

Fellowship  
Comm.

April 14, 1947

Dear Mr. Thomson: Arna Bontemps, Librarian at Fisk, who is a member of the Committee which selects the annual fellowships given by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, has suggested that perhaps you might be willing to help us out of a dilemma we find ourselves in this year.

Each year we get hundreds of applications from Negroes and white Southerners in all fields of knowledge. In the fields of creative writing, singing, painting, and so forth, we have outside juries who judge the candidates and advise the Fellowship Committee. This year, for the first time, we have a large number of candidates in piano. Of the four who seem to be of more than average ability, three are young women either attending or teaching at Fisk and one is a student at the Juilliard School. Mr. Bontemps tells me that you are to attend the Music Festival at Fisk, and it occurred to both of us that you might be willing to let these four young people play for you and to give us a critical judgment as to which of them, if any, might be worth an investment on our part. Mr. Bontemps could arrange for the three young ladies at Fisk to audition for you while you are there, and I would arrange with the Juilliard student to play for you at your convenience in New York. The date of the meeting at the final selections of all candidates in all fields will be made is May 3.

I realize that this is quite an imposition, but if there is any way you could help us, we would all be most grateful. If you would wire me collect at the address on this letterhead, I would appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,  
WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:rfl

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