

# 'Never a Mass Like This One'

Washington, D.C. — (RNS)— The "theatre-piece Mass" that composer Leonard Bernstein wrote for the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has been received with enthusiasm following opening performances here.

Bernstein, a Jew, said in the 130-page program that "the intention of 'Mass' is to communicate as directly and universally as I can a reaffirmation of faith." The famed American composer was conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra for a decade before retiring to have more time for composing.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, brother of the assassinated president after whom the \$66.4 million center was named, said following the first of three performances he and Mrs. Kennedy attended. "It was moving." Similar sentiments were expressed by others witnessing the colorful and often frenetic two-hour performance.

"Never before has any prominent Jewish composer written a Mass," noted Washington Post music critic Paul Hume. "But for that matter, never before has a composer written a Mass at all like this one."

"It is not merely that Bernstein has set many lines that are purely peripheral to the text of the Mass itself," Hume stated, "such as the invitational and 'dominus vobiscum' and its response, 'et cum spiritu tuo,' as well as the opening phrases, 'asperges me' and 'vide aquam.' He has gone far beyond the portions of the Mass that are al-

most universally composed: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei. These are what you hear in the B Minor Mass of Bach, the Missa Solemnis of Beethoven or any of the magnificent settings by Palestrina, Mozart, Haydn or Bruckner."

Bernstein said his "Mass" is a "sincere work about faith" and he has tried hard, not to be pretentious. Latin and Hebrew texts are used, but most of it is in English, including modern day slang. It is a theatre piece with singers, a mixed chorus and boys choir, dancers, a marching Sousa-type band, blues, jazz, and rock groups, and a full symphony orchestra.

The performers on stage were dressed in everything from hot pants to sweat shirts and ran the gamut from a long-haired youth to a middle-aged businessman.

In his work, for which this was the world premiere, Bernstein is again as in a previous work (his "Third Symphony") "actively and deeply concerned about the violence in a world that prays 'give us peace,'" Hume wrote.

"Like Haydn and Beethoven before him," he continued, "Bernstein makes the prayer for peace a time for extreme turbulence. Faced with the need to set every syllable of the text of the Mass, Bernstein comes up to those awesome ideas in the Credo, each of which begins, 'I believe.' It is clear in Bernstein's Mass that some people say 'I believe' who

do not believe, while others wish they could say it, but cannot bring themselves to do so.

"There has never been a Mass like this one," the Post critic asserted. "The English commentary is longer than the Latin text. It included moments that came out of Vatican II and the ensuing ecumenical dialogue."


the audience was that of Sister Desiree Trainer of Immaculata College here who said at the conclusion of the "Mass": "I can hardly breathe. The 'Mass' shows the terrible tension of man today as he lives and as he prays. It is terribly contemporary."

Among reactions of those in

1971 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS  
SPECIAL JURY GRAND PRIZE INTERNATIONAL CRITICS PRIZE INTERFILM JURY WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1971 ATLANTA FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS  
GOLDEN PHOENIX BEST OF FESTIVAL GOLDEN DOVE PEACE PRIZE

make love—he did.  
make war—he did.  
make it—he didn't.  
johnny got his gun.



Dalton Trumbo's  
**johnny got his gun**

John Robards  
Donald Sutherland  
Diane Varsi

A Bruce Campbell Production Jerry Gross Presents A Cineration Industries Release

EXCLUSIVE AREA SHOWING  
**STARTS TODAY**

**RIVIERA**  
1451 LAKE AVENUE 458-1868

WEDDINGS WEDDINGS WEDDINGS

Color Photography  
**WEDDING SPECIAL**

Complete color coverage including Deluxe Album. **\$99**  
Confirm your date early!



**Burt Shapiro**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
Call anytime (716) 244-3554

WEDDINGS WEDDINGS WEDDINGS

END OF **SUMMER SALE!**

# 20% OFF

ON ALL REMAINING MUSKIN & DOUGHBOY ABOVE GROUND POOLS IN STOCK!  
BUY NOW AND SAVE \$\$\$\$  
INSTALL NOW OR WE WILL STORE THIS WINTER, AND INSTALL IN THE SPRING.



◆ **POOL COVERS** ◆  
4 DIFFERENT TYPES IN ALL PRICE RANGES!  
'SUN DOME' POOL ENCLOSURES ON DISPLAY!

## RUSSEL B. MASON CO., INC.

205 NORTH AVENUE 671-2324 WEBSTER

## At Duquesne, you will meet the most important person in your life

It's you. It's a discovery. It may even be a pleasant surprise. You could really find yourself at Duquesne University.

Find yourself in an atmosphere of personal and intellectual freedom — real freedom, not indifference. Find yourself in good, stimulating company, your mind challenged by dedicated, innovative teachers, whether your main interests are in literature, history, business and administration, education, music, nursing, journalism, philosophy, psychology, classics, languages, economics, political science, or preparation for medicine, law, pharmacy, dentistry, engineering, or the sciences.

# Duquesne

Find yourself on a 38-acre campus, high on a hill overlooking the cultural and business center of a revitalized Pittsburgh. A campus alive with a rich variety of activities, always something happening, in and around new buildings with superb facilities; good place to work, play, relax, and socialize. and friendly. If you are like that, or could be, you will

Find yourself among bright, interesting, active students, open and friendly. If you are like that, or could be, you will like Duquesne. And Duquesne will like you.

Find yourself at Duquesne.

Please write: Director of Admissions, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219.

Mr. William H. Nunn, Assistant Director of Admissions will be participating in College Night Programs at St. John Fisher College on September 22.