Guide

FRESH SLANTS New Yorkers wanting to hear something different in classical music have a choice of acclaimed performers tonight at 8 — the Canadian harpist, Liona Boyd, and the Continuum group, with its exploratory programs of lesser-known contemporary compositions.

The young harpist, who is appearing at Town Hall, 123 West 43d Street, has won laudatory reviews in The New York Times. She also has a following for her sensitive recordings, from the early music masters to such works as the simple "Little Shepherd" from Debussy's "Children's Corner" suite and her own arrangement of the haunting "Memories of the Alhambra" by Francisco Tarrega. Tonight Miss Boyd is playing works of Bach, Beethoven, Tarrega, Albéniz, Satie and others. Tickets at the box office are \$5 to \$8.50.

After last month's retrospective of little-known music by Shostakovich, which drew enthusiastic listeners and reviews, Continuum is now exploring Americas's percussion revolution — from pioneer works to supportive functions in orchestras and the new percussion prominence.

Tonight the Continuum performers are joining with the Brooklyn College Percussion Ensemble. Tickets at Alice Tully Hall are \$4 and \$6, and half-price for students.

HIGH VOLTAGE A new theater work called "Swallows" has an explosive political theme — Cuban loyalty

and opposition to the Castro regime, attitudes that have fiercely divided families and friends. The playwright and director, Manuel Martin, has based his drama on personal interviews with Cubans in the homeland and in the United States.

The English-language play gives its final preview tonight at 8 and opens on Monday at INTAR, one of the city's oldest Hispanic-American showcases, midblock on Theater Row at 420 West 42d Street between Ninth and 10th Avenues. "Swallows" runs through April 13, with 8 o'clock curtains on Thursday through Saturday and a 3 o'clock matinee on Sunday. Tickets are \$5, and \$3 for students and the elderly. Reservations: 279-4200.

TONES AND POEMS Tonight at 8 o'clock Hassan Wakrim and Mustapha Nayati will sing traditional melodies of Morocco, accompanied by Moroccan instrumentalists, at the Alternative Center for International Arts at 17 White Street, three blocks south of Canal Street. Tickets are \$5; reservations at 966.4444.

Tricia Bauer and Jeanne Dowd are tomorrow's readers at the breakfast poetry sessions at 11 A.M. at the Cafe Figaro, 186 Bleecker Street. Contributions are voluntary.

For today's Entertainment Events listing, see page 12. For Sports Today, see page 17.

HOWARD THOMPSON