

Black Mountain College July 25, 1951

The second concert of Katherine Litz this summer at Black Mountain College was one in which the audience knew it was participating in a rare performance. Each dance seemed to have penetrated to the ultimate of the possibilities of its own choreography, music, and costume. The quality of each was pure, elusive, and completely realized as any living thing is completely itself, not because of any formal structure which is of course there and through which the life moves, but because Miss Litz allowed the forces within her to move, breathe and struggle as the dance demanded. At the instant of performance it seemed as if a human being could not be more totally aware, could not create more indisputable life out of the varied elements of which dances are made.

Later, one of the photographers said that taking a photograph of any of the dances would not be taking one of Miss Litz herself, for in each dance it is a different person before us. This dancer's perceptions and intentions are so keen that she can afford to remove herself and let the woman of the particular dance exist. Her themes all ~~be~~ "become a woman". Without the slightest attempt to be tragic or sentimental, but simply by an awareness and an understanding of her fellow humans, she gives us a deep human quality, and more, the humanness of woman.

This holding to the reality of the human and of the movement gives continuous invention and variety. Each dance develops with great imagination out of an incredibly small theme and never freezes in a kind of manner. There is always a surprize and a new idea. The dance forms a strong unit with the music without being interpretive or programatic, like the relation of a good song to its music. There is the courage to use natural movement with the variety and subtlety they have in nature.