

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton

On the advice of the Advisory Board, Commonwealth Assistance to Australian Composers, four young composers have been selected to gain advanced practical experience in the techniques of orchestral and instrumental writing.

The successful young composers, selected after the project had been widely advertised, are Miss Elaine Doe of Brisbane, Mr. Kim Williams of Sydney and Mr. V. Plush and Mr. M. Wesley-Smith of Adelaide. The Commonwealth has provided a grant to cover their travel and accommodation.

The training programme for the young composers includes the National Music Camp in Adelaide. They will also attend all rehearsals and performances of the Sydney and Melbourne Prom Concert seasons, and participate in the workshop programme being arranged by the University of Western Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Commission in conjunction with the Festival of Perth. These workshops are to be conducted by the noted Australian composer, Mr. Don Banks, who is returning from England specially for this purpose.

This scheme should be of great benefit to the young composers. Not only will they have an opportunity of hearing a number of contemporary works rehearsed and performed by professional musicians but they will also be able to have discussions with individual musicians, conductors and composers and receive guidance on composing for films and television.

CANBERRA
28 January 1970

BACKGROUND NOTE

The Advisory Board, Commonwealth Assistance to Australian Composers, comprises :-

Sir Bernard Heinze of Sydney (Chairman)

Professor Frank Callaway, O. B. E.,
Department of Music,
University of Western Australia

Mr. John Hopkins,
Director of Music, A. B. C., Sydney