

FOR PRESS:



F.M. No. 118/1967

AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

As I mentioned in Parliament today, in my statement on cultural activities, I have approved a recommendation of the Advisory Board for Assistance to Australian Composers for a project designed to promote the work of Australian composers nationally and internationally and remedy the lack of knowledge of our music.

The Board's proposal is to compile a survey of Australian music which can be distributed to some 200 of the most important musical organisations and personages at home and abroad.

The survey will comprise:-

1. A short introduction reviewing the progress of music composition in Australia.
2. A list of Australia's important composers and their work.
3. A recorded talk concerning the compositions of selected composers.
4. A printed pamphlet corresponding with the recorded talks.
5. A recording of a work of the selected composers.
6. A miniature score of that work.

The Board has been discussing the scheme with the Australasian Performing Right Association which has given the Board its wholehearted support. APRA will help administratively and also contribute to the costs of the project.

The Board advising the Commonwealth Government on Assistance to Australian Composers, comprises:-

Sir Bernard Heinze, Chairman;
Mr. John Hopkins; and
Professor Frank Callaway.

CANBERRA
1st November, 1967.