

Black Music Division Meeting - October 2, 1973

Agenda

1. Hadley Fellows
2. Black Music Fellows
3. Extra Courses
4. Budget needs
5. How are classes going?
6. Space (studios, performance etc.)
7. Honorary Doctorate
8. Faculty Concert
9. Prison performance / Workshop performance
10. Faculty meeting

Attendance: Bill Dixon, Milford Graves, George Barrow, Steve Horenstein, Sydney Smart, Henry Letcher, Jay Ash, Art Brooks, Henry Carnes, John Hagen.

Mr. Dixon opened the meeting at 3:45 p.m. with a brief explication of the purpose of division meetings, that being to ensure that some meaningful, centralized interchange between the division's faculty and fellows occurs. Mr. Dixon then noted that as Mr. Barrow is here on Mondays and Mr. Graves on Tuesdays and Wednesdays that it will be necessary to stagger the division's meetings. Mr. Dixon went on to note that the faculty should be sure that their classes elect SEPC representatives.

The discussion then turned to division correspondence. The FEPC has requested that the division submit a written report on staffing and space needs by October 15. The discussion then turned to applying for money from the National Endowment of the Arts. Mr. Dixon noted that it would be better to avoid applying for small amounts of money as that precludes the possibility of receiving larger grants. Mr. Dixon then spoke about the letter he wrote to Gail Parker concerning the awarding of an honorary Ph.D. in music to Miles Davis. This letter will be posted on the Black Music Bulletin board.

The discussion then turned to what the division should do with it's Hadley Fellowship money, which is this year divided equally between dance, drama, art, and Black Music. Mr. Horenstein noted that the "regular" music division will receive the full amount next year. Mr. Dixon said that the idea for the Black Music Division is that someone will come here every month and added that what these guest artists do must be available to the entire college community. These guest artists will receive transportation costs, room and board and an honorarium. Suggested guests are: Betty Carter, Anthony Braxton, Talik Absul Bashir, Jimmy Lyons, Clayton Riley, Gordon Parks Jr., Milford Graves' group and Art Brooks' group.

Mr. Dixon then said that people should submit names of black professionals for faculty positions in order to aid the Affirmative Action Plan. He then gave a brief explanation of how non-white faculty could be hired and added that applicants should submit a vita.

The discussion then turned to space needs that need being grave as the Carriage Barn is totally scheduled and there is really no space for Black Music performances. Mr. Dixon spoke briefly about his meeting with Dean Cohen where they discussed the possibility of using a college-owned factory in Bennington.

Faculty concerts were then discussed. Mr. Dixon stated that although there is no space available at the moment - that the faculty should take advantage of the Dance Workshop as a temporary forum for the music.

Mr. Dixon said that it would be good if the entire division could get to the Greatmeadow Correctional Facility once a month, and noted that the piece to be performed in dance workshop Thursday, October 4 would be performed at the prison next Monday or Tuesday. Mr. Dixon then added that if anyone wants to commit themselves personally that it would be very good to do so.

The discussion then moved to the role and function of the Black Music Fellows. Mr. Barrow suggested that a basic Black Music I be formed in the spring and that this is something the Fellows could do. It was also suggested that the Fellows attend Mr. Horenstein's beginning class and do some teaching there in order to gain some practical experience.

Mr. Dixon then asked how classes were going and Mr. Barrow responded with "as well as could be expected" but that people in the class did not make their limitations clear. He then suggested that the faculty issue guidelines (defining what the work in a course will involve) for people who want to work in the division. Mr. Graves said that he was still "filtering people out" that is, dividing up his classes into sessions according to expertise and limitations, he added that he would like to have an advanced class so that his potential could be better utilized. It was then suggested that each faculty member compile a questionnaire to be given to students entering courses in the division in order to ascertain exactly how much each individual does and does not know to facilitate quicker and more effective placement.

Mr. Dixon gave a brief description of how Thursday's lecture/demonstration would take place.

He also noted that the problem of having the division's secretary and the library on the other side of campus would be resolved soon.