

FOR PRESS



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PERCY GRAINGER FESTIVAL

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

The Commonwealth has approved financial assistance for the Percy Grainger Festival which is at present taking place in London.

An approach for assistance was received from Sir William McKie, an Australian now retired in England, who is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Festival, and Mr. Bryan Fairfax, also an Australian living in London, who has organised the Festival.

On the recommendation of the Advisory Board, Commonwealth Assistance to Australian Composers (Sir Bernard Heinze, Chairman) the Commonwealth Government has approved a sum of \$1,500. This represents more than half the amount which the organisers were seeking to ensure the financial success of the Festival.

CANBERRA
19 March 1970

BACKGROUND NOTE:-

Percy Aldridge Grainger, pianist and composer, was born in Melbourne in 1882. A composer of international standing, he won special success as an arranger of folk song themes. In 1935, he founded a Museum of Comparative Musicology in Melbourne, which features many of the innovations he introduced. He died in 1961.