

Summer Research Opportunity Program

The proposed mentor I would like to do my research project with is Professor Willis C. Patterson. Professor Patterson is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the School of Music and chairman of the Voice Department. He was one of the people responsible for the Symposium of Black American Music that was held during the month of August, 1985 at the University of Michigan. He has been involved with various types of Black American Music programs for a number of years. Some of his publications include: Art Songs by Black American Composers, Recording of Great Day in the Morning, and Recording of Art Songs by Black American Composers.

The goal of this project is to publish music of Black Americans dating from 1930 to 1985. Some of my responsibilities involve primarily collecting musical compositions of Black Americans. The collecting process of compositions will require a great deal of care and attention. This care includes sorting through materials by means of playing and reading each composition. Also comparing the melody and musical content for similarities and differences are of great importance. In addition to the responsibilities mentioned previously, I will perform these works for future listeners.

After the compositions have been collected, communication (either by letter or phone) with the composer/arranger to receive permission for publication is necessary. This is feasible due to the copyright laws. The publication of these compositions will be done by E. B. Marks Publication in New York City. The publisher and Dean Patterson has established an agreement of mid-year 1988 as the completion date.