Ch'i Nai-ch'un, Liu Ch'un-feng

Accompanists: Ch'ih Yüan-yüan, T'ang Chuan-li

"Now for a simple recipe for the enjoyment of modern dancing; ... leave as much of the intellect as possible in the check room, ... abandon all effort to figure out what it means, ... merely relax and let the muscles do the thinking."

John Martin, Dance Critic of the New York Times