

BERNARD TAYLOR
464 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

Fellowship Com.

	WCH	4/18	WCH	4/24

April 7th. 1946
Mr. William C. Haygood
Director of Fellowships
Julius Rosenwald Fund
Chicago 15, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Haygood,

At your request, I herewith give you my opinion of the Singers we heard yesterday. I am listing them in the order of their appearance. At the conclusion of the letter I will list the three and possibly four, who, in my opinion show the greatest promise for a successful professional career as singing artists.

No. 1. WILLIAM HENERY BODKIN

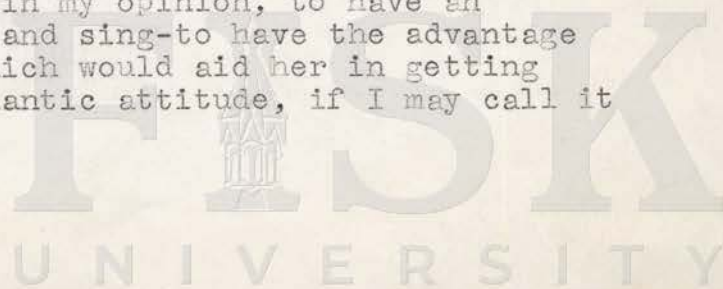
A baritone voice of good quality. Technical equipment generally satisfactory, but additional work is very strongly urged. Voice has a slight flutter and fast vibrato, which mars singing of sustained passages. Sings intelligently and with good musicianship. Has a fair sense of style, and interpretative ability. Is a serious singer, but needs more flair and showmanship. Should make an excellent teacher.

No. 2. CHARLES HOLLAND

A tenor voice of exceptional and outstanding quality. Apparently has everything a singer needs for success. This includes voice, a great singing sense, dramatic temperament, intelligence, musicianship, personality, appearance, plus fine training. His chances for success are great, and at the present time, he needs only to be properly guided in caring for his voice, and for launching him into a career from a commercial standpoint.

No. 3. ENOLA ESTELLE LAWS

A soprano voice of lovely quality. Is not an exceptionally large voice, but adequate. Sings very artistically and intelligently. Shows excellent musicianship, fine style and good interpretative ability. Has a pleasing personality, and makes a good appearance. Her great need at this time, is, in my opinion, to have an opportunity to get out and sing-to have the advantage of audience contact, which would aid her in getting away from a certain pedantic attitude, if I may call it that.



No. 4. LOUISE BURGE

A Contralto voice that is really quite exceptional. A voice that has a rich, melodious and earthy quality that is distinctive. Has style and interpretative talent, plus good sound musicianship. At the present time she seems to be working hard on her vocal technique, which obviously needs much more work, although she shows that she is working correctly and along the right lines to overcome certain difficulties. With these corrections made, it is my opinion that Miss Burge should go very far as an outstanding singer.

No. 5. AUBREY PANKEY

A good baritone voice, but not outstanding so far as native quality is concerned. Sings technically very well. Has fine musicianship, a good sense of style, and is a good all around singer. Has probably reached the peak of his vocal development and his powers of interpretative growth. He is a good singer, but not distinctive.

No. 6. RUTH CAMPBELL STEWART

A fine soprano voice of fundamentally good quality. At present the upper voice is brilliant and well-produced, while the lower voice is very throaty and tends to make the range rather uneven. This throatiness mars the clarity of her diction. She sings musically and with intelligence. Her great need at the present time would seem to be the necessity of getting away from an academic atmosphere and to come into contact with professional musicians and a professional atmosphere. Her languages and repertoire are in dire need of expansion and development. If this were done, Miss Stewart might well become very outstanding.

No. 7. KATHRYN ANTONETTE WARD

A soprano voice of some potentiality. At present time she shows a great lack of adequate training, both vocally and musically. Is a person of pleasing appearance and seems intelligent. With further specialized training, she might do very well as a singer.

In conclusion, the singers that, in my opinion, have the best chances for successful singing careers are as follows:

1. Charles Holland
2. Enola Estelle Laws
3. Louise Burge
4. Ruth Campbell Stewart

It was a pleasure for me to hear these fine singers, Mr. Haygood, and I hope I have aided you in making your selections for the Fellowship grants.

Also it was a pleasure meeting you and working with you. If I or the School can be of further service to you, please feel free to call on us.

Very sincerely yours,

Bernard Taylor
Bernard Taylor

md/bt