

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1940

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART COMMISSIONS CHAVEZ TO ARRANGE AND CONDUCT  
SPECIAL PROGRAM OF MEXICAN MUSIC

Nelson A. Rockefeller, President of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces that the Museum will present a concert series of Mexican music arranged and supervised by Carlos Chavez, Mexico's foremost composer and conductor. The series, given in the Museum's auditorium, will be held in conjunction with the Exhibition of Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art, which will open to the public Wednesday, May 15. A special orchestra has been assembled with instrumentalists selected by Mr. Chavez from the men of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and augmented by Mexican performers specially brought to New York for the series. Like the exhibition itself, which will show the modern art of Mexico against the background of that country's entire artistic culture, the musical programs will trace the development of Mexican music from ancient times through the Colonial period, down to our own day.

The concert series has been arranged to complement the largest and most comprehensive showing of Mexican visual art ever assembled. The first three evening concerts will be conducted by Mr. Chavez in person on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 16, 17 and 18. The series will continue for two weeks with matinee and evening performances daily, including Sundays, at 2:30 P.M. and 8:45 P.M., and will be under the direction of Mr. Eduardo Hernandez Moncada, Assistant Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, of which Mr. Chavez is Conductor. The Museum will be open daily including Sundays from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. during the period of the concerts, which are scheduled to continue through May 29.

In announcing the Museum's sponsorship of this unique concert series, Mr. Rockefeller said: "The Museum has commissioned

Señor Chavez to arrange these programs of Mexican music and I feel it is one of the most stimulating innovations we have

ever inaugurated. It is the first time we have presented the music of a people as an integral part of its artistic culture. To show merely the painting and sculpture of Mexico would be to present an inadequate picture of a complex cultural tradition.

"The music of Mexico is far less known than its graphic arts. Señor Chavez has ingeniously chosen to give us the unrecorded traditional music from the pre-Spanish era to the modern through special arrangements by younger contemporary Mexican composers.

"We confidently expect that this experiment of the Museum in combining music with the visual arts will provide the general public with as comprehensive a view as possible of the varied expressive forms contributing to the monument of Mexican culture."

For several months Mr. Chavez has been at work arranging the program. He has directed expeditions to remote Indian villages in Mexico to find examples of musical material of the Pre-Spanish and Colonial periods. He has superintended the reconstruction of archeological flutes, drums and wind instruments to provide as accurate an approximation as possible of music never before heard outside their original locales. The programs will be supplemented by folk ballads, military marches and waltzes of the nineteenth century, as well as the work of contemporary Mexican composers.

Admission to the Exhibition of Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art, which will fill the three gallery floors and a large part of the garden, will be the usual twenty-five cent fee. Tickets to the concerts for both afternoon and evening performances will be one dollar, and will include admission to the exhibition. Tickets for the first three concerts, conducted by Mr. Chavez, will be priced at three dollars. Reservations may be made at the Museum.

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Carlos Chavez, the most eminent of Mexican musicians, was born June 13, 1899, just outside Mexico City. He has had a brilliant career. He has headed Mexico's Department of Fine Arts, directed its National Conservatory, founded its Symphony Orchestra, and has

been a leader in the musical progress of his own country. As conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, which begins its twelfth consecutive season under his direction in Mexico this year, he has introduced a great classic and modern repertory to Mexican audiences. His work as composer is equally well known, with music including "H.P.", "Sinfonia de Antígona," and "Sinfonia India." In this country, he has been guest conductor of the New York Philharmonic-Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, NBC, GBS, Cleveland, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, National Symphony and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras.

also # 31

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

From: Herbert Barrett  
Columbus 5-4640  
(5/1/40)  
Re: Mexican Music Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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