

FORECAST AND REVIEW

HOMAGE TO RAVEL

L' HEURE ESPAGNOLE, the Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano, Les Chansons Madécasses, the Piano Concerto, Valses Nobles et Sentimentales, Daphnis et Chloé, Le Tombeau de Couperin, Histoires Naturelles, Ma Mère l'Oye will have no more successors, for the twentieth century has lost one of its best composers. Maurice Ravel was an exponent of that careful, precise workmanship, elegance and grace he so admired in the music of Mozart, of whom he was not an unworthy descendant. The type seems to grow rarer as this troubled century progresses. His work, however, was a monument to the dignity and precision that even now all worthy musicians should strive for and that French music has at its best always captured. Combined with an extraordinary sense of style and infallible ear was a refinement of taste and a unique inspiration that made every work he wrote right and final in its own category. All his life he shunned cheapness and facility, yet his style and manner of orchestration have already left their mark on all music from the simplest jazz to the most elaborate works of Stravinsky. His music will always be a great glory to the art he practised so long and so well.

Elliott Carter

VACATION NOVELTIES, NEW YORK

No new modern music of importance was played in New York this month. Apparently the vacation season is not considered an appropriate time for accustoming the public to music which requires any effort to understand.

Many innocuous American works in the single performance or novelty class were performed however. In fact "American" has become synonymous with "novelty" in the field of serious music, for there is no American orchestral work past or present that has