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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

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**MEMORANDUM TO THE POLICY SECTION, MUSIC ADVISORY PANELS OF THE
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

As publishers of women's concert music, we are making a special request that you reconsider and review the statistical record of the several music advisory panels in the light of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, Section 601, with the intent of formulating possible regulatory guidelines as described in Section 602. We respect the high professional level of the advisory panelists and sincerely believe that it is among them that a pattern of change will emerge which will eventually correct the dismal tradition handed down to us through the last 300 years.

We believe that a sufficient number of gifted minority composers exist to justify a much more positive effort in their behalf. In concert programming today, so little attention is given to music composed by women and blacks that concertgoers make the natural assumption that there isn't any worth hearing. Thus evolves a vicious cycle that is damning to our prospects of commercial success. Ours is a labor of love and will have to be until significant changes are made.

Never can we encourage the performance of inferior works. It is even more an embarrassment to us when less than meritorious compositions by women are heard because the performing groups wish to "give women a chance." Our goal is to publish and promote compositions which can stand on their own in the best of company, thus relieving performing organizations of some of the burdensome research that goes into all distinguished programming. In our view, when an organization's season of programs is devoid of music composed by Americans or blacks or women, that organization should have a season unfunded by federal dollars.

Most sincerely yours,

Clara Lyle Boone
Publisher