

To: Marilyn Gordon
From: Angela Jones
RE: SROP 1988

April 7, 1988

Dear Ms. Gordon and selection committee,

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting me as a semi-finalist. A chance to continue my research throughout the summer would be invaluable.

My project this summer would consist of two parts: 1. To compile and add to a list of Black composers and their compositions, and 2. To use these materials to complete a series of radio programs for WUOM and possibly broader distribution in the future. I plan on starting the summer's project with the list compilation. Last summer I went through the Black American Music Symposium of 1985 files. Each composer therein included a vitae, and at least a partial list of completed compositions. I then copied all available information and categorized it thusly:

Composer's name: Last, First

Compostion title, including the medium(instrumentation, voices specified)

Author of text, if applicable

Duration:

Publisher:

Recording:

Other: (including when and where it was first performed)

This information copied (handwritten) from the files, I started to put it into a computer file. Here the problem was to decide which program would be best suited for these data. I first tried to put it on a Microsoft database program, but it did not print the information in an efficient way. I put aside the list to pursue other aspects of the project, and when I discovered the program, Microsoft Excell, it was to late to finish the enormous list. I have finished a portion of it thus far. I anticipate using half of my allotted summer time in this project.

The project sections will overlap, actually, because while I am compiling the computer file, I will be selecting, with the help of Dean Patterson, compositions for the already begun radio program, *THE ART MUSIC OF BLACK AMERICANS*, for WUOM and eventually wider distribution. My work on this program would entail finding recordings of the featured works, and getting the background information on composers and/or their compositions. This work will involve such activities as calling and/or writing composers asking for discographies or actual reel to reel recordings of various compositions. We are hoping that the thrill of exposure will dampen any composer's tendency to refuse access to his/her output. My research may even take me to Flagstaff, AZ to go through the William Grant Still library and find such recordings and/or music which may be of use to us. Dean Patterson and I have the facility to organize performing groups to record a desired program, we, being musicians ourselves, so obtaining manuscripts would also be of importance to us. We would like to complete enough programs to be aired throughout the 1988-89 school year, and are optimistic that we can accomplish this goal, given the chance.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for giving me the chance to work on this rewarding project last year. The SROP last summer gave me the courage to continue my studies in performance by showing me the benefits others have reaped from their hard work. It also made me very aware of the shroud of inferiority I wrapped myself in and showed me how to shed it. I know that continuing this project would further my growth process and give me even more tools in order to face the world of graduate school when I complete my bachelor's program in 1989. It has shown me how to go about researching a subject of my choice, and I think that is an invaluable lesson for a future master's (and doctoral) student. I would be forever grateful for the chance to continue my project. Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,

Angela L. Jones