

April 17, 1978

To: Dean Paul Boylen  
From: Leonard Johnson

Subj: Course Proposal--Art songs of Black Composers

I wish to register my personal support for the course proposal submitted to the FCDR for the following reasons:

The proposal was made by students, suggesting strong motivation for learning the materials;

The repertory is worthy of course attention;

Professor Patterson has offered to teach it and he is highly qualified to do so;

The voice faculty found the idea of merit, although the majority wanted to wait until it could be integrated into a year course covering the entire spectrum of repertory or in a semester course of American art songs; I personally see the value of this, but am more interested in meeting student interest in a course germane to our department;

As the NASM external review states, we, as a school of music with considerable national reputation, could benefit by expanding our comparatively conservative offerings; such a course as the proposed would be a voice department contribution to this cause.