

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR COMPOSERS OF MUSIC

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

For some time it has been suggested from various quarters that the Commonwealth Government give financial support designed to encourage the development of Australian music.

From time to time the Government has examined the question, but decided against taking any action, largely because young musicians and composers are able to benefit from the Commonwealth University Scholarship Scheme, and because considerable help is given to music through the activities of the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

The Commonwealth Government has now decided to provide assistance to enable Australian composers to make their works known. This is an important type of aid not previously covered by any form of financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

Each year a sum of money, initially \$10,000, will be made available for the purpose of having composers' original musical scores copied or printed in numbers sufficient for them to be played by orchestras, and to have these scores played by orchestras and recorded on tape for audition purposes, but not for commercial use.

Arrangements for the administration of this aid have yet to be decided, but they will be made known as soon as possible.

CANBERRA,
10th August, 1966.