

FELLOWSHIPS

May 10, 1948

Dear Mr. Bell: As you undoubtedly know, this Fund is closing on June 30, and we shall be turning over to another agency the administration of the fellowship awards made last month.

I am enclosing our check for \$500 to cover the first three months of your fellowship work. If you begin on the date originally planned, this payment should cover the months of June, July, and August. Toward the end of August, write to Mr. Nathan W. Levin, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, New York, giving him the address to which future payments should be mailed. The balance will be paid in three checks of \$500 each at three-month intervals.

Very truly yours,

DOROTHY A. ELVIDGE

DAE:lm
Enc.

Mr. Jasper Ralph Bell
6421 Maryland Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO 15

To

Mr. Jasper Ralph Bell
6421 Maryland Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

Payment Voucher No. 5150

Date April 30, 1948

FELLOWSHIPS

First quarterly payment on fellowship awarded

April 20, 1948 - - - - - \$500.00

Chk. #38496

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	46-13	\$500.00	

Prepared by
lcm

Checked by

Posted by



Comptroller

6421 Maryland Ave
Chicago Illinois
April 22, 1948

Miss Hilde Reitzes
Julius Rosenwald Fund
Committee on Fellowships
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago 15, Illinois

HR	4/23	HR	0
DE		DE	5/10

FELLOWSHIPS

Dear Miss Reitzes:

I am indeed grateful to you for the consideration extended me as recipient of the very generous grant of Two thousand dollars (\$2000) for a twelve-month period of further professional study beginning June 1, 1948, with voice under Richard B. DeYoung and song literature and interpretation under Hans Rosenwald.

I gladly accept the grant, and will promptly begin my project as of June 1, 1948 and follow through as outlined in my application. Thank you.

Respectfully yours
Jasper Ralph Bell

FMSK
UNIVERSITY

ELLOWSHIPS

(Jasper) Bell
6421 Maryland
Chicago, Ill.

sent 12/8

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Jasper Ralph Bell

Report Requested of Dr. Rudolph Ganz
Chicago Musical College
64 East Van Buren Street
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

I take pleasure in recommending Mr. Jasper Bell for a Rosenwald Scholarship. Although Mr. Bell has not been under my direction or guidance, I am considering the various reports from his teachers, and conclude that he is a very worthy student to be aided.

I have heard Mr. Bell sing while he was a member of our Madrigal Society when he had several solo parts. He is the possessor of a very fine voice. Mr. Bell is very well liked in the student body, and would be greatly benefited by your Scholarship.


Rudolph Ganz, President
CHICAGO MUSICAL COLLEGE

January 20, 1948

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate: Leaper Ralph Bell

Report Requested of: Dr. Rudolph C. ...
Chicago Medical College
64 East Van Horn Street
Chicago, Illinois

The sponsored candidate has applied to this fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. ...
Director of Fellowships

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

I take pleasure in recommending Mr. Leaper Bell for a Rosenwald Scholarship. Although Mr. Bell has not been under my direction or guidance, I am considering the various reports from his teachers, and conclude that he is a very worthy student to be aided.

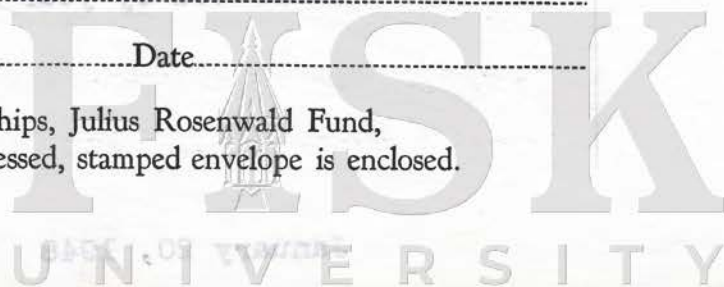
Signed.....

Position or Title.....

Address.....

Date.....

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15 ^a

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Jasper Ralph Bell
Report Requested of Mr. Hans Rosenwald
Chicago Musical College
64 East Van Buren Street
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

~~William C. Haygood~~
~~Director for Fellowships~~

REPORT

Mr. Jasper Bell is a very amiable young man who is indeed endowed with an unusual voice. I can also confirm that he has considerable native intelligence.

He has arrived at a phase in his training in which he must make the decision if he wants to continue more or less as an amateur or if he wants to choose a professional career. To the latter he brings talent, but obviously, he is in a financial position which does not permit him to spend sufficient time on the task on which he should concentrate.

At this time Mr. Bell sings notes; he is far from being an accomplished interpreter. It is the belief of the undersigned who has had the pleasure of working with him spasmodically that a scholarship would enable him to learn the song literature

OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE

more thoroughly and to acquire knowledge of
the finer points in interpretation.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Hans Rosenwald, Dean

HR:EG

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities? *yes*

Signed.....

Position or Title.....

Dean, Chicago Municipal College

Address.....

64 East Van Buren - Chicago, Ill.

Date *January 10, 1948*

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

a

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Jasper Ralph Bell
Report Requested of Miss Kathryn Witwer
721 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

~~William C. Haygood~~
~~Director for Fellowships~~

REPORT

In my opinion this young man has extraordinary talent. He has exceptional physical endowments and as far as I have been able to observe, he is sincere, worthy and deserving. I have observed his progress during the past year and consider his advancement indicative of his ability to absorb and apply what he has learned, as well as of his intense desire to become an important artist. And from my observation, it would seem that he is very likely to succeed.

Sincerely yours,

Kathryn Witwer



OVER

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND
4901 ELLIS AVENUE
CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate
Report Requested of
721 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Hayward
Director for Fellowships

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Not that I know of.

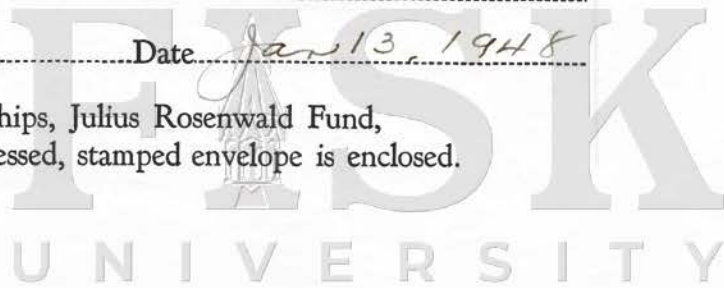
Signed Kathryn Winter

Position or Title Singer and Teacher

Address 721 No. Michigan Ave.

Chicago - Date Jan 13, 1948

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Jasper Ralph Bell
Report Requested of Mr. Richard B. De Young
721 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

Mr. Bell is one of my students. He has the potential mental and physical qualities of a great artist. He is very talented, absolutely sincere, and the possessor of a singularly beautiful voice. He has had a long way to come in terms of personal development - but has made excellent progress in the past two years. The difference between his singing now - and a year ago, is remarkable. He is gradually gaining public experience and gaining repertoires. He needs further training

OVER

and development but his chances of becoming a
 singer of considerable importance - are good. In
 my studies he has experienced no color line -
 he has been received on a basis of equality by
 all. - Now - if he has the character, the
 stamina - the reliability - and the power to
 come through, he will succeed - sooner with your
 help than without it - but I mean the kind
 of qualities that would make him a success under
 any circumstances and in spite of any
 obstacles. He seems very sincere - and of good
 moral and mental fiber -

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

I think not. He is colored - but not more so than
 Marian Anderson or Dorothy Maynor. He is good
 looking - well built - I have never detected the
 evidence of drugs or smoking. I think he is profoundly religious.

Signed.....

Position or Title.....

Address.....

Date.....

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,
 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Jasper Ralph Bell
Report Requested of Mr. Clyde Winkfield
Roosevelt College
430 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence,

William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

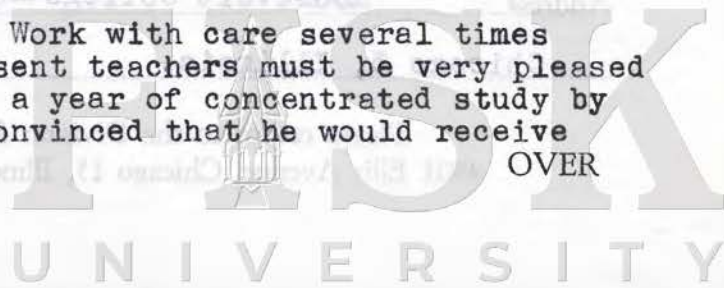
REPORT

It is with the greatest pleasure and with ringing honest sincerity that I am able to state from my most candid and critical point of view that Jasper Ralph Bell, Basso, without doubt is deserving of a Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellowship and is the exceptional talent that the Rosenwald Fund aims to assist.

It is a large statement (and especially when one has heard nearly all of the great singers of today), but I consider it a duty and an honor to go on record with the statement that Jasper Bell has one of the greatest and most beautiful Bass-Baritone voices of his generation and is destined to be a great artist. He has the mind and personality for a great career, as well as artistic conception.

I have read over his Plan of Work with care several times and am impressed with it. His present teachers must be very pleased with his progress to date and with a year of concentrated study by means of a Rosenwald grant, I am convinced that he would receive

OVER



highly favorable press comments and reach public acclaim as a results of a Kimball Hall and Town Hall Debut.

His experiences in Dallas, Texas, regarding the conditions of study he had to undergo and his progress there--seem to me to show clearly that he has "guts," determination, and a high purpose for living. From my personal acquaintance and association with Mr. Bell as a musician, he is a prodigious worker--and his music always comes first with him. Indeed, it is unusual to find so young a man so fervently devoted to his art.

Every ounce of the musician in me dictates that I recommend Jasper Bell strongly to you, for your acknowledgement of him would be the very encouragement necessary to insure him a safe rise to real acclaim. His success would also bring inspiration and encouragement to many serious students of talent and the other young musicians who are Negroes--for all who know him know he is of merit and unquestionably deserves award.

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your answer. We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These findings are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students but to enable people of experience to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to answer the applicant's questions until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated. We expect candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Harwood
Director for Fellowships

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities?

Yes.

Signed

Clyde Winkfield

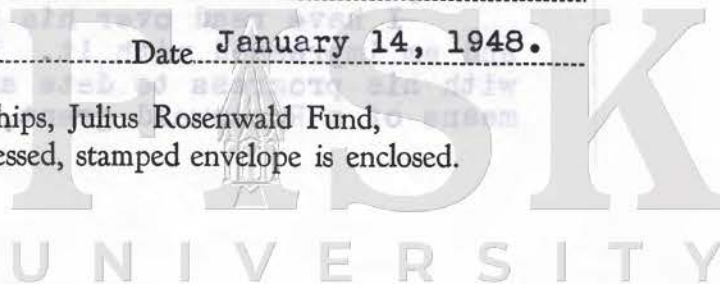
Position or Title Instructor in Piano --Concert Pianist

Address Roosevelt College--School of Music, 430 S. Michigan Ave.,

Chicago 5, Illinois.

Date January 14, 1948.

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund,
4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO, 15

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Name of Candidate Jasper Ralph Bell
Report Requested of Miss Esther Goetz Gilliland
6613 South Normal Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

The above-named candidate has applied to this Fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your statement.

We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These fellowships are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of exceptional talent to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated.

We request candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

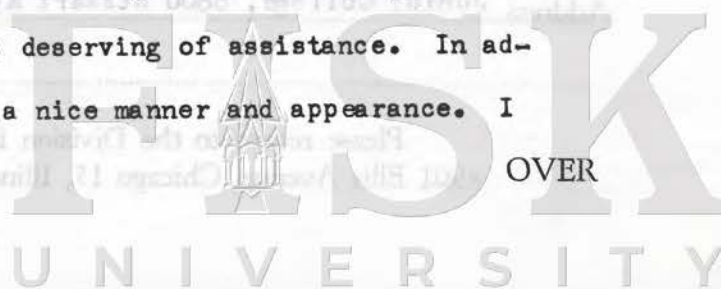
William C. Haygood
Director for Fellowships

REPORT

In my estimation Jasper Bell is an exceptionally well qualified young artist, ready for a concert career. He will be a credit to his race and to his teachers, if he can get launched, an achievement that is difficult enough for any one with a lighter skin and a heavier purse.

He definitely has a message to impart through music, plus the equipment to do so successfully. Any help given him will encourage others who might be handicapped by racial discrimination. He is deserving of assistance. In addition to being an excellent singer, he has a nice manner and appearance. I

OVER



feel sure that his artistry and personality will help to bring about better racial understanding and respect.

He recently gave a very successful song recital at Wilson Junior College and was very enthusiastically received by faculty and students. I hope you will hear him sing and give his application very careful consideration. Many talented students cross my path, so I know what I am talking about when I say that he is outstanding.

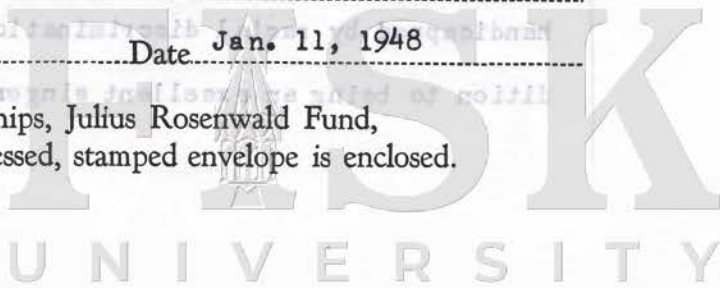
The above-named candidate has applied to this fund for a fellowship and has given your name as a reference. The candidate's plan of work is attached. Please return it with your response. We shall appreciate your frank opinion of this applicant's qualifications and an appraisal of his plan of work and of his ability to make a noteworthy contribution in his field. These appraisals are not intended to give aid to "worthy and deserving" students, but to enable people of responsibility to come to their fullest powers. Since it is impossible to consider the applicant's qualifications until all of the references are in, a prompt reply will be appreciated. We expect candid and critical comment. Your reply will be held in strict confidence.

William C. Maynard
Director for Fellowships

Is the candidate free from personality handicaps which would make it difficult to obtain and hold a position giving him opportunity to utilize his abilities? Yes

Signed Arthur Goetz Billiland
Position or Title Director Music Department, Woodrow Wilson Branch, Chicago City
Address Junior College, 6800 Stewart Ave., Chicago 21, Ill.
Date Jan. 11, 1948

Please return to the Division for Fellowships, Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois. Addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.



Name Jasper Ralph Bell Field: Music-Singing

Concert Singer and advanced student of voice
6421 Maryland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Plan of Work To continue professional study of voice under Richard B. DeYoung and song literature and interpretation under Hans Rosenwald.

Requests grant for one year beginning June 1948.

Personal Data Born Dallas, Texas, September 1918
Single

Age: 29
Draft Status:

Undergraduate Work Chicago Musical College, 1946-48
Private Study, 1926-44

Graduate Work

Experience Choir Director and pianist, Greater Shiloh Baptist Church, Dallas, 1935-1938, \$520; teacher, piano, home studio, Dallas, 1938-44; director of music and bass soloist, Navy, Great Lakes, Ill., 1946; student, Chicago Musical College, 1947-48.

Accomplishments

References

Richard B. De Young, Chicago, Ill.
Esther Goetz-Gilliland, " "
Kathryn Witwer, " "
Rudolph Ganz, Chicago Musical College
Hans Rosenwald, " " "
Clyde Winkfield, Roosevelt College

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$2870
From Applicant	870
From Fund	<u>\$2000</u>

AMOUNT GRANTED



FISK
UNIVERSITY

PLEASE RETURN
TO
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

Jasper Bell.

Plan of Work.

I am a concert singer, Basso, with potentialities of reaching high public acclaim, as I feel my training and experience to date (which at the onset was begun under the most adverse circumstances) point indicatively to whatever ability, significance, artistry and integrity of personality that I possess and will evince in the future.

Eight years ago in the Dallas Music Store (Dallas, Texas, is my home although I have been studying professionally in Chicago for the last two and one-half years), a white woman by the name of Lena R. Nicholson, who is a local musician, heard me sing. She was tremendously impressed. Up to that time, from early childhood I had been studying piano with Mme. E. M. Pratt--looking forward to a career as a concert pianist. Also I was active in my community as a choir director and organist.

I was greatly influenced by her judgement; and that day I heard my voice for the first time objectively and as a means of artistic expression for other people to enjoy. That very same day Mrs. Nicholson directed me to the very best voice teacher in Dallas-- a white man by the name of W. B. Downing, who formerly for ten years was head of the Kansas City Conservatory, Voice Department. She telephoned him and persuaded him to give me an audition and discussed the possibilities of a reduction of fee. He remonstrated at once when he learned I was black. Personally he had a lack of prejudice against Negroes, but he knew that there was no such lack of prejudice among the white southerners who crowded his studio. Upon the direct insistence of Mrs. Nicholson, who fortunately was an old musician of standing and whose influence could not be ignored, he heard me sing late one evening after his studio was empty.

Plan of Work.

If it had not been for the fact that I had been stimulated to study singing under a bonafied teacher and felt there was something in me musically that I had to express according to the accepted rules, I would have never set foot in his studio. I realized then and there I should leave Dallas.

Mr. Downing, on hearing me, was even more impressed than Mrs. Nicholson. He was surprised to know a Negro boy in Dallas played the piano works of Chopin, could sight read fluently, and had what he described as "a voice of great beauty"--bass-baritone in range--and "a God-given instrument that would delight the world if I had the application and brains to work diligently and develop it." He gave me lessons. I used the back entrance at night and could not associate with any of the other students of the studio. I felt a psychological prohibition at each meeting.

I worked long hours in order to pay Mr. Downing and my piano teacher Mme. Pratt. The resentment I felt from such a situation motivated me every day of my life to work harder and absorb every good principle of voice technique and musicianship, et cetera, which my teachers had to offer. I have given the full facts of my beginning as a singer, because this very beginning gave me the greatest challenge I have ever known--and at the same time tied tenacity, determination, application, and the importance of good will, real democracy, and social adjustment--like a hard knot within me! I studied voice under Mr. Downing three and one-half years. The most important thing I learned in those years, was how much work it took to be a great singer, and on my own glimpsed the fact that a great artist very often has to learn how to be a great person.

Plan of Work.

I was inducted into the Navy, January 10, 1944, with my tour of duty terminating April 19, 1946, with an honorable discharge and with six months of this time overseas. In the Navy, the musical training I had received up to this time held me in good stead. The Music Department of the Navy, after more than routine examination and audition, gave me a directorship of music in the 16th Regiment at Great Lakes, Illinois. While at Great Lakes in this capacity I gained much valuable experience that I feel I would have never encountered in peacetime conditions, for I conducted a fortnightly CBS nationwide broadcast and appeared as soloist on the Bluejacket Choir programs, CBS, Sunday mornings. As Chicago was just a short distance from the Navy Base and I knew I must continue study and under no conditions stagnate, I went against Richard B. DeYoung, eminent authority and teacher of voice and a master-teacher at Chicago Musical College. (In 1942, I came from Dallas to Chicago to spend the summer in study under Mr. DeYoung).

After being discharged from the Navy I knew I had to come to Chicago or New York for study if the aims of my career were to be realized. From September of 1946 to the present date, I have been enrolled at the Chicago Musical College as a G. I. Bill of Rights student primarily to continue professional study of voice under Mr. DeYoung whose \$7.50 per half hour rate of tuition could only be met through my standing as a veteran. Along with my voice work, I have carried forward study of the piano under Ottelee MacComber at the College and also courses in Harmony, Solffeggio, Piano Sight Reading, Music Therapy, Italian, Song Interpretation, Opera Class, Repertoire Class, and Music History. My G. I. Bill of Rights will terminate at

Plan of Work.

the end of the present semester. The finance to continue presents a sharp problem for me. If fellowship funds are not available, much of the time each day that is absolutely essential for me to invest in study will have to be spent on a factory job.

My plan of study is for one year: I wish to have two voice lessons per week with Mr. Richard De Young and one lesson in Song Literature and Interpretation per week with Dr. Hans Rosenwald, the distinguished musicologist and coach. I wish to begin study in June of 1948. I wish to study interpretation with Dr. Rosenwald at the Chicago Musical College; and although Mr. DeYoung is a teacher at the Chicago Musical College, I would prefer my lessons at his studios-- 721 N. Michigan, where I could have use of his recording instrument at lessons.

At the end of this period of study I propose to have a Kimball Hall recital for professional reviews. The financial returns from this recital I plan to use to have a debut in Town Hall New York, also principally for reviews. The results of the Chicago and New York presentations if favorable would give birth and acclaim to another Negro who would take his place on the roster among the great talents and major artists of today.

With the excellent instruction and guidance of a DeYoung and a Rosenwald (both a Hans Rosenwald and a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship) the perfection of my talent and life aims, I feel without any doubt, will begin to crystalize. Simply and honestly, music is my life and breath-- and I am determined to make a mark, and help set the Negro to credit. Whatever consideration or disposition that my application meets, I am much obliged to you for the opportunity to have the activity of my

Plan of Work.

interest reviewed by so distinguished a body that serves so high a humanitarian purpose.

I will welcome an opportunity to sing for you at anytime.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Jasper Ralph Bell

Dr. Rudolph Ganz, President, Chicago Musical College

I take pleasure in recommending Mr. Jasper Bell for a Rosenwald Scholarship. Although Mr. Bell has not been under my direction or guidance, I am considering the various reports from his teachers, and conclude that he is a very worthy student to be aided.

I have heard Mr. Bell sing while he was a member of our Madrigal Society when he had several solo parts. He is the possessor of a very fine voice. Mr. Bell is very well liked in the student body, and would be greatly benefited by your Scholarship.

Dr. Hans Rosenwald, Dean, Chicago Musical College

Mr. Jasper Bell is a very amiable young man who is indeed endowed with an unusual voice. I can also confirm that he has considerable native intelligence.

He has arrived at a phase in his training in which he must make the decision if he wants to continue more or less as an amateur or if he wants to choose a professional career. To the latter he brings talent, but obviously, he is in a financial position which does not permit him to spend sufficient time on the task on which he should concentrate.

At this time Mr. Bell sings notes; he is far from being an accomplished interpreter. It is the belief of the undersigned who has had the pleasure of working with him spasmodically that a scholarship would enable him to learn the song literature more thoroughly and to acquire knowledge of the finer points in interpretation.



Miss Kathryn Witwer, Chicago

In my opinion this young man has extraordinary talent. He has exceptional physical endowments and as far as I have been able to observe, he is sincere, worthy and deserving. I have observed his progress during the past year and consider his advancement indicative of his ability to absorb and apply what he has learned, as well as of his intense desire to become an important artist. And from my observation, it would seem that he is very likely to succeed.

Mr. Richard B. De Young, Chicago Musical College

Mr. Bell is one of my students. He has the potential mental and physical qualities of a great artist. He is very talented, absolutely sincere, and the possessor of a singularly beautiful voice. He has had a long way to come in terms of personal development, but has made excellent progress in the past two years. The difference between his singing now and a year ago is remarkable. He is gradually gaining public experience and gaining repertoire. He needs further training and development but his chances of becoming a singer of considerable importance are good. In my studio he has experienced no color line, he has been received on a basis of equality by all. Now, if he has the character, the stamina, the reliability, and the power to come through, he will succeed - sooner with your help than without it - but I mean to know of qualities that would make him a success under any circumstances and in spite of any obstacles. He seems very sincere and of good moral and mental fibre.

Mr. Clyde Winkfield, Instructor in Piano, Roosevelt College of Chicago

It is with the greatest pleasure and with ringing honest sincerity that I am able to state from my most candid and critical point of view that Jasper Ralph Bell, Basso, without doubt is deserving of a Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellowship and is the exceptional talent that the Rosenwald Fund aims to assist.

It is a large statement (and especially when one has heard nearly all of the great singers of today), but I consider it a duty and an honor to go on record with the statement that Jasper Bell has one of the greatest and most beautiful Bass-Baritone voices of his generation and is destined to be a great artist. He has the mind and personality for a great career, as well as artistic conception.

I have read over his Plan of Work with care several times and am impressed with it. His present teachers must be very pleased with his progress to date and with a year of concentrated study by means of a Rosenwald grant, I am convinced that he would receive highly favorable press comments and reach public acclaim as a result of a Kimball Hall and Town Hall debut.

His experiences in Dallas, Texas, regarding the conditions of study he had to undergo and his progress there -- seem to me to show clearly that he has "guts," determination, and a high purpose for living. From my personal acquaintance and association with Mr. Bell as a musician, he is a prodigious worker -- and his music always comes first with him. Indeed, it is unusual to find so young a man so fervently devoted to his art.

Miss Esther Goetz Gilliland, Director, Music Department, Woodrow
Wilson Branch, Chicago Junior College

In my estimation Jasper Bell is an exceptionally well qualified young artist, ready for a concert career. He will be a credit to his race and to his teachers, if he can get launched, an achievement that is difficult enough for any one with a lighter skin and a heavier purse.

He definitely has a message to impart through music, plus the equipment to do so successfully. Any help given him will encourage others who might be handicapped by racial discrimination. He is deserving of assistance. In addition to being an excellent singer, he has a nice manner and appearance. I feel sure that his artistry and personality will help to bring about better racial understanding and respect.

He recently gave a very successful song recital at Wilson Junior College and was very enthusiastically received by faculty and students. I hope you will hear him sing and give his application very careful consideration. Many talented students cross my path, so I know what I am talking about when I say that he is outstanding.

FELLOWSHIPS

April 20, 1948

Dear Mr. Bell: I have the honor to inform you that you have been selected by the Committee on Fellowships of the Julius Rosenwald Fund to receive a grant of Two thousand dollars (\$2000) for a twelve-month period beginning June 1, 1948 to enable you to continue professional study of voice under Richard B. DeYoung and song literature and interpretation under Hans Rosenwald.

Because of the closing of the Fund it is imperative that the grant be accepted only if you are prepared to begin your project on the date specified and carry through your work as outlined in your application. I want to point out to you that the funds included in this award are not subject to federal income tax.

Will you please let us know at once whether or not you can accept the fellowship? An announcement of the Committee's selections will be made soon, and it can include only those from whom acceptances have been received.

Sincerely yours,

HR

For the Committee
on Fellowships

HR:RC

Mr. Jasper Ralph Bell
6421 Maryland Avenue
Chicago 37, Illinois

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UNIVERSITY