

Southern Illinois
University at Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Lester

November 1, 1976

Dr. Samuel A. Floyd, Jr.
Associate Professor
Black Music Research
Southern Illinois
University of Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Dear Dr. Floyd:

Your letter of October 15th, addressed to the Maryland Historical Society, has been referred to me for attention as I am the Society's consultant on sheet music.

My personal collection contains a few pieces by a handful of black composers, among them Francis Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson. Unfortunately, my collection is not catalogued according to composers and it would take a fair amount of time to research material you require. Are you in a particular hurry for this? If not, how much time can you allow?

Also, would you want the names of any songs by composers living at the turn of the century, if such songs were published after 1900? I am thinking of J. Rosamond Johnson and Tom Turpin.

Sincerely yours,

LSL:ew

Lester S. Levy

Floyd

1. Photocopies of the index cards which contain each of the compositions which you hold by each of the composers on the primary list. (We, of course, will be happy to pay the cost of photocopying.)
2. A list of the titles and dates of each of the compositions which you hold by each of the composers on the primary list.
3. An indication of the number of compositions which you hold by each of the composers on the primary list.



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Letter?

October 15, 1976

Maryland Historical Society Library
201 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Librarian:

For several years I have been gathering information about black composers and acquiring copies of some of their compositions, intending one day to edit a multi-volume anthology of black American music. Recently this project was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and we are now engaged in preparing the anthology for publication by the Southern Illinois University Press.

As part of the preparation for the first volume of this anthology we are attempting to identify, locate, and examine as many pre-1900 publications and manuscripts of compositions by black composers as possible. Not unexpectedly, pre-1900 compositions by some black composers have been unusually difficult to identify and/or locate.

Enclosed, you will find two alphabetically arranged lists of the names of composers whose work we are having difficulty identifying and/or locating. Although your music collection may not be arranged by or indexed for the names of composers, we are hoping that, if it is, you will be willing to check these names against your finding aids and provide us with at least one of the following general levels of information:

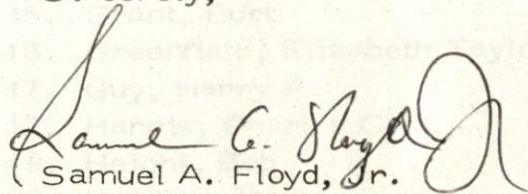
1. Photocopies of the index cards which identify each of the compositions which you hold by each of the composers on (a) both lists or (b) the primary list. (We, of course, will be happy to pay the cost of photocopying.)
2. A list of the titles and dates of each of the compositions which you hold by each of the composers on (a) both lists or (b) the primary list.
3. An indication of the number of compositions which you hold by each of the composers on (a) both lists or (b) the primary list.

4. A check (✓) beside the names of those composers on (a) both lists or (b) the primary list whose compositions may be found in your collection.

Whatever level or combination of levels of information you may be able to provide will be much appreciated and most helpful. After we receive and evaluate this information, we will perhaps contact you regarding the possibility of ordering photocopies of some of these compositions or of visiting your repository to personally examine them.

Thank you for whatever information and assistance you are able to provide.

Sincerely,



Samuel A. Floyd, Jr.
Associate Professor
Black Music Research

SAF/alt
Enc.

PRE-1900 BLACK COMPOSERS

Primary List

1. Accooe (or Accoe), William J.
2. Aldridge, Amanda Christina Elizabeth (pseudo. Montague Ring)
3. Anderson, Joseph G.
4. Auguste, Dennis
5. Barés (or Barrés), Basil
6. Beaumont, Joseph
7. Bethune, Thomas Greene ('Blind Tom' or Thomas Wiggins or W. F. Raymond or Francois Sexalise or J. C. Beckel)
8. Boone, John W. (Blind Boone)
9. Brady, William
10. Bridgetower, George
11. Brindas De Salas, Claude
12. Burch, J. Henri
13. Chauvin, Louis
14. Connor, Aaron J.R. (also A. F. R. Conner or A. J. R. Conner)
15. Craig, Walter F.
16. Dabney, Wendell
17. Davies, J. A.
18. Deburque, C.
19. Dédé, Edmund
20. Dédé, Eugene
21. Demarest, James Gloucester
22. De Mortie, Louise
23. Douglass, Joseph
24. Douglass, John T.
25. Freeman, Harry Lawrence
26. Gardner, Newport
27. Hackley, E. Azalia
28. Hemmenway, James
29. Holland, Justin
30. Jamieson, Samuel
31. Johnson, Francis
32. Johnson, J. Rosamond
33. Lambert, John
34. Lambert, Lucien
35. Lambert, Richard
36. Lambert, Sydney
37. Lewis, Frederick E.
38. Luca, Alexander
39. Macarty, Eugene V. (or E. V. McCarthy or Victor Eugene Macarthy)
40. Martin, Louis

Secondary List

1. Antoine, Eugène
2. Barlow, Milt
3. Bivans, Nathan
4. Bohee, George
5. Bohee, James
6. Brown, Nellie
7. Cole, Robert A. (pseudo. Will Handy)
8. Decker, Sylvester
9. Devonear, Pete
10. Dixon, Samuel
11. Dodson, Frank
12. Edmonds, Shepard N.
13. Fayerweather, George H.
14. Grace, James
15. Grant, Burt
16. Greenfield, Elizabeth Taylor
17. Guy, Harry P.
18. Harris, Charles G.
19. Height, Bob
20. Hewlitt, James
21. Hicks, Charles B.
22. Hill, J. Leubrie
23. Hogan, Ernest (Reuben Crowdis)
24. Hunter, Alex
25. Hyar, Anna
26. Hyar, Emma
27. Jaeger, Charlie
28. Johnson, Lew
29. Jones, M. Sissieretta (Black Patti)
30. Jordan, Joe
31. Kelly, Thomas S.
32. Kersands, Billy
33. King, Wallace
34. Lyle, Willie E.
35. Lyons, Fred
36. Mack, Bob
37. Mary, Alexander Aristide
38. McIntosh, Tom
39. No!aso, Geraldine
40. Perkins, Amanda
41. Perkins, Sallie
42. Schipp, Jessie A.
43. Selika, Madame (Mrs. Sampson Williams)
44. Sheperd, Ella

PRE-1900 BLACK COMPOSERS

- Continued -

Primary List

41. Morel Campos, Juan
42. Nunes-Garcia, José Mauricio
43. O'Fake, Peter
44. Snaër, Samuel
45. Stone, Fred S.
46. Turpin, Tom
47. Tyres, William H.
48. Vêque, Charles
49. White, Clarence Cameron
50. White, José (Joseph)
51. Williams, Arthur P.
52. Williams, Henry F. (or R.)

Secondary List

45. Sheppard, Andrew
46. Simond, Ike
47. Smart, Walter
48. Stackhouse, Ada
49. Stackhouse, Emma
50. Travers, 'Duke'
51. Vodery, Will H.
52. Warfield, Charlie
53. Washington, Rachel
54. Weston, Horace
55. Wilson, George
56. Woodward, Sidney
57. Wright, Louis