

Willis Patterson
Associate Dean
Symposium Director



SYMPOSIUM

August 9-15, 1985

July 19, 1985

Mr. W. J. Drummond
W. J. Drummond & Associates
P.O. Box 300063
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Drummond:

I am in receipt of your letter of July 16, 1985, regarding Ms. Hutchinson, pianist, whom you represent and the fact of her unfortunately not knowing of the Black American Music Symposium which is being held here at the University of Michigan August 9-15, 1985. I very much regret that I did not know of her and her prowess and success as a concert pianist so that she could personally be invited to partake of the offerings of this Symposium. Clearly, she is the kind of artist who would be very much welcome to this event.

You say she is the leading black female concert pianist in the United States, and that very well may be the case, but I just had not heard of her before your letter. I am embarrassed to have to admit that, but it is so, despite my being rather active and intent on being abreast of such persons. It is not the case, as you suggest in your letter, that "black performers are not noticed on events such as these". A cursory glance at the list of participants on the enclosed schedule of events will give you some idea of what has been done to contact and involve black performers on a wide and varied scale.

Please know that despite the above, Ms. Hutchinson would be more than welcome to attend this Symposium (as you are also) for the purposes you stated in your letter "the interaction with contemporary black composers" and more. I seriously encourage you both to fill out the registration form, send in your fee (do please ignore, under the circumstances, the late registration amount), and join us... I will be more anxious to meet you both.

By the way, the reason such "oversights" as this do occur (and you should be informed of this, since you seem not to know) is because there is no formalized network or listing of black performers of serious concert music. Such efforts as this Symposium may prove a beginning of such a networking, which is clearly needed.

I hope to hear from you again, but better, to meet you here in Ann Arbor next month.

Sincerely,

Willis Patterson
Associate Dean
Symposium Director

Encl.

