

Interracial Unit To Give Lynch Ballad

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—The first performance of a unique choral composition, "And They Lynched Him on a Tree," the joint creation of William Grant Still and Katherine Garrison Chapin, whose poem the young composer set to music, will be presented at Lewisohn here June 24, with an interracial chorus, a symphony orchestra, a soloist and a narrator taking part in the production.

Approaching a state production in its scope, the ballad was inspired by the tragedy of mob lawlessness and its particular racial expression in the United States.

The poem was not intended as propaganda or as problem verse, Miss Chapin says. But rather, she declares, it was written as a purely human document inspired by her conviction that lynching is a "serious flaw in the fabric of American democracy."

On the same program, when Mr. Still's most recent composition has its premiere, Paul Robeson, the distinguished baritone, will appear as soloist. He will sing the "Ballad for Americans," for which he was so widely praised after it was heard on the "Pursuit of Happiness" radio program. Earl Robinson and John Latouche composed the music and text of this selection.

"And They Lynched Him To a Tree" was brought to the attention of Mr. Still by Dr. Alain Locke of Howard university. Thrilled by the idea, the composer immediately began to determine themes for it, and after Miss Chapin traveled to Los Angeles to discuss her poem with him, a musical setting began although theme after theme was discarded before the composition reached materialization.