

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
THE EVA JESSYE AFRO-AMERICAN MUSIC COLLECTION
FREDERICK STEARNS BUILDING
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48105

May 24, 1978

Dr. Richard English, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. William Cash, Assistant to the President
Ms. Rosellen Cheek, Administrative Assistant, Center for Afroamerican and
African Studies
Mr. Henry Johnson, Vice President for Student Services
Dr. Gwendolyn Baker, Director, Affirmative Action Program

Dear colleagues:

During the 1977-78 academic year the Eva Jessye Afro-American Music Collection sponsored a very stimulating and rewarding concert series of music by Black American composers. These concerts added a unique flavor to the cultural events of Ann Arbor and to the university. Works of composers not usually heard in this community were featured and were enthusiastically received. We were able to present a series of four concerts: Arts Songs by Black Female Composers in November, Black American Composers in February, Choral Music by Black American Composers in March, and Art Songs by Black Composers with Veronica Tyler as guest artist which will be in August. Programs for the first three concerts are enclosed.

For the 1978-79 academic year we would like to do a series of seven concerts. We have two fold purpose: to significantly increase the number of persons that have a knowledge and appreciation of music by Black composers and to help the music of Black composers gain proper recognition by providing a conducive setting with quality performers and a receptive audience.

We have presented a proposal to the Michigan Council of the Arts. It is enclosed for your perusal. The total projected budget is \$14,010. The amount needed as the university's projected cash allocation is \$3,500. Since the School of Music does not have this amount in its budget for such a project we are asking that your offices provide combined support to finance this project. The Michigan Council of the Arts will make its decision in July and in the event we receive a favorable reply (which we strongly anticipate) we would need financial support from your offices in order to accept the grant from the council.

We very much appreciate your interest and support in this educational music series. Your early, favorable reply is eagerly anticipated.

Sincerely,

Willis Patterson, Chairman
Department of Voice, School of Music

Yvonne Cheek Johnson, Curator
Eva Jessye Afro-American Music Collection

Enclosures: 1977-78 concert series budget, programs, proposal