

**The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “11/16/76 - Kennedy Center (Martha Graham Company Performance and Benefit Supper)” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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*Carolyn*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM  
FROM: SUSAN PORTER  
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-house invitation:

EVENT: Martha Graham Performance followed by Benefit Supper

GROUP: Performance sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts  
Society  
Supper to benefit the Martha Graham Center of  
Contemporary Dance, Incorporated

DATE: Tuesday, November 16, 1976

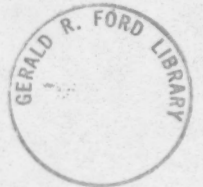
TIME: Performance: 8:00 p.m.  
Supper: Post-Performance

PLACE: The Kennedy Center:  
Performance: Opera House  
Supper: Golden Circle Room (Second Tier, Opera House)

CONTACT: Mr. Ron Protas  
Until November 14:  
O: (212) 832-9166  
H: (212) 348-2116

After November 14:  
The Madison Hotel  
785-1000

COMMENTS: November 15-18 will be an engagement of the Martha Graham Dance Company at the Kennedy Center which is being sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society. Although opening night will be Monday evening, Mrs. Ford will attend the Tuesday, November 16th performance and the supper following in the Golden Circle Room at the Kennedy Center. Although Martha Graham will be on stage

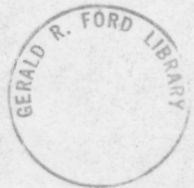


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that night, she is putting together a guest list for the Presidential Box which, of course, is headed by Mrs. Ford. The supper will be a sit down supper for 50-60 people. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Red Cavaney  
William Nicholson  
Jerry Jones  
Terry O'Donnell  
Sarah Massengale  
Elizabeth MacBeth  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase



September 23, 1975

Dear Ms. Parker,

Peter Sorum has very kindly forwarded your thoughtful letter bringing to Mrs. Ford's attention the Martha Graham Company's two week engagement at Covent Garden in London on July 19, 1976 and the one week engagement at the Kennedy Center beginning around November 17, 1976. Although the President and Mrs. Ford will no doubt be involved with Bicentennial festivities at the time of the Covent Garden engagement, I have noted the November 17th engagement at the Kennedy Center on the working calendar to keep in mind for consideration closer to that time.

With appreciation and warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter  
Appointments Secretary  
for Mrs. Ford

Ms. Cynthia Parker  
Martha Graham Company  
316 East 63rd Street  
New York, New York 10021

SP/sr

c: ✓ BF Pending to Consider (November 17, 1976, D.C.)  
Peter Sorum



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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SUSAN:

I don't know if there is anything here that  
you would want to consider, but I pass it  
along for what it's worth.

PETE





MARTHA GRAHAM  
CENTER  
OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
DANCE  
INC



August 14, 1975

Peter Sorum  
The White House  
Washington DC

Dear Peter:

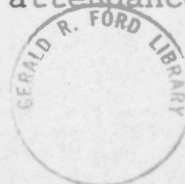
X  
THINGS BUSY  
IN U.S. WITH  
BICENTEN

Attached is our schedule for the next several months. There are two items I would like to call to your attention in the hope that Mrs. Ford might consider participating in them. If we are being presumptuous in asking this of her, don't hesitate to tell us so.

The first is the opening night of our two week engagement at Covent Garden in London July 19, 1976. I know that it is an election year and that London is a long way away -- but Elliott and Anne Richardson have agreed to act as honorary chairmen and we are hopeful that some of the royal family might attend. It will be a joint fund-raising event for the Graham Company and the London School of Contemporary Dance (a Graham step-child) probably with super stars. It is our intention to make it the equal of the NYC gala. It is the first time that Covent Garden has permitted a modern dance company to perform in their hallowed walls and should be a spectacular event.

NOTE ON  
WORKING  
CALENDAR

The second is a week engagement at the Kennedy Center November 17th ish 1976. Again we intend to have a super-spectacular opening night gala etc. The event will be co-sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society. (We will also be performing in Washington March 4-6, 1975 for the Washington Performing Arts Society at Lisner Auditorium But Martha does not plan to be in attendance at that time.



Unless, of course, you felt it was useful for some reason.)

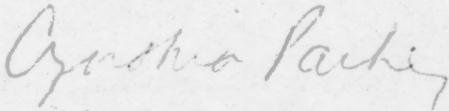
Tom Kerrigan is back and is still getting the clipping booklet for June 19th together, but we will forward it as soon as it is ready.

Mrs. Ford has very graciously sent Martha and some of the others photographs. I suspect that they will acknowledge them individually but they were all very touched and grateful.

I've been meaning to write her a fan letter about her 60 Minutes interview. All of the people around here were encouraged by her integrity and sense of reality. So you can count that 35 pro votes.

Thanks again.

Yours,,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Parker".

Cynthia Parker



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MRS. FORD

VIA:

RED CAVANEY

FROM:

PETER SORUM *PS*

SUBJECT:

Your Attendance at the Martha  
Graham Company Performance  
and Benefit Supper, Tuesday,  
November 16, 1976

Attached at Tab A is the proposed schedule for the subject event.  
Attire is black tie and long dress.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

BACKGROUND

The Martha Graham Dance Company will be offering two different programs during the four-day engagement which begins Monday, November 15, 1976. Following the performance which you are attending, a private benefit supper will be held in the Golden Circle Room at the Opera House to be attended by contributors and members of the company. Miss Graham will open the program from the stage and will remain in the wings throughout the performance. At the conclusion, she will join you and your guests in the Presidential Box anteroom before adjourning to the Golden Circle Room.





Tab A



PROPOSED SCHEDULE

MRS. FORD'S ATTENDANCE AT THE  
MARTHA GRAHAM COMPANY PERFORMANCE  
AND BENEFIT SUPPER

John F. Kennedy Center Opera House  
Tuesday, November 16, 1976

7:35 p.m. Mrs. Ford boards motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

[Driving time: 10 minutes]

7:45 p.m. MOTORCADE ARRIVES Kennedy Center.

Mrs. Ford proceeds to Opera House Box Tier.

7:50 p.m. Mrs. Ford arrives Opera House Presidential Box  
to greet her guests.

7:55 p.m. Mrs. Ford and her guests take their seats

8:00 p.m. Opening remarks by Martha Graham.

8:20 p.m. "Diversion of Angels"

8:40 p.m. Intermission I

9:00 p.m. "Lamentation"

9:05 p.m. "The Plain of Prayer"

9:25 p.m. Intermission II

9:45 p.m. "Night Journey"

10:25 p.m. Performance concludes.

10:35 p.m. Miss Graham arrives box anteroom.



10:45 p.m. Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham depart anteroom en route Golden Circle Room.

NOTE: En route Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham will pause for photo session.

10:55 p.m. Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham arrive Golden Circle Room to informally greet guests.

11:10 p.m. Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham take their seats for supper.

11:15 p.m. Supper is served.

11:45 p.m. Supper concludes.

11:45 p.m. Mrs. Ford bids farewell and departs Golden Circle Room en route motorcade for boarding.

11:50 p.m. MOTORCADE DEPARTS Kennedy Center en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 10 minutes]

12:00 mid-  
night MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.

