Music Poems In "Facade" Recital Prove Enjoyable

Facade presented by MIT Hutton-Carver Barbers was Karmazyn, conduc-
tor; Norma Farber, reciter and mem-
bers of the Boston Symphony Orches-
tra; Kings Auditorium; November 20, 1955.

by Daniel B. Schneider '57

Facade is, in quite, "an entertain-
ment with poems by Edith Sitwell and music by William Walton." And an "entertainment" is just what it is. This reviewer has never experi-
cenced anything more wonderful than as-Sunday's.

To begin with, Walton's music is delightful, and Dame Edith Sitwell's poems run the gamut from light, com-

monplace satire to serious reflection. It is hard to decide which is the other-
better, the poems or the music. Add to this a reciter who can expertly match her vocal expression to the mood of the poet's lines, and a chamber orchestra and a conductor which perfectly captures the flavor of Walton's music, and the result is a concert of the first magnitude.

Sunday's performance was a grand success, more than one stand-
point. It was the perfect start for the 1955-56 Humanities Series. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the poems and music to such an extent that the perform-

ers are to repeat two of the selections.

Mrs. Norma Farber, as a reciter, was perfect. Her enunciation is ex-
cellent, and she succeeded splendidly in matching her speech with the rhythms of the music; while the mus-

ic deftly reflected the mood and con-

tent of the poems. There was a unity between reciter and orchestra which was a joy to hear.

Only one thing was regrettable in the course of this reviewer. How much more the performances would have meant if they had been a copy of the poems distributed with the pro-

grams, for Sitwell's verse is not utter-

ness, and one cannot, or at least not, quite meaningful at times. During

one such portion of "Facade," one is reminded of Gilbert and Sullivan, for the words come out at machine gun

pace, and are therefore quite difficult to catch.

In all other respects the concert was perfect. It is a wonder that this delightful work has not been per-

formed more often.

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