

Summergarden

The Museum of Modern Art

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To: TV and Photo Assignment Editors

From: Earl Hatleberg, Project Director, SUMMERGARDEN 956-7298

Date: August 29, 1977

Re: PRESS PREVIEW OF REVIVAL OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN OPERA IN MUSEUM'S SCULPTURE GARDEN

AUGUST 31, 1977 (Wednesday)

10 AM to 3 PM

11 West 53rd Street RAIN OR SHINE

Five performers in 1950s formal attire will assume the roles of Dinah, Sam, and The Trio (based on the radio trios of the 50s) in Leonard Bernstein's 1952 opera TROUBLE IN TAHITI and will also belt out four recipes he set to music and several of his show songs.

TROUBLE IN TAHITI, an operatic satire of the 1950s, will be presented for three consecutive weekends in September, beginning September 2, 1977, in The Museum of Modern Art's SUMMERGARDEN.

The production, staged by Harvey E. Phillips and conducted by Mitchell Krieger, will include Bernstein's LA BONNE CUISINE--a suite of four recipes: PLUM PUD-DING, TAVOUK GUEUNKSIS, OX-TAILS STEW, and RABBIT AT TOP SPEED (from the cookbook La Bonne Cuisine Francaise) set to music for Jennie Tourel in 1949 in their English versions.

Also on the program will be selections from Bernstein's first two Broadway endeavors (collaborations with lyricists Comden and Green): "I Can Cook Too" and "Carried Away" from ON THE TOWN; and "Pass the Football" and "Conversation Piece" from WONDERFUL TOWN.

A musical sketch of suburban life in the 50s, TROUBLE IN TAHITI was first performed in June 1952 for the inauguration of the Festival of Creative Arts at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. Mr. Bernstein, professor of music at Brandeis at the time, called it a "lightweight piece...popular-song inspired (with) roots in musical comedy, or even better, the American musical theater."

The free public performances will be at 8 PM on Fridays and Saturdays, September 2 and 3; 9 and 10; and 16 and 17, 1977. A grant from MOBIL opens SUMMERGARDEN free through the Sculpture Garden gate at 8 West 54th Street from 6 PM to 10 PM every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through October 2, 1977.

The evenings of Bernstein music are presented with the assistance of a grant from the Gilman Foundation, Inc.

SUMMERGARDEN is made possible by a grant from MOBIL.

Press Info: Earl Hatleberg, Project Director; Stephen Soba, Associate, SUMMERGARDEN, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, NY, 10019. Telephone: 956-7298; 956-7504. Wednesday, August 31st: 956-7284.