

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marilyn Gordon, Coordinator

SROP Program

Rackham School of Graduate Studies

RE: Letter of Support - Gerald Cleaver

FROM: Willis Patterson, Prof. of Music *WCP*
School of Music

I am continuing work on two separate projects this spring/summer term. These projects were supported last year in the form of two SROP students who were assigned to assist me in work on 1) the compilation of materials for a publication to be entitled "The New Negro Spiritual". This is a collection of Negro Spirituals composed since 1955, the last time a collection of comparable expanse and usefulness as a major tool for teaching and for performers was published. Since then, considerable numbers of new and innovative compositions of Negro Spirituals have been produced. The large majority of them have not received publication, and as such, are not available for dissemination among students of performance and professionals. This publication, already accepted by a major music publisher (on the basis of the success of my previous publication entitled "The Artsongs of Black American Composers") will fill the void of published Negro Spirituals since 1955. The work which was begun last summer can be culminated this summer with the assistance of one additional SROP student. 2) The premiering of a new radio series entitled "The Art Music of Black Americans" on WUOM this March was made possible in part to the assistance of two SROP students who assisted in readying materials for presentation on this series, which will run for a total of fifty-two (weekly) one hour programs. The larger portion of the work needing to be accomplished to fulfill this commitment, will be done this summer. Most of the researching and locating of materials for this series has been accomplished. What now remains is to structure the remaining forty-plus programs, in terms of content, timings, and scripting. Gerald Cleaver has demonstrated a strong interest in this kind of an experience, and has many of the skills in creative writing, and interest in the specific music on which this series focuses to be of great value to the successful completion of this project.

I urge your positive consideration of his application on behalf of this very important and exciting work.