

MEMO

Bennington College Library

To Bill Dixon

October 17, 1973

cc Ronald Cohen  
Lionel Nowak

From Bob Agard

Re: Black Music Collection

The Library Committee met on Monday to consider your request, supported by a statement from Ron Cohen, that the books bought for Black Music be kept as a separate collection in Jennings. We also had the benefit of some suggestions from Lionel Nowak about how the need for books as teaching materials was met in the Music Division. The Committee voted unanimously.

The Committee received a proposal that books bought for the Black Music Program be cataloged and kept in a separate collection in Jennings Hall. This request was presented to the Committee by the Librarian whose statement included views of the Dean of the Faculty on this matter and how similar needs were met by Music Division faculty. A supporting document from the Dean of Studies, copies of which had been previously circulated, was also considered. The Committee voted to reject the request of the Black Music Program to set up a separate library in Jennings and it recommended that, if certain books are needed at Jennings, they be purchased with funds to be requested from the administration. The Committee also voted that, as a matter of principle, books and materials purchased with library funds should be in the care of the library staff and be available for the full community's use.

It seemed to me that the Committee considered all the facts presented to it and mentioned on several occasions the use of division funds for the purchase of classroom and laboratory teaching materials or the possibility of borrowing for such use reference-type and/or highly technical books.