

SCHOLARSHIP

October 26, 1934

My dear Mr. Bowers: I am taking much pleasure in informing you that the Julius Rosenwald Fund has awarded to you a fellowship of twelve hundred dollars (\$1200) to enable you to continue your studies in music during the coming year. The award was made, as you know, in large part because of the strong support to the application given by Mr. Carroll Hollister. Since Mr. Hollister has agreed to continue his help in planning your courses of study, it seems best to handle the fellowship through him. We are, therefore, making payments to him in quarterly installments which he in turn will use in consultation with you for your musical studies.

It gives us all much satisfaction to be able to cooperate with you in your future preparation.

Yours very truly,

ERE:rm

EDWIN R. EMBREE

Mr. William Bowers
262 Stuyvesant Avenue
Brooklyn, New York

OCT 30 1934

FISK
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

900 SOUTH HOMAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SCHOLARSHIP

Confidential Report on Candidate for Scholarship

Name of Candidate... Mr. William Bowers

Report Requested of... Mr. Philip James, Station WOR, 1440 Broadway, New York City

The above-named candidate has applied to this foundation for a scholarship to enable him to secure further training in Singing, and has given your name as a reference.

We should appreciate a frank statement of your opinion of this candidate's abilities and personal characteristics. In what way and when have you known the candidate and his work?

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

Edwin R. Embury
Associate President #

REPORT:

Mr. Bowers has sung for me on my radio symphony home quite a few times so that I am very well acquainted with his work and am a keen admirer of his artistry. Mr. Bowers is an ^{American} negro baritone, who with further training in voice, would develop and be a great credit to his country and race. He possesses a good natural baritone voice and has all the qualifications that tend toward fine artistry and musicianship.

Philip James

Professor of Music, New York University

OCT 31 1934

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

900 SOUTH HOMAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SCHOLARSHIP

Confidential Report on Candidate for Scholarship

DT	10/11	DT	0

Name of Candidate Mr. William Bowers

Report Requested of Mr. James H. Hubert, New York Urban League, 202 West 136th Street

The above-named candidate has applied to this foundation for a scholarship to enable him to secure further training in Singing, and has given your name as a reference.

We should appreciate a frank statement of your opinion of this candidate's abilities and personal characteristics. In what way and when have you known the candidate and his work?

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

Edwin R. Embree
~~Association~~ President

REPORT:

I have known Mr. William Bowers for a number of years. In my opinion, he ranks next to Roland Hayes, and with the opportunity and the necessary encouragement, would go far toward making a racial contribution through music comparable with Hayes and others. He has had a very difficult struggle, but has not only a splendid voice, but an unusual determination.

James H. Hubert.

OCT 12 1934

FISK
UNIVERSITY

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

900 SOUTH HOMAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SCHOLARSHIP

Confidential Report on Candidate for Scholarship

10/10/34	rt	0

Name of Candidate... Mr. William Bowers

Report Requested of... Mr. Clarence Cameron White, Hampton Institute

The above-named candidate has applied to this foundation for a scholarship to enable him to secure further training in singing, and has given your name as a reference.

We should appreciate a frank statement of your opinion of this candidate's abilities and personal characteristics. In what way and when have you known the candidate and his work?

Your reply will be held in strictest confidence.

Edwin R. Embree
~~Associate~~ President H

REPORT:

I only know of this young man by hearing him on the Radio.

I can give you no information other than that he has a good voice.

OCT 10 1934

Clarence Cameron White



SCHOLARSHIP

WILLIAM
BOWERS

BARITONE



A Tribute from MR. LEOPOLD GODOWSKY
"To Mr. William Bowers, with gratitude for
his beautiful, emotional and heartfelt singing.
Wishing him great well-merited success."

Concert Management

GEORGE LEYDEN COLLEDGE

Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, New York

MAY 22 1934

FISK
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BOWERS, remarkable young Negro Baritone, at twenty-five has already proved himself an exceptionally gifted singer—one who may rank with such noteworthy artists of his race as Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson, Abbie Mitchell, and others.

Born of a singing race, and “born to sing”, Mr. Bowers was brought up in the South, where he early absorbed the priceless musical heritage of the Negro. Here he studied at Thyme Institute, Virginia, and at Knoxville College, Tennessee. Later, he came North to continue his academic schooling at City College in New York City, where he earned his way working at odd jobs.

It was in New York that Mr. Bowers made the acquaintance of Hall Johnson, remarkable leader of the internationally famous Hall Johnson Choir. Mr. Johnson, quickly recognizing the unusual quality of Mr. Bowers’s voice, invited him to join the choir, where he won immediate recognition by his singing of *Water Boy* in his first appearance at a concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the Stadium. Later, Mr. Bowers sang with outstanding success in concert and over the radio with the Hall Johnson Sextet.

He spent the following summer at the music colony at Blue Hill, Maine, where he carried on intensive work in concert repertory under the musical guidance of Carroll Hollister, well known accompanist, and special voice coaching with Mrs. William H. Greene and with Mme. Edith Gaudenzi, in preparation for his New York debut.

While in Maine, Mr. Bowers sang for a number of prominent musicians, among whom was Leopold Godowsky, who became one of the patrons of Mr. Bowers’s first concert in New York City.

Other prominent patrons were:

Mr. Heywood Broun, Mr. Harry T. Burleigh, Mr. Abram Chasins, Miss Fannia M. Cohn, Miss Lisa Elman, Miss Bettina Hall, Mr. Hall Johnson, Mrs. Franz Kneisel, Mr. André Kostelanetz, Mrs. A. Walter Kramer, Mrs. Henry E. Krehbiel, Mr. Abraham Mandelstam, Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin, Mme. Marie Sundelius.

Mr. Bowers’s debut met with immediate and unqualified success. He is considered one of the outstanding Negro artists, and a worthy colleague of Roland Hayes and Paul Robeson.

Mr. Bowers is available for concert engagements.

“Mr. Bowers is a sensitive musician, intelligent and artistic. His voice is resonant and full of good tone.”

N. Y. Daily Mirror

“Mr. Bowers made pleasurable use of a mellow voice—his singing was sympathetic and possessed a particularly winning quality.”

N. Y. Evening Post

PRESS COMMENTS

"*Headline: Musicians Hail Bowers' Recital—Young Negro Baritone Dramatic in Style.*" "Formerly of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir, William Bowers, a twenty-four-year-old baritone, made his recital debut last evening before an enthusiastic audience composed largely of musicians. . . . The first lyric the young baritone delivered with stirring dramatic force, revealing a strong, mellow voice reminiscent of that possessed by his colleague, Paul Robeson. Mr. Bowers proved to be quite at home in this stately, smoothly moving kind of melody, disclosing at the same time genuine feeling and an understanding of style. . . . Mr. Bowers was most effective in 'Der Doppelgänger'. To this he imparted a solemn, pathetic quality, a depth and justness of feeling that made it the surpassing interpretation of the evening. . . . For his group of Negro songs and spirituals Mr. Bowers chose, among other favorites, 'Ol Man River' and 'Water Boy'. His simple and eloquent mezzo voice account of 'Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me!' disclosed his sympathetic understanding of the rich tonal heritage of the American Negro."—*The New York World Telegram*.

"Mr. Bowers made his audience acquainted with a voice of good natural quality and a warmth of feeling to be expected from a singer of his race. He delivered 'Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves' with fervor and appreciation of style."—W. J. Henderson in *The New York Sun*.

"Mr. Bowers's voice has the velvet edge that we have come to associate with the singing of his race; its quality accorded well with the loveliness inherent in the piano passages of 'Nur Wer die Sehnsucht Kennt'" —*The New York Times*.

"*Headline: Negro Baritone Gives Recital Before a Large and Enthusiastic Audience.*" "To the number of Negro vocalists bidding for a place in the recital field was added yet another when William Bowers, baritone, presented a program last night. The auditorium was completely filled and all indications were that the audience would have welcomed more repetitions and additional numbers than the recitalist gave. . . . Mr. Bowers made pleasurable use of a mellow voice—his singing was sympathetic and possessed a particularly winning quality. . . . In such racial numbers as 'Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me' and 'Were you There?', he used the half voice with a quiet persuasiveness."—*The New York Evening Post*.

"Among the soloists, exceptional praise was merited by the baritone who intoned 'Water Boy'".—F. D. Perkins in *The New York Herald Tribune*.

"Mr. Bowers has a voice of warm texture and good range—he has unquestioned taste and feeling for such airs as Handel's 'Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves', and 'Where'er You Walk' and he sang Dido's Lament ('When I am Laid in Earth'), fervently. . . . The audience filled every available chair and applauded generously."—*The New York Herald Tribune*.

"William Bowers, Negro baritone and once an ornament of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir, sang last night before a full house. Mr. Bowers is a sensitive musician, intelligent, and artistic. His voice is resonant and full of good tone."—*The Daily Mirror*.

The Julius Rosenwald Fund is making a review of the Negro fellowships which it has granted during the past seven years. Since an appraisal of our activity thus far in this field will naturally have some effect on future policy, it is requested that all persons who have received fellowship grants from the Fund cooperate by filling in carefully the brief information asked for on the following blank and returning the information promptly to the Fund.

Name James William Bowers

Position at time grant was made Student and concert-singer

Specific purpose of the fellowship study To enable me to continue my studies

Subject studied under the fellowship (or special work accomplished) voice-culture and music in general, and languages

Institution at which fellowship study was carried on (or, if no specific institution was attended, state nature and place of the work carried out under the grant)

The grant made it possible for me to study with Mme. Edith Gaudenzi, 129 W. 78th St. N.Y.C.

Present position or occupation Alternate in the role of Porgy in the current opera "Porgy & Bess"

Your opinion of benefits received from the fellowship When this grant was made I was in bed suffering with bronchial pneumonia, which the doctors said came from over-work. The grant gave me security, which resulted in more confidence, better health and a means to study.

177
SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

900 South Homan Avenue

Date September 25, 1934.

PERSONAL HISTORY

Name in full James William Bowers
Present address 1443 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Permanent address 1443 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Place of birth Skipwith, Virginia Date of birth August 10, 1908.
Single, married, widowed, divorced Married
Name and address of wife or husband Katherine Menahan Bowers
Number of children 3 Age and sex male, 2 yrs.; female, 3 yrs., 5 yrs.
Dependents 4 To what extent entirely Relation wife and children
Father's name Sandy William Bowers Address deceased Occupation ----

HEALTH OF APPLICANT

Weight 153 Height 5 feet, 10 in. Previous illnesses none
feet inches details and date

Illnesses during past twelve months ordinary colds

Physical impairment—degree and how long existing none

Most recent complete physical examination—when and by whom April 1, 1934.

By Dr. Hudson Ratson, 231 Throop Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Physician's recommendations more normal amount of rest; less over-worry.

Have these been acted upon? As far as economically possible.

General health of family normal

FISK UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION

Give a summary of your education in the following form:

	Name of Institution	Period of Study	Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates (give dates)
ACADEMIC:			
High School	Thyme Institute	4 years	diploma (1926)
Normal			
College or University	Knoxville College	2 years	none
Graduate			(Fall, 1926, through Spring, 1928)
PROFESSIONAL:			
Music	Private instruction	approximately 3 yrs.	none
Art*			(Irregular since Fall, 1926)
Technical	Voice - Mme. Edith Gaudenzi (129 W. 78 St., n.y.c.)	1 1/2 yrs., also at present.	none (Began Dec., 1932)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Positions held (professional, teaching, scientific, administrative, business):

Name of Institution or Organization	Title of Position	Years of Tenure (give dates)	Under Direction of
Hall Johnson Choir	B Soloist	2 1/2 years	Mr. Hall Johnson
Various personal appearances.			

REFERENCES

Submit a list of references from whom further confidential information may be obtained:

Name of Reference	Where and in what way does this person know you?	Address
✓ Mr. Walter White	Professionally	N.A.A.C.P., 69 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C.
Dr. Charence Cameron White	Professionally	Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.
✓ Mrs. J. Haskell	Professionally	Columbia University, N.Y.C.
✓ Mr. Carroll Hollister	Professionally & personally	78 West 55th Street, n.y.c.
Mr. Philip James	Professionally	Station WOR, 1440 Broadway, N.Y.C.
Mr. James H. Hubert	Personal	N.Y. Urban League, 202 W. 136 St., N.Y.C.
Miss Evelyn Sharifte	Personal	617 West End Avenue, N.Y.C.

Give a list of the scholarships or fellowships you have previously held or now hold:

~~Scholarship to Knoxville College~~

Present position? Concert singer From - To - Salary? - -

Do you seek further training for this or another position? This What and where? General vocal and musical training, privately.
certain.

Have you positive assurance of a position after completion of further study? As far as any concert career is

If so, what is the position? concert singer

By whom is assurance given? As far as this can be given by consensus of the opinion of the
critics and musicians.

What course of study do you wish to take? Voice culture and music

For what degree are you working? ----

What institution offers best opportunity for this study? Private instruction

When does the course begin and when does it end? optional

Have your credits been accepted without condition? ----

Courses you propose to take:

Major Voice culture

Minor Piano, musical theory, languages.

What financial assistance can you depend upon from present employer, school, family, or organization? none

If you are a student and employed outside of school, how many hours per day do you work? not in school

What are they? ----

Where employed? --- How much do you earn? ---

Will this continue? --- How long? ---

What is the total amount required for the proposed period of study? (that the Rosenwald Fund should feel disposed to give. Approximately \$1200, or any amount)

How much can you provide? At present earning five dollars per performance under musicians emergency aid. However, concerts are very irregular.

In addition to filling out the application blank, we are asking that you write an essay of not more than five hundred words, stating the major problem in your field, as you see it, and your reason for believing that additional training will enable you to help solve that problem, or, at least to make a contribution as a result of a wider experience. (Please use pages 5 and 6 for this essay.)

The basis of good singing is a naturally fine-sounding voice. But this itself is not sufficient. For the human voice is a somewhat delicate instrument, and, unless properly cared for and properly used, by constant abuse becomes, in a relatively short time, strained and useless, with all the fine flavor of the original voice dissipated.

It thus becomes the problem of any potential concert singer to learn to preserve his instrument, and this can best be done by recourse to voice teachers, who have made a study of the physical, as well as the musical, side of the voice. Where a good many other artists can, in the final analysis, considerably further their advancement, once they have passed beyond the elementary stages, with little or no outside aid, yet the singer, since the very nature of his art even in its practising uses up the voice, must learn to control it and to build it up into a strong, responsive, flexible and disciplined medium of expression.

The young student in general, unless he is very wealthy, - since most vocal instruction is fairly expensive, - finds it a very discouraging task to try to build up on his natural foundation. This is particularly true in the case of the Negro singer, whose natural voice has only too often in the past been exploited at too early a stage in its development, before it has had a chance to become a fully controlled vehicle, and has thus been ruined.

For this reason, I think that the essence of the problem facing me is to continue the regular voice study which I have recently been pursuing. It is extremely difficult to study seriously and steadily and yet to try to earn a livelihood. Even in the best of times, positions open to Negroes tend to be those entailing strenuous labor, and this is particularly true today, when even such jobs are very scarce. While the singer must be a person possessing considerable physical vitality, yet such labor is too sapping of that vitality to permit of the concentration and abundance of physical health and alertness that voice culture demands.

All of singing, of course, does not consist only of natural voice and its training. In addition, the singer must have a full and intelligent grasp of the substance of the songs he sings, a sense of refinement and finesse, and an ability to penetrate to their profoundest depths the art songs and operas of the Western world, as well as the Spirituals of the Negro's own race.

We have seen the effects in the case of certain great Negro artists upon the relationship existing between the White and Colored peoples. Any great art, of course, transcends national and racial barriers, even though it may at the same time be typical of the country or people from which it springs. It is the breaking down of barriers which especially appeals to me, and I feel that I can, by building with the aid of systematic and sound voice culture, based upon the natural voice which many musicians have encouraged me to believe I possess, assist in the demolishing of this barrier.

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Record of James William Bowers Address 1443 Pacific St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
 Entered the College September 1926 from Thyne Institute, Chase City, Va.
 Admitted to Freshman Class with units as follows:

English..... 4	German.....	Chemistry.....
Algebra..... 2	Anc. History..... 1	General Science..... 1
Geometry Pl. 1	Med. & Mod. History.....	
Arithmetic Com. 1	English History..... 1	
Latin..... 3	Civics..... 1	
French.....	Physics..... 1	Total..... 15

Year	SUBJECT	Catalogue No.	No. Wks.	*Lab. Periods per wk.	*Recita. Hours per wk.	Grade 1st. Quarter	Grade 2nd. Quarter	Grade 3rd. Quarter	Qr. Hrs.
1926 -27	General Chemistry	6	36	2 ^D	3	B	B	B	15
	College Rhet. & Themes	1,2	24		5	B	B	-	10
	College Algebra	2	12		5	C	-	-	5
	Public Speech	1	24		2	A-	A-	-	4
	Elementary German	1,2	24		5	-	B-	B-	10
	Trigonometry	3	12		5	-	-	B	5
1927 -28	General Psychology	1	22		5	B	-	-	5
	Analytics	5	12		5	D	-	-	5
	German Readings	3,4	24		5	D	B	-	10
	Public Speech	2	12		2	C	-	-	2
	Qualitative Chemistry	7	24	5 ^D	1	-	C	B	10
	English Literature	3,4	24		5	-	B	B	10
	New Testament Literature	1	12		5	-	-	B	5

Withdrew

Date May 31, 1928

Degree of

Conferred

Remarks:

Date September 14, 1934 J. Kelly Giffen President

Grades are designated by the letters A, B, B-, C, C-, D, E, F. They represent grades as follows: A, 95-100; B, 85-94; B-, 80-84; C, 75-83; D, 65-74; E, Conditional; F, Failure. I is incomplete.

*Quarter Hour: A quarter hour is one-hour recitation per week through one quarter of twelve weeks. A laboratory period of two hours is counted as one hour of recitation.

UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BOWERS

SCHOLARSHIP

Negro Baritone, formerly with the Hall Johnson Choir.

As is not unusual among artists, WILLIAM BOWERS, gifted young Negro singer, who is to make his debut in Steinway Hall on Wednesday evening, October 19, did not originally choose a musical career. But music has surrounded him since early childhood, for he was born and brought up in the South, where the songs of his race are an integral part of every Negro's inheritance. His earliest recollections of these songs is as they were sung by his grandmother, who first taught him to know and love them. Experiences such as these early planted seeds which were later to grow and flower in a richly endowed musical nature.

In William Bowers there are united several racial strains which have contributed to the creation of a many-sided talent. A Negro, born in Virginia, August 10, 1908, on a plantation owned by his father, he derives also, on his father's side, from English colonial stock; on his mother's, from German, and also American Indian. His parents were substantial and respected citizens of the community of which they were a part, and both possessed advantages of education and character through which they were able to contribute a splendid background of solid qualities to their son. His father was a business man widely known in the South, and much respected and beloved by all with whom he came in contact throughout his active life. His mother is a school teacher, in whom a trained intelligence, a devoted heart, and a devout spiritual nature combined to make an ideal mother for the large family - four sons and two daughters - of which William Bowers is the eldest.

Ambitious for their son, his parents saw to it that he received the benefits of an excellent education. They sent him to Thyme Institute in Chase City, Virginia, for his high school training, and later to Knoxville College in Tennessee, where he took the regular academic course in preparation for an anticipated medical career, which, however, was never completed, as later events were to turn his interests towards music. In 1928 he came North to continue his studies at City College, New York City. During these years, he helped to earn his way through college by various pursuits carried on outside of scholastic hours.

Upon the sudden death of his father in 1929, Mr. Bowers was forced to interrupt his college course and devote his energies to the assistance of his mother in holding the family together, and supporting and educating his younger brothers and sister. While thus engaged, in New York City, to which his mother had moved with the family, he made the acquaintance of Hall Johnson, noted leader of the choir which has in recent years become famous throughout the country. Mr. Johnson, after hearing Mr. Bowers sing, invited him to become a member of the choir. Prior to this, Mr. Bower's only musical training had been some singing in glee clubs and choruses while in college, and a few vocal lessons from a local teacher in Knoxville - but joining the Hall Johnson Choir proved to be a turning-point in his life, and from that moment his musical interests and talents developed rapidly, under the stimulating influence of Mr. Johnson. Within three months Mr. Bowers was chosen to sing the baritone solo in "Water Boy" for a concert at the Lewisohn Stadium in New York, at one of the choir's appearances on the summer programs of the Philharmonic Orchestra there. On this occasion he won immediate recognition for the outstanding quality of his voice, and the emotional warmth and beauty of his singing. From then on he sang this and many other solos in the concerts of the choir, attracting the especial notice of those who heard him, including the critics, one of whom was moved to write as follows, after another concert of the choir at the Stadium:

"Among the soloists, exceptional praise was merited by the baritone who intoned "Water Boy".

(New York Herald Tribune, Aug. 13, 1931)

Subsequently, six male voices, of which Mr. Bower's was one, were picked from the Choir to form the "Hall Johnson Sextet", which sang with outstanding success in concert and on the radio. This sextet was broadcast weekly from Station WABC, Columbia Broadcasting Corporation, on the "Snowdrift" Hour, and Mr. Bowers was featured on this program as baritone soloist with the orchestra which shared the hour.

During this period Mr. Bowers was able from time to time to carry on vocal studies and to develop his musical talents, as his ambitions gradually turned towards the achievement of a concert career for himself, stimulated by the encouragement and belief of many musical friends in his unusual gifts as a singer. A group of these friends became interested in the furtherance of his career, and arranged for him to spend the past summer in the music colony at Blue Hill, Maine,

WILLIAM BOWERS

Negro Baritone, formerly with the Hall Johnson Choir.

where he devoted himself to intensive and concentrated work on concert repertoire under the musical guidance of Carroll Hollister, well known accompanist and coach. While in Maine, Mr. Bowers sang for a number of prominent musicians, who were unanimously impressed and warmly enthusiastic in their praise. One of these was Leopold Godowsky, the famous pianist and composer, who wrote the following tribute to Mr. Bowers:

"To Mr. William Bowers, in gratitude for his beautiful emotional, and heartfelt singing, and wishing for him well-merited success."

Leopold Godowsky.

In these words, Mr. Godowsky has aptly expressed the essential spirit of Mr. Bowers's art, for in him the rich, warm, sensuous voice, the sensitive musical intelligence and feeling, and all his many native gifts are at the service of an emotional nature at once intense and luminous, dramatic and intimate, passionate and spiritual - and above all, extraordinarily sincere and direct. Side by side with these highly individual traits, and wholly unspoiled by the musical sophistication and skill which he has acquired, Mr. Bowers has retained the spontaneity, the simplicity and the emotional intensity that are the unique musical attributes of his race. These qualities, which make his interpretation of the "spirituals" so extraordinary, are carried over equally into his singing of the Art-songs of the great masters, to which he brings a complete absorption of self, and a profundity of feeling and understanding that is wholly exceptional.

#####

WILLIAM

BOWERS

Baritone

Formerly of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir



STEINWAY HALL

Wednesday Evening
OCTOBER 19, 1932

At 8:30 P. M.

CARROLL HOLLISTER
at the Steinway Piano

A Tribute from
Mr. Leopold Godowsky:
"To Mr. William Bowers,
with gratitude for his beautiful, emotional and heartfelt singing. Wishing him great well-merited success."
(August 23, 1932).

PROGRAM

I.

Hear me, Ye Winds and Waves!	.....	HÄNDEL
When I am laid in Earth	.....	PURCELL
Komm, süßer Tod	} sung without pause	BACH
Bist du bei mir		
Where'er you walk	.....	HÄNDEL

II.

Der Doppelgänger	}	SCHUBERT
Die Forelle		
Der Tod und das Mädchen		
An die Leier		

Intermission

III.

Negro Spirituals:

Lonesome Valley	.....	arr. by HARRY BURLEIGH
Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me	.....	arr. by HALL JOHNSON
Ev'ry Time I feel de Spirit	.....	arr. by LAWRENCE BROWN
Were you there?	.....

IV.

You Better Min'!	.....	arr. by HALL JOHNSON
Water Boy	.....	arr. by AVERY ROBINSON
Scandalize' my Name	.....	arr. by HARRY BURLEIGH
Ole Man River, from "Show Boat"	.....	JEROME KERN


Tickets \$3.30 and \$2.20 tax included

Concert Management
GEORGE LEYDEN COLLEDGE
113 West 57th Street

Steinway Hall

New York City

(Over)



Under the patronage of

Dr. and Mrs. Frederic Bierhoff
Mr. Heywood Broun
Mr. Harry T. Burleigh
Mr. Abram Chasins
Miss Fannia M. Cohn
Miss Lisa Elman
Mr. Leopold Godowsky
Mrs. William Houston Greene
Miss Bettina Hall
Mr. Hall Johnson
Mrs. Franz Kneisel
Mr. André Kostelanetz
Mrs. A. Walter Kramer
Mrs. Henry E. Krehbiel
Mr. Abraham Mandelstam
Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin
Mme. Marie Sundelius

APPLICATION FORM FOR TICKETS

I enclose my check for tickets for the Recital of William Bowers, Baritone, Steinway Concert Hall, 113 W. 57th Street, Wednesday Evening, October 19, 1932 at 8:30 P.M., as follows:

Parquet (A to C).....	\$2.20
Parquet (D to F).....	3.30
Parquet (Remainder)	2.20

(Tax Included)

NAME

ADDRESS

Kindly make all checks payable to George Leyden Colledge, Suite 1211,
Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, New York City.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

1/12/34
Address

William Barrows -

SCHOLARSHIP

1443 Tupper st

Brooklyn - 74.

FEB 14 1934

FISK
UNIVERSITY

7/17/34

WILLIAM BOWERS

BARITONE



A Tribute from MR. LEOPOLD GODOWSKY
"To Mr. William Bowers, with gratitude for
his beautiful, emotional and heartfelt singing.
Wishing him great well-merited success."

Concert Management

GEORGE LEYDEN COLLEDGE

Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, New York

FISK
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BOWERS, remarkable young Negro Baritone, at twenty-five has already proved himself an exceptionally gifted singer—one who may rank with such noteworthy artists of his race as Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson, Abbie Mitchell, and others.

Born of a singing race, and “born to sing”, Mr. Bowers was brought up in the South, where he early absorbed the priceless musical heritage of the Negro. Here he studied at Thyme Institute, Virginia, and at Knoxville College, Tennessee. Later, he came North to continue his academic schooling at City College in New York City, where he earned his way working at odd jobs.

It was in New York that Mr. Bowers made the acquaintance of Hall Johnson, remarkable leader of the internationally famous Hall Johnson Choir. Mr. Johnson, quickly recognizing the unusual quality of Mr. Bowers’s voice, invited him to join the choir, where he won immediate recognition by his singing of *Water Boy* in his first appearance at a concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the Stadium. Later, Mr. Bowers sang with outstanding success in concert and over the radio with the Hall Johnson Sextet.

He spent the following summer at the music colony at Blue Hill, Maine, where he carried on intensive work in concert repertory under the musical guidance of Carroll Hollister, well known accompanist, and special voice coaching with Mrs. William H. Greene and with Mme. Edith Gaudenzi, in preparation for his New York debut.

While in Maine, Mr. Bowers sang for a number of prominent musicians, among whom was Leopold Godowsky, who became one of the patrons of Mr. Bowers’s first concert in New York City.

Other prominent patrons were:

Mr. Heywood Broun, Mr. Harry T. Burleigh, Mr. Abram Chasins, Miss Fannia M. Cohn, Miss Lisa Elman, Miss Bettina Hall, Mr. Hall Johnson, Mrs. Franz Kneisel, Mr. André Kostelanetz, Mrs. A. Walter Kramer, Mrs. Henry E. Krehbiel, Mr. Abraham Mandelstam, Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin, Mme. Marie Sundelius.

Mr. Bowers’s debut met with immediate and unqualified success. He is considered one of the outstanding Negro artists, and a worthy colleague of Roland Hayes and Paul Robeson.

Mr. Bowers is available for concert engagements.

“Mr. Bowers is a sensitive musician, intelligent and artistic. His voice is resonant and full of good tone.”

N. Y. Daily Mirror

“Mr. Bowers made pleasurable use of a mellow voice—his singing was sympathetic and possessed a particularly winning quality.”

N. Y. Evening Post

PRESS COMMENTS

"*Headline: Musicians Hail Bowers' Recital—Young Negro Baritone Dramatic in Style.*" "Formerly of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir, William Bowers, a twenty-four-year-old baritone, made his recital debut last evening before an enthusiastic audience composed largely of musicians. . . . The first lyric the young baritone delivered with stirring dramatic force, revealing a strong, mellow voice reminiscent of that possessed by his colleague, Paul Robeson. Mr. Bowers proved to be quite at home in this stately, smoothly moving kind of melody, disclosing at the same time genuine feeling and an understanding of style. . . . Mr. Bowers was most effective in 'Der Doppelgänger'. To this he imparted a solemn, pathetic quality, a depth and justness of feeling that made it the surpassing interpretation of the evening. . . . For his group of Negro songs and spirituals Mr. Bowers chose, among other favorites, 'Ol' Man River' and 'Water Boy'. His simple and eloquent mezzo voice account of 'Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me!' disclosed his sympathetic understanding of the rich tonal heritage of the American Negro."—*The New York World Telegram.*

"Mr. Bowers made his audience acquainted with a voice of good natural quality and a warmth of feeling to be expected from a singer of his race. He delivered 'Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves' with fervor and appreciation of style."—W. J. Henderson in *The New York Sun.*

"Mr. Bowers's voice has the velvet edge that we have come to associate with the singing of his race; its quality accorded well with the loveliness inherent in the piano passages of 'Nur Wer die Sehnsucht Kennt'"—*The New York Times.*

"*Headline: Negro Baritone Gives Recital Before a Large and Enthusiastic Audience.*" "To the number of Negro vocalists bidding for a place in the recital field was added yet another when William Bowers, baritone, presented a program last night. The auditorium was completely filled and all indications were that the audience would have welcomed more repetitions and additional numbers than the recitalist gave. . . . Mr. Bowers made pleasurable use of a mellow voice—his singing was sympathetic and possessed a particularly winning quality. . . . In such racial numbers as 'Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me' and 'Were you There?', he used the half voice with a quiet persuasiveness."—*The New York Evening Post.*

"Among the soloists, exceptional praise was merited by the baritone who intoned 'Water Boy'."—F. D. Perkins in *The New York Herald Tribune.*

"Mr. Bowers has a voice of warm texture and good range—he has unquestioned taste and feeling for such airs as Handel's 'Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves', and 'Where'er You Walk' and he sang Dido's Lament ('When I am Laid in Earth'), fervently. . . . The audience filled every available chair and applauded generously."—*The New York Herald Tribune.*

"William Bowers, Negro baritone and once an ornament of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir, sang last night before a full house. Mr. Bowers is a sensitive musician, intelligent, and artistic. His voice is resonant and full of good tone."—*The Daily Mirror.*

SCHOLARSHIP



Columbia University
in the City of New York

WOMEN'S GRADUATE CLUB

301 PHILOSOPHY HALL

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1934, 4 P.M.

TEA IN HONOR OF
GRADUATE FACULTY

RECITAL

WILLIAM BOWERS, Baritone

Assisted by CARROLL HOLLISTER, *Accompanist*

PROGRAM

I

ARIA "IT IS ENOUGH" FROM "ELIJAH".....Mendelssohn
MY LOVELY CELIA.....George Munro
OVER THE MOUNTAINS.....Roger Quilter

II

DIE MAINACHTBrahms
MINNELIEDBrahms
SAPPHISCHE ODEBrahms
O LIEBLICHE WANGEN.....Brahms

III

IT'S ME, O LORD.....Harry T. Burleigh
HONOR, HONORHall Johnson
WHEN I'M GONE.....Harry T. Burleigh
DIDN'T MY LORD DELIVER DANIEL?.....Harry T. Burleigh

Steinway Piano Used

FISK
UNIVERSITY

78 West 53rd St.
~~74 West 68th St.~~

- New York City -

Jan 20	Jan 18, 1933.
SCHOLARSHIP	

Mr. George Arthur
Julius Rosenwald Foundation
4901 Ellis Ave
Chicago, Ill.

Bowers, Wm

My dear Mr. Arthur:

On a recent visit to Chicago, while on concert tour with Nischa Elman, I talked with Miss Alice Boynton in regard to the Rosenwald Fund, and she gave me your name as the person to approach in regard to the possibility of securing financial assistance from the Rosenwald Fund for a talented young Negro singer in whom I am very much interested. Unfortunately I was in Chicago too short a time to phone you and arrange to discuss the matter with you personally, hence I am writing you to make further inquiries, and to tell you something about the young man in question - William Bowers, a remarkable young baritone, formerly a member of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir.

You might first wish to know who I am, since I am personally unknown to you, though long a friend of Miss Boynton, whom I have

APR 26 1933

met several times when passing through Chicago on tour. May I then introduce myself as a musician well known in New York as a pianist and accompanist to various artists at present, and for the past three seasons associated with Nischa Elman as his exclusive accompanist? I have for a long time been much interested in this young baritone I speak of, having known him as a friend, and frequently played for him, both privately and in concert, and also, during the past year, coached him in concert repertory (without charge, as he is unusually talented, and unable to afford to pay for lessons). Not only I, but a great many other musicians who have heard him sing, feel that he has the most unusual musical gifts, which he should have opportunity to develop to their fullest potentialities, and we feel that if he is given this opportunity, he may easily become one of the really outstanding artists of his race.

I am enclosing a program of a recital he gave (through the assistance of friends of mine) in Steinway Hall this fall, and you will see there the quoted tribute from the famous pianist Leopold Godowsky to Mr. Bowers for his singing, as well as (on the back of the program)

a list of prominent musicians and others who sponsored this concert. I am also enclosing a biographical notice of Mr. Bowers which we prepared for use in connection with this concert, and which will tell you much of what you may wish to know about his family background, education and life history.

Of course in these times he has been having a terrific struggle to earn a living (he is married and has three small children to support - a discouraging burden for a young man - only 24 years old - with ambition to carry on further musical studies needed to perfect his art), and except for the concert we arranged for him last fall, and occasional small engagements for small fees since then, he has had no means of support. His studies have been carried on only by the generosity of teachers who, like myself, have had great belief in his rare musical talent and have been willing to give their services to him for ^{little or} no immediate return. At present his meagre resources are exhausted, there are few concert engagements available to him during the present season, and it is a question of how he can continue to provide for his family and himself, even ~~by~~ the most meagre standard, much longer in his present circumstances.

I would like therefore to appeal to you to see if the Rosenwald Fund could not grant him assistance, as I understand it has to other young Negro musicians and artists of outstanding talent, in the form of a year's Fellowship to provide something at least towards his support, and provision for his family, as well as means to carry on his musical studies in the meantime, until he is able, as I am sure he eventually will, to support himself entirely by a successful concert career. I would appreciate it very much if you will write me at your earliest convenience to let me know as to the possibility of obtaining this assistance for him, and ^{also} to let us know how to make formal application for it in accordance with your customary procedure. I hope that, if anything may be done, it may be done soon, as the need is urgent and immediate. And I thoroughly believe, highly deserved, in this case.

With sincere and grateful appreciation for anything you can do to help William Boners, I am
Respectfully yours,
Carroll Hollister

The University of Chicago

The Division of Social Sciences

SCHOLARSHIP

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

	FCM	30	McL	1/1

January 30, 1933

Dr. Franklin C. McLean
Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Franklin:

I am writing to you now as the acting president of the Rosenwald Fund, that is, I am not writing as the acting president, but to you as the acting president.

A very good friend of mine has been endeavoring to get a negro fellowship or a scholarship for Mr. William Bowers whose curriculum vitae is enclosed. My friend is Hollister who, you may notice from the program, accompanied him at his Steinway Hall concert. Hollister spoke of him to me in the highest terms and asked me to do whatever is reasonable to persuade you that his view is correct. Hence, this note and enclosures are being passed on at his recommendation. I believe Mr. Arthur has already received an application from Bowers.

attached

Sincerely yours,

Donald

DS/CG

Donald Slesinger

FEB 3 1933

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

February 1, 1933

Dear Donald: I have your letter of January 30 with reference to an application for a fellowship from Mr. William Bowers.

I find that an application for this fellowship has already been received and declined on the basis of our not having funds for fellowships at this time. I find also that instructions from Mr. Embree are quite explicit to the effect that no new appointments to fellowships are to be made.

In view of the above, I am sorry that I have no alternative except to say "no."

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN C. McLEAN

Acting President

FCML:MLU

Mr. Donald Slesinger
Division of Social Sciences
University of Chicago

FEB 3 1933

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

	ERE	31	ERE	0

Mr. Embree:

Mr. Hollister, who was accompanist for Misha Elman and is at present accompanist for John Thomas, spoke to me on Saturday about the question of a fellowship for William Bowers.

Mr. Hollister believes that Mr. Bowers has unusual abilities. The latter is anxious to study for a year in New York and would like to have about \$2,000 to continue his work. He has a family of three children which is the reason for putting this amount so high.

I of course explained to Mr. Hollister that the Fund is not making any new fellowship grants at present and suggested that he approach other foundations or individuals. I bring this matter to your attention as I thought you could make more definite suggestions as to where a scholarship might be secured.

AS.

NOV 2 1933

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

78 West 55th St.

New York City

May 3, 1934.

~~Bowers - Wm~~

AK 1

V75

908 25

Mr. George Arthur,
Julius Rosewald Fund,
4901 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Arthur, -

On my last visit to Chicago, while on tour with John Charles Thomas, as you may perhaps recall, I came to see you about William Bowers, and the possibility of getting assistance for him from the Rosewald Fund. At that time you told me that the trustees would be meeting sometime in May to decide as to their policy in granting fellowships to young artists or students during the coming year. As that time approaches, I hope you will forgive me for writing to remind you of our conversation, and to ask as a special favor that you will let me know at your earliest convenience the decision of the trustees, so that we may make a prompt application on behalf of Mr. Bowers, in case the decision is favorable.

I have already told you something of his unusual gifts and potentialities, as well as his great need at this time for assistance towards his studies and the support of his family. He has managed to earn a bare subsistence for his family this winter through concerts sung in the schools under the auspices of the Musicians' Emergency Aid, and a few

other singing engagements. But he has nothing to count on for the coming summer, and most important of all, he needs to be enabled to carry on his studies free from the burden and anxieties of economic insecurity and overwork.

Should the Rosenwald Fund decide to entertain his application for assistance through a fellowship grant, we could obtain for him the highest recommendations both as to his character, intelligence, and musical talents, from a very representative list of people who know him and his work, and believe in his exceptional potentialities for a career in music. He was recently re-engaged, after a concert last season, to sing again this spring at Columbia University, for the Women's Graduate Club tea and musicale for the Graduate Faculty, and I am taking the liberty of enclosing the program and copies of the rather extraordinary letters of appreciation sent him after those concerts, as you will gain from them, much better than from anything I could say, an idea of his exceptional gifts as a singer, and the charm and appeal of his personality.

As for myself, I can most heartily and sincerely say that I believe the Rosenwald Fund could not find any young singer of the Negro race who more fully deserves assistance, or whose contribution as an artist to the musical development of the race would be more rewarding. I shall be most grateful to you if you will let me know soon the outcome of the trustees' meeting. With hearty thanks, and my kindest regards to you personally. Believe me very sincerely yours,

Carroll Hollister

(Copy)

Columbia University
in the City of New York

Office of the
Adviser to Women Graduate Students
Philosophy Hall

My dear Mr. Hollister:

It was a great disappointment to me, not to hear Mr. Bowers sing on Friday last. They tell me his splendid voice was even more brilliant, more perfectly controlled, more sympathetic, more appealing than when we heard him last. There was comment on his admirable training, on his beautiful diction and in particular on his supreme success in the Brahms group, where his German was altogether faultless. I was glad that he had on that day the largest and most distinguished audience of the year, as far as the Women's Graduate Club is concerned. I should like to tell Mr. Bowers himself all these things but I don't happen to have his address. Would you thank him for me heartily and tell him how pleased I should be, if he would repeat this same program for us in the coming summer session.

May I thank you, Mr. Hollister, for lending the distinction of your person and your musicianship to what appears to have been an outstanding event of our year.

Very gratefully and sincerely yours,
(signed) Juliana Haskell

April 10, 1934

FASK
UNIVERSITY

(copy)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
in the City of New York

Office of the
Adviser To Women Graduate Students
Philosophy Hall

My dear Mr. Bowers:-

It is difficult to know which to praise first or most, your beautiful voice, the admirable training you had had, or the splendid results you have achieved by making such intelligent and artistic use of both voice and training. And you sing not only with power and brilliancy and beauty but with a fine emotional quality which is very moving. Several of the songs I have never heard as well sung. I was especially interested in the German group and congratulate you on your perfect diction and your excellent command of that rather difficult tongue.

Your program was most varied and discriminating and disclosed broad and catholic taste. It gave great pleasure to your enthusiastic listeners. You are obviously launched on what promises to be a singularly successful career.

We very much hope you will consent to come and sing for us again.

Very gratefully and
sincerely yours,

(signed) Juliana Haskell

April 3, 1933

MACDONALD BOND
FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

May 25, 1954

My dear Mr. Hollister: In response to your appeal last February for a fellowship for Mr. William Bowers, we advised you that the question of fellowship awards would be decided in May. I now with much regret inform you that we have not been able to make a grant in the case of Mr. Bowers. As you can readily realize, we have a great many applications for very limited scholarship funds. We wish that we could help in all of the appealing cases that come to our attention, and regret that we have to decline so many of the requests.

Very truly yours,



ERE:VH

Mr. Carroll Hollister
78 West 55th Street
New York, New York

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

Columbia University
in the City of New York

OFFICE OF THE
ADVISER TO WOMEN GRADUATE STUDENTS
PHILOSOPHY HALL



September 18, 1934.

To the Rosenwald Foundation,
Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. William Bowers, negro baritone, tells me that he has been suggested to you as a candidate for one of the Rosenwald Fellowships.

Mr. Carroll Hollister, accompanist to Mr. John Charles Thomas, introduced Mr. Bowers to us and has always accompanied Mr. Bowers when he has sung at the University. Mr. Bowers has given three or four recitals at the University, the last one at a party in honor of the Faculty, and, as a result of his various visits, Mr. Bowers has won many friends at the University. We admire his beautiful voice, which has been admirably trained, and above all, find his personality most attractive. Properly supported, Mr. Bowers can go very far indeed and we doubt whether the funds of the Rosenwald Foundation could be better invested than in him.

Sincerely yours,

JH/AM

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mariana H. Keel'. The signature is written in dark ink and is quite fluid.

OCT 5 1934

FISK
UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL OFFICERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
J. E. SPINGARN

WALTER WHITE SECRETARY

VICE-PRESIDENTS

HON. ARTHUR CAPPER
BISHOP JOHN A. GREGG
REV. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON
ARTHUR B. SPINGARN
OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD

ROY WILKINS ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS
EDITOR OF THE CRISIS

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: ALGONQUIN 4-6548

Official Organ: The Crisis

WILLIAM PICKENS
FIELD SECRETARY

DAISY E. LAMPKIN
REGIONAL FIELD SECRETARY



September
19th
1934

ere	24	ere	o

TREASURER
MARY WHITE OVINGTON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Baltimore
Carl Murphy
Boston
Joseph Prince Loud
Charleston, W. Va.
T. G. Nutter
Chicago
Jane Addams
Clarence Darrow
Cleveland
Hon. Harry E. Davis
Detroit
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Hon. Frank Murphy
Emporia, Kas.
William Allen White
New York
Lillian A. Alexander
Rev. Hutchens C. Bishop
Marion Cuthbert
Hubert T. Delany
Rachel Davis Du Bois
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
Lewis S. Gannett
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
James Weldon Johnson
Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
James Marshall
Lucy R. Mason
Mary White Ovington
Rev. A. Clayton Powell
Arthur B. Spingarn
J. E. Spingarn
Charles H. Studin
William English Walling
Dr. Louis T. Wright
Northampton, Mass.
Dr. William Allan Neilson
Orange, N. J.
Dr. Vernon F. Bunce
Philadelphia
Isadore Martin
Richmond
Maggie L. Walker
Topeka
Hon. Arthur Capper
Washington
Sterling A. Brown
Nannie H. Burroughs
Hon. James A. Cobb
Abram L. Harris
Charles Edward Russell

The Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago,
Illinois.

Gentlemen:

I have been informed that Mr. William Bowers has been recommended to the Rosenwald Fund for a fellowship to enable him to do further study in the field of music. I have been asked to express an opinion of his ability and potentialities and this I am very glad to do.

I have known Mr. Bowers for some years and have always found him to be a man of integrity and zeal. He has a magnificent voice which he uses with great intelligence and I believe that he is destined to become one of our great artists. In the face of tremendous financial and other difficulties he has persevered. I consider him well worthy of any aid which may be given him.

Ever sincerely,

NATIONAL LEGAL
COMMITTEE

Chairman
Arthur B. Spingarn
Chicago
Clarence Darrow
Edward H. Morris
Cambridge, Mass.
Felix Frankfurter
Charleston, W. Va.
T. G. Nutter
Columbia, S. C.
N. J. Frederick
New York
Morris L. Ernst
Arthur Garfield Hays
James Marshall
Herbert K. Stockton
Charles H. Studin
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Homer S. Brown
Toledo, Ohio
Jesse S. Heilip
Washington, D. C.
William H. Hastie
Charles H. Houston
Wilmington, Del.
Louis L. Redding

SEP 25 1934

WW:CTF



How do your Senators and Congressmen stand on federal legislation against lynching?

ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL INFORMATION BUREAU, 215 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

SCHOLARSHIP

Ene. tote returned
me

to John Charles Thomas
S.S. Masquerader
Easton, Md.

Miss Margaret L. Utley
Sec'y to Edwin R. Embree
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.

ERE	7		0

My dear Miss Utley:

Thank you for your kind note enclosing an application blank for Mr. Bowers to fill out in applying for fellowship aid. It reached me here where I am spending a few weeks rehearsing with Mr. Thomas. I shall not be going up to New York until after October 1st, and so, I am sorry to say, I shall not be able to help him personally with it, or to get the letters of recommendation I had hoped to. However, I have sent the application on to Mr. Bowers, and he is only waiting for the receipt of his credits and other records from college before sending it on to you.

I am very grateful to you for your kind cooperation - and can only repeat what I have said before, that if the Fund can help Bowers even partially, I believe that in the future he will prove it to be money well spent indeed, for his talent is really unusual, and in every way I believe he deserves assistance. And the need in his case, is desperate.

With thanks and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Carroll Hollister

SEP 25 1934
(Enclosure)

File
Julpe
10/24

P.S. I am enclosing the accompanying letter from Mrs. Juliana Haskell, the Adviser to Women Graduate Students, Columbia University, in reference to a concert given by Mr. Bowers for the Women's Graduate Club of Columbia in July. This was the third time they had asked Mr. Bowers to sing for them, so delighted were they with his singing and his very charming personality.

I would be grateful if you will present this letter with Mr. Bowers' application, and afterwards return it to me, in the enclosed envelope.

Carroll Holhiter.

(N.Y. address: 78 West 55th St.)

78 West 55th St.

New York City

Sept. 28, 1934

Miss Margaret L. Utley
Sec'y to Edwin R. Embree
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

SCHOLARSHIP

Bowers, Wm

My dear Miss Utley:

I have just returned to New York with Mr. Thomas, and have talked with Mr. Bowers about his application for assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. He had been held back by a delay in receiving his reports and credits from Knoxville College, but they have at last arrived, and I am enclosing them in this letter, together with his application and letters of recommendation. If you will bring these, as well as the correspondence we have had previously in regard to Mr. Bowers, to the attention of Mr. Embree and the board, with a view to their considering him for a fellowship award, I shall be most grateful.

OCT 5 1934 I repeat that I believe that Mr. Bowers' gifts are most unusual, his need is great, - and I believe that in every way he is most deserving of any assistance the Fund can grant.

Thinking you, I am,

Very sincerely yours

Carroll Hollister

Board of Trustees

Alfred K. Stern
President
Sidney L. Schwarz
Vice President
Dr. Ludvig Hektoen
Treasurer
Walter T. Fisher
Secretary
Mrs. Tiffany Blake
Mrs. Helen Swift Neilson
Miss Caroline Newton
Dr. William F. Ogburn

Handwritten notes:
10
10
VN
VN

SCHOLARSHIP

Institute for Psychoanalysis

43 East Ohio Street
Chicago

Advisory Board

Dr. Albert M. Barrett
Dr. Earl D. Bond
Dr. Abraham A. Brill
Dr. Max Eitingon
Dr. Bernard Glueck
Dr. William Healy
Dr. David M. Levy
Dr. Sandor Rado
Dr. William A. White
Dr. Franz Alexander
Director

October 8, 1934

Dear Miss Utley: A friend of mine, Carroll Hollister, has just written me from New York that Mr. Bowers has an application in your hands for a fellowship from the Rosenwald Fund. Since Mr. Stern is away at present, I am taking the liberty of writing you a note about Mr. Bowers whom I have had the pleasure of meeting personally.

As you know, I am not a musician except as an amateur but I think there is little question that Bowers has exceptional talent and a brilliant career has been predicted for him by leading musicians a number of whom I know personally. As to personality, Mr. Bowers is seemingly a high type of person, very serious and hard working, and for the past few years has been having a considerable struggle developing his art and supporting his family. He seems to me to be a person most deserving of assistance as I believe that he has a real cultural contribution to make.

This letter is only meant to convey to you what information I have about Mr. Bowers.

Very truly yours,

Leon Saul

Miss Margaret Utley
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

OCT 12 1934



SCHOLARSHIP

Bowers - um

	ERE	10/18/34	<i>ED</i>	<i>d</i>

Remarks:

Since Mr. Hollister has been associated with John Charles Thomas and other great singers, he should be a good judge. I would be favorably impressed with his persistence in advocating Bowers' cause.

If I had to make a decision on this case from the material presented, I would say that his recommendations are sufficient for favorable action.

mob.

SCHOLARSHIP

Wrt
P. 6

October 22, 1934

My dear Mr. Hollister: We have gone over with care the application of James William Bowers for a fellowship which has had such active support from you. On the basis of the information and opinions assembled, he seems a most promising candidate for such aid.

The chief questions in the case of a fellowship in music or the fine arts are: (a) arrangements for the course of study, and (b) probability of self-support on the basis of an anticipated career. So far as the second is concerned, Mr. Bowers already gives considerable evidence of ability to support himself by his music. On the former can we rely upon you to help him get just the kind of work which would be most useful to him? If you are willing to carry your interest to this further stage of helping on the work he is to do, we stand ready to make available a fellowship of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) to cover approximately one year's study.

I am sending this to you rather than direct to Mr. Bowers as I should not like to make the grant until we are assured of satisfactory arrangements for the year's study.

Very truly yours,

ERE:MWC

EDWIN R. EMREE

OCT 30 1934

Mr. Carroll Hollister
78 West 55th Street
New York City

P. S. I am enclosing the note which was sent with the earlier papers and which I understand you wish to have returned.

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

October 26, 1934

My dear Mr. Hollister: Confirming our conversation in this office the other day, we wish to handle the fellowship of Mr. William Bowers through you. If you will continue to help by administering the funds as well as by planning Mr. Bowers' courses, it will be a satisfaction to us and, I am sure, a great help to him.

In accordance with the plans agreed upon, we are sending checks to you at quarterly intervals with the understanding that you will put these in a special trust fund and advance them for Mr. Bowers' musical needs. We are enclosing herewith the first check for four hundred dollars (\$400). This will be followed by two checks for three hundred dollars (\$300) each, on February 1 and May 1st, respectively, and a final check for two hundred dollars (\$200) on August 1st. However, if as time goes on, some rearrangement in terms or dates of payment seems desirable, we can easily arrange this in accordance with any request that you make.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMBREE

ERE:rm
Enc.

Mr. Carroll Hollister
78 West 55th Street
New York, New York

OCT 31 1934

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

SCHOLARSHIP

To

Mr. Carroll Hollister
78 West 55th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 474

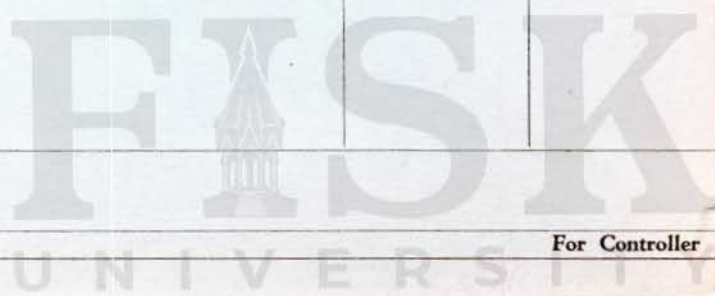
Date October 29, 1934

First payment on fellowship grant to Mr. William Bowers - - - - - \$400.00

Ch. #11848

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Negro Fellowships	5854-28	\$400.00	

OCT 30 1934



Prepared by	Checked by	Posted by
DAE		

For Controller

SCHOLARSHIP

Oct. 31, 1934

Bowers - Wm

	ERE	11/15	ERE	2

Mr. Edwin R. Embree,
4901 Ellis Ave,
Chicago, Ill,

My Dear Mr. Embree,

Your letter of Oct. 26. has reached me and I am so excited that I don't know just what to say. You were most considerate in allowing Mr. Hollister's high recommendation of my work inspire your organization to make such a generous award in behalf of my future preparation.

Allow me to express my deepest appreciation for this appropriation. I will do my utmost to prove myself worthy of such confidence.

Mr. Hollister has been interested in my work for some time. It gives me great pleasure to realize that it was through him that you became interested.

Yours Most Appreciatively,
William Bowers

NOV 27 1934

FISK UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

William Taylor Hotel

WOODS-DRURY COMPANY
OPERATORS



JAMES WOODS, PRESIDENT
ERNEST DRURY, MANAGER

McAllister and Leavenworth Streets
AT CIVIC CENTER
San Francisco

Jan. 30, 1935

ERE	2/1	ERL	0
DE		56	.

Edwin R. Embree, Pres.
 Julius Rosenwald Fund
 4901 Ellis Ave.
 Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Embree:-

Recalling that February 1st is the date you had set for the second payment (\$300) towards the fellowship of William Bowers - and finding myself way out here, on tour with John Charles Thomas, and not likely to return for some time, - I am writing to ask, if you have not already sent the check to my New York address, if you would send it to me here in San Francisco, at the William Taylor Hotel, which will be my headquarters for some time. Your letter would be forwarded to me from New York in any case, but if it could be sent to me direct, that would obviate delays in forwarding, and enable me to endorse it, ^{for the check} and send it immediately on to the bank for deposit. If you have already sent it on to New York, I would appreciate a note from you to that effect, so that I may know that it is en route, and watch for its safe arrival.



On receipt of the first check, I opened an account in trust for

William Taylor Hotel

WOODS-DRURY COMPANY
OPERATORS



JAMES WOODS, PRESIDENT
ERNEST DRURY, MANAGER

McAllister and Leavenworth Streets
AT CIVIC CENTER

San Francisco

Mr. Bowers at the Amalgamated Bank of N. Y., and draw it out from that account as it is needed. He has worked out a budget of \$25.00 a week for himself and family - the barest minimum requirements for subsistence and health - from which he hopes to be able to provide for all necessary and ordinary expenses. With the heavy load of anxiety over the means to live and support his family thus lightened, he is able to devote the better part of his energies to his studies - including three vocal lessons per week from his teacher, Miss Edith Gaudenzi, the coaching in repertory I am able to give him when in New York, and special work in languages.

Unfortunately, his run-down physical condition after his long illness this fall - a bronchitis contracted, I am sure, because of the exhaustion and strain of last year's hard struggle to live and work on pitifully inadequate earnings - left him with a lingering bronchial congestion that necessitated a complete rest from all singing for a month or so, and so kept him from taking up his work immediately, though he was impatient to begin. However, the enforced rest, and the care of a specialist I was able to secure for him (Mr. Thomas's own throat specialist!), has helped to remedy that, and put him in good condition for a hard year's study. I feel sure that he will make fine



William Taylor Hotel

WOODS-DRURY COMPANY
OPERATORS



JAMES WOODS, PRESIDENT
ERNEST DRURY, MANAGER

McAllister and Leavenworth Streets
AT CIVIC CENTER

San Francisco

progress, now that his health and strength are no longer being sapped by the "struggle for existence". To be sure, \$1200 is little enough for a family of five to subsist on, in New York especially, - but it is great help certainly in the circumstances. And the main thing is, that he should be free to devote all his energies to his studies - as he has never been, up till now!

Thank you again for your very generous interest and help. With best wishes, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Carroll Hollister.

(N.Y. address:
78 West 55th St.)

P.S. I was very much interested in your article in the "Survey" about the Jewish collectives under "Agrojoint", in the Soviet Union. I should like so much to talk with you about Russia, and your Russian experiences, sometime! I am really interested in the remarkable things they are accomplishing.

C.H.



Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

SCHOLARSHIP

To

Mr. Carroll Hollister
78 West 55th Street
New York City

Payment Voucher No. 1898

Date April 30, 1935

Third ~~quarterly~~ payment on scholarship granted to Mr. William Bowers -- \$300.00

Gk. #13019

Accounts	Appropriation No.	Debit	Credit
Scholarships and Fellowships	3334-28	\$300.00	
<p>APR 26 1935</p>			
Prepared by MVG	Checked by	Posted by	For Controller



Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue
CHICAGO

SCHOLARSHIP

To

Payment Voucher No 981

Mr. Carroll Hollister

Date January 31, 1935

~~78 West 55th Street~~

*William Taylor Hotel
San Francisco, Calif*

~~New York City~~

Second payment on fellowship granted to William Bowers 10/26/34 - - - \$300.00

Chk. #12478

Accounts

Appropriation No.

Debit

Credit

Scholarships & Fellowships

3334-28

\$300.00

JAN 25 1935

Prepared by

Checked by

Posted by

MVG



For Controller

Julius Rosenwald Fund

4901 Ellis Avenue

CHICAGO

SCHOLARSHIP

To

Mr. Carroll Hollister

78 West 85th Street

New York City

Payment Voucher No.

1886

Date

July 31, 1935

Final payment on fellowship granted 10/26/34 to Mr. William Bowers - - - \$200.00

Chk. #13605

Accounts

Scholarships & Fellowships

Appropriation No.

5334-28

Debit

\$200.00

Credit

JUL 26 1935

Prepared by

MVG

Checked by

Posted by



Comptroller

SCHOLARSHIP

357 McDonough St.,
Brooklyn, N Y

Sept. 10th, 1936

Mr. Edwin R. Embree,
Rosenwald Foundation
4901 Ellis Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

ERE	14	—	0
mss	—	—	24

Dear Mr. Embree:

The fellowship which was awarded me in 1934 by the Rosenwald Foundation was of the greatest help to my career. It opened avenues of study which had been closed to me, gave me a feeling of security essential to my artistic development, and also revived my confidence in my work and in myself. It gave me an opportunity to get some real experience in acting and singing while earning money at the same time.

During the past year I have sung as understudy and alternate with Todd Duncan in the role of Porgy in the Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess". In addition to this I have sung at numerous concerts both private and public and occasionally over the radio with orchestra.

My need is for more training. I know that I have the talent, but without the training I can never become a first rate artist.

I am therefore applying for a second award of a fellowship from the Rosenwald Foundation. I can assure you that I shall do my utmost to take full advantage and prove myself worthy of this honor.

Respectfully yours,

William Bowers

SEP 29 1936

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

September 24, 1936

Dear Mr. Bowers: Your letter to Mr. Embree has come to me for reply. A fellowship committee has been appointed which is to act upon all applications received by the Fund. This committee will meet some time in the early spring although the exact date has not been set. We have, of course, your application blank which you filled out in 1934. I am sending you another one thinking that you would probably like to have an up-to-date one go to this committee for consideration.

I judge from your letter that you are interested in having a fellowship for this coming year and I hope that the fact that we cannot even consider your application until spring will not interfere seriously with your plans.

If you will fill out the enclosed blank and return it to us we shall be very glad to present it to our committee.

Very truly yours,

MARGARET S. SIMON

MSS:RW

Mr. William Bowers
357 McDonough Street
Brooklyn, New York

Enc

SEP 29 1936

FISK
UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP

WILLIAM BOWERS

Lucille Davis
Personal Representative

		10	14	Dec. 9, 1936, 15-33 E. Elm St., Youngstown, Ohio.

Rosenwald Foundation,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed you will find a folder, containing the press comments and personal history of Mr. William Bowers.

I understand that Mr. Bowers was awarded a Fellowship by your Foundation for the purpose of doing extensive work in repertoire and vocal study.

Mr. Bowers has been on tour since Sept. 13th. As Mr. Bowers personal representative, I have watched, with keen interest, the reaction of audiences to his work. Permit me to say that his reception has been phenomenal, and his unqualified success most absolute.

We have appeared in programs of widely varying character, - Negro Spirituals; Semi-classics; Classics; Light Opera; Grand Opera; and all types of English songs.

We are most desirous of the right entree in Chicago, and I do hope that you will not feel that I am imposing when I ask your advice on this matter!

DEC 16 1936

WILLIAM BOWERS

Dec. 9, 1936

We should very much like to have a sponsored program, where Mr. Bowers could use his extensive repertoire to the best advantage.

May I add this personal word? I consider Mr. Bowers one of the greatest living interpreters of song. Quoting a prominent citizen of a city where we have appeared several times: - "Not since Caruso's time have I been so stirred by a voice and personality as that of William Bowers." It has also been my privilege to know that a great number of persons have heard him as many as twelve times, and always want to hear him again.

Thanking you in advance for any consideration in this matter, and hoping to meet you personally in the near future in Chicago,

I remain,

Most sincerely yours,
Lucille Davis

FISK
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BOWERS



A Tribute from MR. LEOPOLD GODOWSKY
"To Mr. William Bowers, with gratitude for
his beautiful, emotional and heartfelt singing.
Wishing him great well-merited success."

Personal Representative
Lucille Davis
1533 Elm St
Youngstown, Ohio

FISK
UNIVERSITY

WILLIAM BOWERS, remarkable young Negro Baritone, at twenty-seven has already proved himself an exceptionally gifted singer—one who may rank with such noteworthy artists of his race as Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson, Abbie Mitchell, and others.

Born of a singing race, and “born to sing,” Mr. Bowers was brought up in the South, where he early absorbed the priceless musical heritage of the Negro. Here he studied at Thyne Institute, Virginia, and at Knoxville College, Tennessee. Later, he came North to continue his academic schooling at City College in New York City.

It was in New York that Mr. Bowers made the acquaintance of Hall Johnson, distinguished leader of the internationally famous Hall Johnson Choir. Mr. Johnson, quickly recognizing the unusual quality of Mr. Bowers' voice, invited him to join the choir, where he won immediate recognition by his singing of *Water Boy* in his first appearance at a concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the Stadium. Later, Mr. Bowers sang with outstanding success in concert and over the radio with the Hall Johnson Sextet.

He spent the following summer at the music colony in Blue Hill, Maine, where he carried on intensive work in concert repertory under the musical guidance of *Carroll Hollister*, well known accompanist, and the vocal guidance of Mme. Edith Gaudenzi, in preparation for his New York debut.

While in Maine, Mr. Bowers sang for a number of prominent musicians, among whom was Leopold Godowsky, who became one of the patrons of Mr. Bowers' first concert in New York City. Other prominent patrons were:

Mr. Heywood Brown, Mr. Harry T. Burleigh, Mr. Abram Chasins, Miss Fannia M. Cohn, Miss Lisa Elman, Miss Bettina Hall, Mr. Hall Johnson, Mrs. Franz Kneisel, Mr. Andre Kostelanetz, Mrs. A. Walter Kramer, Mrs. Henry E. Krehbiel, Mr. Abraham Mandelstam, Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin, Mme. Marie Sundelius.

Mr. Bowers' debut met with immediate and unqualified success. To continue his intensive and extensive study of Opera, Mr. Bowers was awarded a Fellowship by the Rosenwald Foundation.

Following his debut, Mr. Bowers appeared not only on many of his own radio programs, but also as soloist on such featured programs as the Philip James Little Symphony over WOR; Perole String Quartette over WOR; Wesson Oil Hour over WABC; National Dairy Hour over WEA; and the Cadillac Hour over the NBC network.

Mr. Bowers' latest triumph was appearing in the leading role of “Porgy” in George Gershwin's opera, “Porgy and Bess.” When Tod Duncan became ill, Mr. Bowers played the role. The critics highly praised Mr. Bowers' performances, stating that he played a most sympathetic “Porgy.” After Mr. Duncan's recovery, Mr. Bowers alternated in the role with Mr. Duncan.

Mr. Bowers is considered one of the outstanding Negro artists, and a worthy colleague of Roland Hayes and Paul Robeson.

Mr. Bowers is available for concert engagements.

“Mr. Bowers is a sensitive musician, intelligent and artistic. His voice is resonant and full of good tone.”

N. Y. Daily Mirror

“Mr. Bowers made pleasurable use of a mellow voice—his singing was sympathetic and possessed a particularly winning quality.”

N. Y. Evening Post

UNIVERSITY

PRESS COMMENTS

"*Headline: Musicians Hail Bowers' Recital—Young Negro Baritone Dramatic in Style.*" "Formerly of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir, William Bowers, a twenty-seven-year-old baritone, made his recital debut last evening before an enthusiastic audience composed largely of musicians. . . The first lyric the young baritone delivered with stirring dramatic force, revealing a strong, mellow voice reminiscent of that possessed by his colleague, Paul Robeson. Mr. Bowers proved to be quite at home in this stately, smoothly moving kind of melody, disclosing at the same time genuine feeling and an understanding of style. . . Mr. Bowers was most effective in 'Der Doppelgänger'. To this he imparted a solemn, pathetic quality, a depth and justness of feeling that made it the surpassing interpretation of the evening. . . For his group of Negro songs and spirituals Mr. Bowers chose, among other favorites, 'Ol' Man River' and 'Water Boy'. His simple and eloquent mezzo voice account of 'Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me!' disclosed his sympathetic understanding of the rich tonal heritage of the American Negro."—*The New York World Telegram.*

"Mr. Bowers made his audience acquainted with a voice of good natural quality and a warmth of feeling to be expected from a singer of his race. He delivered 'Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves' with fervor and appreciation of style."—W. J. Henderson in *The New York Sun.*

"Mr. Bowers' voice has the velvet edge that we have come to associate with the singing of his race; its quality accorded well with the loveliness inherent in the piano passages of 'Nur Wer die Sehnsucht Kennt' "—*The New York Times.*

"*Headline: Negro Baritone Gives Recital Before a Large and Enthusiastic Audience.*" "To the number of Negro vocalists bidding for a place in the recital field was added yet another when William Bowers, baritone, presented a program last night. The auditorium was completely filled and all indications were that the audience would have welcomed more repetitions and additional numbers than the recitalist gave. . . Mr. Bowers made pleasurable use of a mellow voice—his singing was sympathetic and possessed a particularly winning quality. . . In such racial numbers as 'Oh, Lord, Have Mercy on Me' and 'Were you There?', he used the half voice with a quiet persuasiveness."—*The New York Evening Post.*

"Among the soloists, exceptional praise was merited by the baritone who intoned 'Water Boy' ".—F. D. Perkins in *The New York Herald Tribune.*

"Mr. Bowers has a voice of warm texture and good range—he has unquestioned taste and feeling for such airs as Handel's 'Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves', and 'Where'er You Walk' and he sang Dido's Lament ('When I am Laid in Earth'), fervently. . . The audience filled every available chair and applauded generously."—*The New York Herald Tribune.*

"William Bowers, Negro baritone and once an ornament of the Hall Johnson Negro Choir, sang last night before a full house. Mr. Bowers is a sensitive musician, intelligent, and artistic. His voice is resonant and full of good tone."—*The Daily Mirror.*

SCHOLARSHIP

Bowers - Wm.

December 14, 1936

Dear Miss Davis: I have read with much interest your letter of December 9. It is true that a fellowship was granted to Mr. Bowers from the Fund some years ago and we in this office have followed his career with much satisfaction. I am afraid I cannot make any very helpful suggestions about the proposed concert in Chicago. I am out of the city so much myself that I have found it impossible to take any personal responsibility in such matters. Mr. George Arthur, who was in charge of our fellowships at the time the award was made to Mr. Bowers, and whose address is 3763 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, has helped in the Chicago concerts of other singers. He might be willing either to be of assistance himself or to suggest proper auspices.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMBREE

ERE:JW

Miss Lucille Davis
1533 Elm Street
Youngstown, Ohio

DEC 16 1936

FISK
UNIVERSITY

Name

James William Bowers

Field:Music -
Voice

Concert Singer

282 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, New York

Plan of Work

To complete the necessary preparation for a concert operatic career.

Wishes to study privately with Mr. Carroll Hollister, beginning summer or fall, 1941.

Personal DataBorn Skipwith, Virginia, August, 1908.
Married, three children.**Age:** 32**Undergraduate Work**

Knoxville College, 1926-28.

Brooklyn College, 1938-39.

Private study of music for several years.

Graduate Work**Experience**Soloist, Hall Johnson Choir, Warner Brothers, 1930-32;
soloist, WOR Broadcasting Station, New York City, 1933-34;
alternate in role of Porgy, Theatre Guild, New York, 1935-36, \$100 per week;
free lance concert singer, 1936 -.**Accomplishments**

Rosenwald Fund Fellowship, \$1200, 1934-35.

ReferencesF. W. Wilson, Thyne Institute, Chase City, Virginia
Carroll Hollister, New York City
James H. Hubert, New York City
Mrs. Anna C. Molyneaux, National Music League, New York
Mme. Edith Gaudenzi, New York City**Budget Summary**

Total Amount Needed	\$ 2,500
From Applicant	---
From Fund	\$ 2,500

AMOUNT GRANTED



FISK
UNIVERSITY



James Allison
Bowen

FISK

UNIVERSITY

PLEASE RETURN
TO
JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

1.

Music is not something on a sheet of paper. Nor is it even the manipulation of a musical instrument by the interpretative artist. To the production of music three musicians must contribute: the composer, the instrument maker and the interpretive musician. Not until all three have been brought into intimate collaboration, and the air between the listener's ear and the instrument is disturbed by the actual playing of the instrument, is music produced. That disturbance of the air is music. In the last analysis, music is something happening in the air; and it is nothing else.

That there is an art of music will be readily conceded. That there is a science of music as well is not quite so obvious, yet such is undoubtedly the case. And that music as an art can not attain the full growth of which it is capable unless fostered and nurtured by science is equally true.

The greatest need of the vocal profession today is more extensive, more intensive and more dependable information respecting the action of the human voice as a musical instrument. It will be readily conceded that the maker of a flute, a clarinet, a trombone, a violin or an auditorium must know the proper proportions for his instruments if he is to produce the best results possible to the skill of his craft, and that exhaustive laboratory investigation would be contributory to that end. It is not so generally recognized that the same principle applies to the voice builder, but such is undoubtedly the case. A flute or a violin comes to the player as a finished, completed instrument ready to be played. It is not at all so with the voice. The prospective singer receives his instrument in a very rough and incomplete state, far short of a finished and perfected instrument ready for use-- "knocked down," the violin maker would say of a violin in a similar state of incompleteness. Before the prospective singer can use his unfinished instrument, he must take it to a vocal instrument maker-- a voice teacher to have it completed. And it is only after a tedious process of finishing and polishing that the vocal instrument is put in fit condition to be used for singing. When a singer has to think of where he must place each tone at all times, his instrument has not been properly assembled.

It is conceded that the voice of all musical instruments is most complicated in its method of tone production. When these technicalities have been mastered, the singer still has a world to conquer-- artistry, interpretation, musicianship and poise.*

FISK
UNIVERSITY

It is the latter which is my chief concern today. To combine these into what is termed virtuosity requires much time, patience and money.

The Fellowship which was awarded me in 1934 by the Rosenwald Foundation was of the greatest help to my career. It opened avenues of study which had been closed to me, gave me a feeling of security essential to my artistic development and also revived my confidence in myself and my work. It gave me an opportunity to get some real experience in acting and singing while earning money at the same time. When "Porgy and Bess," the Gershwin Opera was produced, I was selected to sing the alternate lead in the role of "Porgy." In addition to this, I have sung at numerous concerts, both private and public and occasionally over the radio with orchestras.

On July 4, 1940 when President Roosevelt dedicated his private library, I was invited to Hyde Park by Mrs. Roosevelt to render a special program for the President and his guests. This honor I considered a high point in my career.

The demands which these opportunities have exacted from my talents have compelled me to realize that I am in need of more systematic training. As I have previously stated, that training which tends to develop simultaneously the scientific and artistic aspects of the vocal art to later combine them into what is known as virtuosity. With scientific training, artistic development and talent one can look forward to a successful career.

Mr. Carroll Hollister has consented to supervise my musical studies in so far as the selection of qualified instructors are concerned. We have discussed the matter and have agreed on a general program. Mr. Hollister has left the task of selecting a vocal teacher to my discretion, of course with your approval. I have had the privilege of studying with several teachers and I can safely say that they all contributed toward my general development. However, I do believe that Mme. Edith Gandenzi whose studio is located at 171 West 71 Street, New York City has done more toward placing my voice and has a better understanding of my particular type of instrument than any teacher with whom I have come in contact. She is a splendid musician, pianist, competent in Opera and I believe that she knows the art of voice production.

Mr. Hollister and I have agreed that I should attend special courses in harmony, languages, ear-training and opera training given at the Juilliard School of Music, New York City. During the latter half of this year's study, I expect to sing a concert at Town Hall, New York City hoping that the quality of my work

111.

will attract the attention of a reliable management. When I am successful, I shall try to conduct myself in such manner that I will help to create a better feeling toward my race just as many of my fellow artists have striven to do.

I can assure you that I shall do my utmost to take full advantage and prove myself worthy of this honor.

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE
Knoxville Tennessee

Official Transcript of the Record of Mr. James William Bowers
Address 262 Decatur Street B'klyn, N.Y.

1. Attendance: Admitted Freshman Class
Attended From Sept. 15, 1926 to May 30, 1928 Graduated -- Degree --
11. Present Status In good standing
111. Entrance Credits from: (1) Thyne Institute, Chase City, Va.
(2) _____ (3) _____

Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source
English	4		Spanish			Biology		
Algebra	2		German			General Sc. 1		
Geometry	1		History	2		Cml. Subj.		
Trigonometry			Civics	$\frac{1}{2}$		Home Econ.		
Latin	3		Physics	1		Manual Tr.		
French			Chemistry			Physiography		
			Arithmetic	$\frac{1}{2}$		Total	15	

How admitted By certification Conditions None

IV. College Credits:

Catalog Number	Descriptive Titles	Hrs per Wk.		No. Wks.	Quarter Grades				Credit Qr. Hrs
		Rec.	Lab.		Fall	Win	Spr.	Sum.	
1926-27									
Chemistry 6	General Chemistry	3	2	36	B	B	A		15
English 1	Rhetoric & Themes	5		24	B	B	-		10
Mathematics 2,3	College Algebra; Trigonometry	5		24	C	-	B		10
Speech 1	Public Speaking	2		24	A	A			4
German	Elementary German	5		24	-	B	B		10
1927-28									
Psychology 1	General Psychology	5		12	B	-	-		5
Mathematics 5	Analytic Geometry	5		12	D	-	-		5
German 11	Intermediate German	5		24	D	B	-		10
Speech 2	Public Speaking	2		12	C	-	-		2
Chemistry 7	Qualitative Chemistry	3	2	24	-	C	B		10
English 2	English Literature	5		24	-	B	B		10
Religion 1	New Testament Literature	5		12	-	-	B		5

Total Credits Secured 96 Qr. Hrs. Number Credits Required for Grad. 186 Qr Hrs
Grading System; Letter Passing grade A-D; Average passing grade C.
This transcript issued 12/2/40 to Mr. Bowers (Signed) H. Liston Dean



LETTERS OF REFERENCE

William Bowers

Edith Gaudenzi, New York City.

Mr. Bowers studied with me when engaged by Mr. Gershwin, personally, for "Porgy and Bess", at which time he promised much. The following winter his health was very poor and the business of earning a living took such strenuous effort that he was unable to overcome a bad bronchial infection. He was advised by his physician to change climate - had work offered him in Ohio and left for Youngstown where for a year or more he earned a good living and many good criticisms on his work. Last spring I heard him once, when his voice seemed good, but naturally, needed work. Apparently he has overcome the bronchial weakness (which was probably in part due to lack of nourishment).

I know nothing of Mr. Bowers other than good. He is a quiet, gentlemanly person, has a good organ, and some talent.

James H. Hubert, Executive Secretary, New York Urban League.

I have known Mr. James William Bowers for a number of years. In addition to being an excellent singer and student of music, he is one of the finest gentlemen I have ever known. He is ambitious, energetic, studious, and, in my opinion, the type of young man who, if encouraged, would some day make an outstanding contribution to the race and to the field of music.

The New York Urban League sponsored him in a concert at Town Hall three years ago. The fact that this is the first time that our Board has ever agreed to sponsor an artist who was not internationally known is in itself a testimony as to the high esteem with which he is held by our group.

James William Bowers

Anna C. Molyneaux, Director, National Music League, New York City.

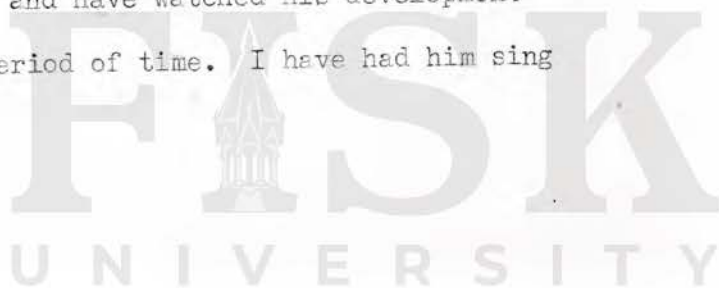
William Bowers, Negro baritone, is the possessor of a most unusual voice, histrionic instincts, imagination, and fine sensibilities. In all my dealings with him I have always found him to be dependable, honest, and most intelligent. He is truly worthy of any help and encouragement any one could give him. Whatever a singer - or human being - should have innately he has, but he does lack vocal technique and coaching. His voice sometimes does not fully respond because of its not always being properly produced. Should he be able to always control his natural equipment I believe he would be one of our really great singers. I recommend him to you most highly.

- - - - -

Carroll Hollister, Accompanist to John Charles Thomas.

I am happy to give my whole-hearted and enthusiastic endorsement to this application of William Bowers for a renewed grant of a Rosenwald fellowship at this time. I was instrumental in helping to obtain for him a similar fellowship granted to him in 1934, and I feel that in spite of certain obstacles and handicaps (which I shall explain later) which prevented him at that time from reaping the full benefit of this assistance in his studies, his work and accomplishment during that year nevertheless fully justified the assistance given him, and revealed in him the personal and artistic qualities to enable him, with proper guidance and encouragement, to be an outstanding representative of his race in his chosen profession as a singer.

I have known William Bowers for many years, have played for him and coached him in his singing, and have watched his development as a man and as an artist over a long period of time. I have had him sing



James William Bowers

for many musical friends and associates, among them the late Leopold Godowsky, and my present artist-associate, Mr. John Charles Thomas, both of whom felt Mr. Bowers had a beautiful natural voice, great musical feeling and intelligence. He has an unusual gift, I believe, for the interpretation of songs, with a style and intensity of emotion that is both moving and dramatic, and a magnetism of delivery that is quite out of the ordinary.

He has shown by his persistence and determination in facing the heaviest obstacles and difficulties and discouragements that he has met with, in the struggle to achieve a musical career, during all the years that I have known him, that he has the strength of character, the courage, and the conviction to carry him far along the steep and difficult path to artistic achievement.

The burden of continuing his studies while earning a precarious living for himself and his family, has at times exhausted him physically to an extent which undermined his health and vitality and depressed him mentally and emotionally. The result of all this lowered vitality was to make him, in the rigors of New York climate during the fall and winter time, subject to continued colds and bronchial congestion that seriously hampered his vocal condition and interfered with his studies. This was true even during the period when he was receiving aid from the Rosenwald Fund, as the amount was not sufficient to relieve him of the responsibility for the support of his family, so that he had to continue to work and sing and exhaust himself to earn money, when he should have been able to conserve all his energies for his studies.

I hope, therefore, that if the renewed fellowship is granted to him again this year, it will be in sufficient amount to really free him from the burden of financial anxiety, so that he will be free to devote all his time and his best efforts to studying and developing his

James William Bowers

artistic talents. I think his plan of work is excellent, and in this I shall be happy, with your approval, and in so far as I am able, to give him my continued advice and help.

Mr. Bowers' greatest difficulties at present, psychologically speaking, are a certain lack of self-confidence and assurance, and an exaggerated emotional sensitivity that I feel sure would disappear rapidly under favorable conditions of economic security and ease of vocal technique.

- - - - -

RW



JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

4901 ELLIS AVENUE

CHICAGO

Application and accompanying documents should be filed as early as possible for the convenience of the Fellowship Committee, preferably during the early autumn. No application can be considered by the Committee unless the completely filled-out blank and all of the materials requested reach the Director for Fellowships by January 5, 1941.

Negro

White Southerner

Name in full..... James William Bowers

Present address

Permanent address 262 Decatur Street Brooklyn, New York
City State
City State

Present position (be specific)..... Free lance Concert Singer

Institution or organization..... Annual salary.....

Address

Specific Field..... Concert Opera Singer

Concise statement of plan of work..... I plan to complete the necessary preparation
for a concert operatic career.....

What institution do you wish to attend?..... I wish to study privately.....

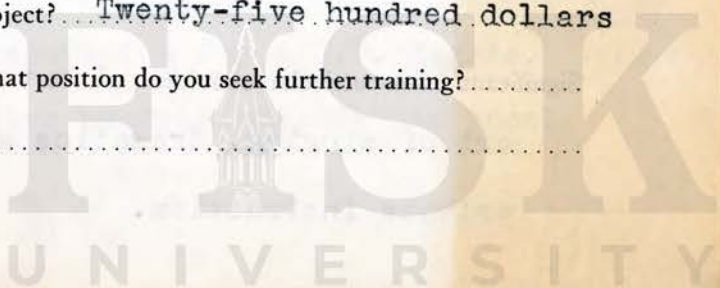
Have you been admitted?..... Yes..... For what degree will you work?..... None.....
Accompanist for

Under whose supervision? Mr. Carroll Hollister Department of Mr. John Charles Thomas

Dates of period for which grant is desired..... 1941-42

What is your estimate of the total duration of the proposed project?..... Twenty-five hundred dollars

Will you return to your present position?..... Yes..... If not, for what position do you seek further training?.....



Personal History

Place of birth... Skipwith, Va. Date of birth... Aug. 10, 1908
 Single, married, widowed, divorced... Married
 Name and address of wife or husband... Katherine Bowers 262 Decatur St. B'klyn, N.Y.
 Occupation and salary of wife or husband... Housewife
 Number and ages of children... Three 8yrs, 9 yrs. 11 yrs.
 Dependents... Four To what extent? Entirely Relationship... Wife and children
 Have you any constitutional disorder or physical disability? ... No

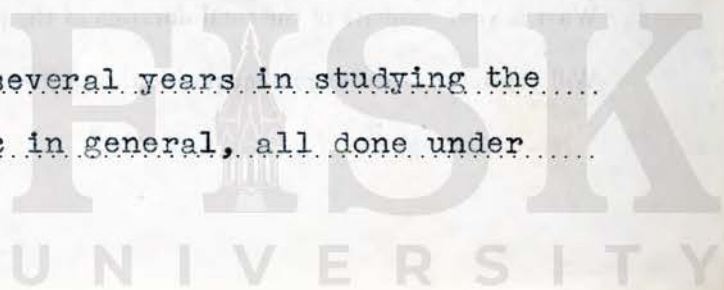
(The Committee on Fellowships reserves the right to require a full physical examination.)

Education

One official transcript of your college and university records together with four copies must be submitted with your application. (Copies may be typed by the applicant.)

	Name of Institution	Period of Study (Give dates)	Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates (Give dates)
College	Knoxville College	1926-28	
	Brooklyn College	1938-39	
University			
Professional or technical			
Special study			

Significant extra-curricular activities... I have spent several years in studying the
 art of singing, dramatics and music in general, all done under
 private instruction.



Experience

Give record chronologically.

Institution or Organization	Address	Position	Inclusive Dates	Annual Salary
Hall Johnson Choir	Warner Bros.	Soloist	1930-32	No record
WOR Broadcasting Sta.	New York City	Soloist	1933-34	No record
Theatre Guild	New York City	Alterate in role Porgy	1935-36	\$100 per wk.
Free lance Concertizing	U.S.A.	Soloist	1936-40	No record

Accomplishments

1. Of what learned, scientific, or artistic societies are you a member? The Society for Professional Musicians

Actors Equity

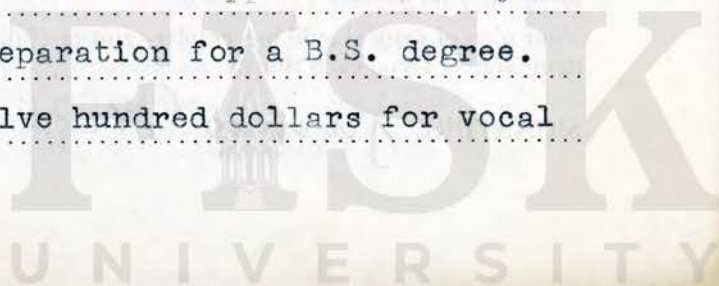
2. What research or creative work have you done? (If in business or a profession, give evidence of standing and achievements.)

3. Publications (Books and articles. Give title, date, and publisher.)

4. List scholarships or fellowships you have previously held or now hold, stating in each case the places and periods of tenure, the studies pursued during your incumbency, and the amounts of the stipends.

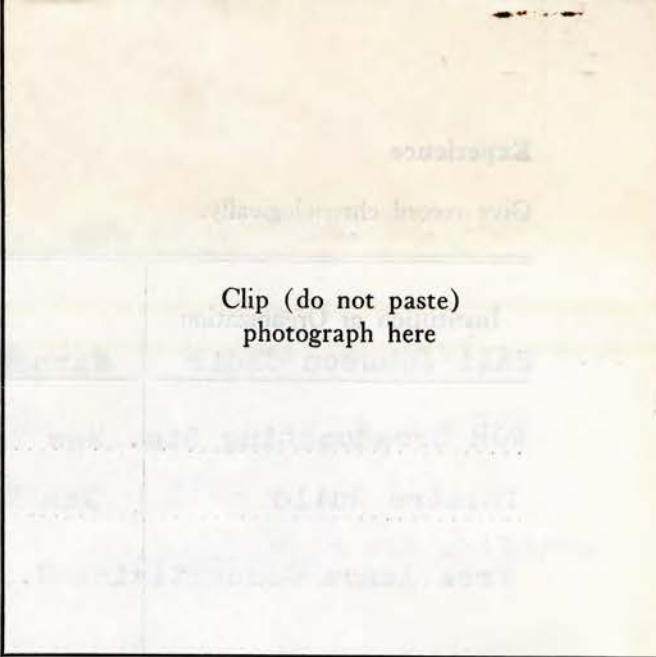
One hundred dollars from Thyne Institute to be applied on one years tuition at Knoxville College in preparation for a B.S. degree.

A Rosenwald Foundation award of twelve hundred dollars for vocal and musical studies.



Budget Estimate

Room and board \$ 1200.00
 Clothing 200.00
 Insurance 150.00
 Tuition 1040.00
 Transportation 100.00
 Miscellaneous 100.00
 \$
 Total amount needed \$ 2790.00
 Amount applicant can provide \$ uncertain
 Amount requested from Fund \$ 2500.00



If you have applied or expect to apply elsewhere for any fellowship for the same period (which is permissible) state the facts regarding such application.

References

List references from whom confidential information may be obtained concerning your professional qualifications and from whom expert opinion may be obtained as to the value and practicability of your proposed plan of work.

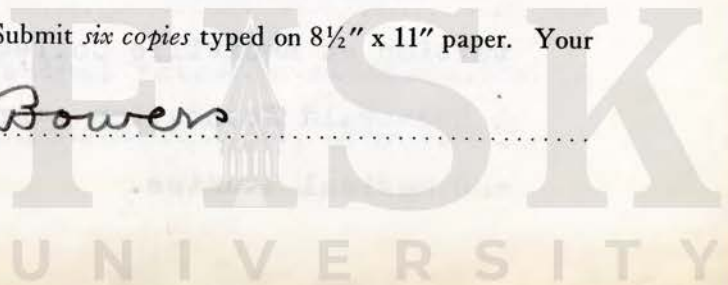
Name of Reference	Position	Address
5 R.H.H. Dr. F.W. Wilson	Director	Thyne Institute, Chase City, Va. Birkshire Hotel 9 E. 59 St.
Mr. Carroll Hollister	Accompanist-coach	c/o J.H. Thomas N.Y. City
rec'd Mr. James H. Hubertaux	Executive Secretary	N.Y. Urban League 202 W. 136 St. N.Y. City
rec'd Mrs. Anna C. MoJyneaux	Director	National Music League 9 E. 59 St. N.Y.C.
Mme. Edith Gaudenzi	Voice teacher	171 E. 71 Street N.Y.C.

Statement of Plan of Work

Submit a statement giving detailed plans for your work during the tenure of your fellowship. This statement should include: (1) a full description of the project, including its character, scope, and significance; (2) the present state of the project (time of commencement, progress to date, etc.) and expectation as to completion; (3) the proposed university, institution of similar grade, or other place where work would be carried on, and the authorities with whom it would be done; (4) your expectation as to publication or use of the results of your study; (5) subsequent plans for your career.

Your plan of work should be complete and carefully prepared. Submit *six copies* typed on 8½" x 11" paper. Your name should be on each sheet.

SIGNATURE James William Bowers



KNOXVILLE COLLEGE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Official Transcript of the Record of Mr. James William Bowers

Address 262 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, New York

I. Attendance: Admitted Freshman Class

Attended From Sept. 15, 1926 to May 30, 1928 Graduated -- 19 -- Degree --

II. Present Status In good standing

III. Entrance Credits from: (1) Thyne Institute, Chase City, Virginia

(2) _____ (3) _____

Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source
English	4		Spanish			Biology			Arithmetic	1/2	
Algebra	2		German			General Sc.	1				
Geometry	1		History	2		Physiography					
Trigonometry			Civics	1/2		Cml. Subjects					
Latin	3		Physics	1		Home Econ.					
French			Chemistry			Manual Tr.			Total	15	

How Admitted By certification Conditions None

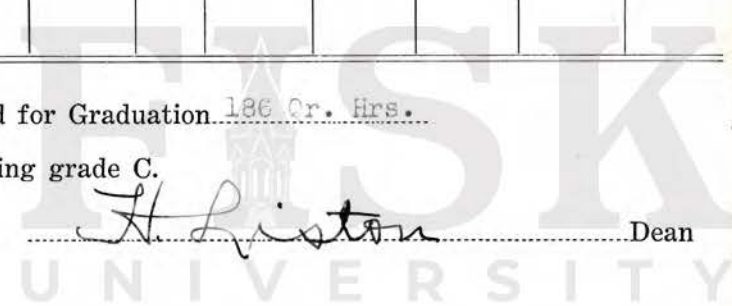
IV. College Credits:

Catalog Number	Descriptive Titles	Hours per Wk.		No. Wks.	Quarter Grades				Credit in Qr. Hrs.
		Rec.	Lab.		Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	
	1926-27								
Chemistry 6	General Chemistry	3	2	36	B	B	A		15
English 1	Rhetoric and Themes	5		24	B	B	-		10
Mathematics 2,3	College Algebra; Trigonometry	5		24	C	-	B		10
Speech 1	Public Speaking	2		24	A	A	-		4
German I	Elementary German	5		24	-	B	B		10
	1927-28								
Psychology 1	General Psychology	5		12	B	-	-		5
Mathematics 5	Analytic Geometry	5		12	D	-	-		5
German II	Intermediate German	5		24	D	B	-		10
Speech 2	Public Speaking	2		12	C	-	-		2
Chemistry 7	Qualitative Chemistry	3	2	24	-	C	B		10
English 2	English Literature	5		24	-	B	B		10
Religion 1	New Testament Literature	5		12	-	-	B		5

Total Credits Secured 96 Qr. Hrs. Number Credits Required for Graduation 186 Qr. Hrs.

Grading System; Letter Passing grade A-D; Average passing grade C.

This transcript issued 12/2/40 to Mr. Bowers *H. Linton* Dean



KNOXVILLE COLLEGE
Knoxville Tennessee

Official Transcript of the Record of Mr. James William Bowers

Address 262 Decatur Street B'klyn, N.Y.

1. Attendance: Admitted Freshman Class

Attended From Sept. 15, 1926 to May 30, 1928 Graduated -- Degree --

11. Present Status In good standing

111. Entrance Credits from: (1) Thyne Institute, Chase City, Va.

(2) _____ (3) _____

Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source
English	4		Spanish			Biology		
Algebra	2		German			General Sc. 1		
Geometry	1		History	2		Gen. Subs.		
Trigonometry			Civics	2		Home Econ.		
Latin	3		Physics	1		Natural Sc.		
French			Chemistry			Physiography		
			Arithmetic	2		Total	15	

How admitted By certification Conditions None

IV. College Credits:

Catalog Number	Descriptive Titles	Hrs per Wk.		No. Wks.	Quarter Grades				Credit Gr. Hrs
		Rec.	Lab.		Fall	Win	Spr.	Sum.	
	1926-27								
Chemistry 6	General Chemistry	3	2	36	B	B	A		15
English 1	Rhetoric & Themes	5		24	B	B	-		10
Mathematics 2,3	College Algebra; Trigonometry	5		24	C	-	B		10
Speech 1	Public Speaking	2		24	A	A			4
German	Elementary German	5		24	-	B	B		10
	1927-28								
Psychology 1	General Psychology	5		12	B	-	-		5
Mathematics 5	Analytic Geometry	5		12	D	-	-		5
German 11	Intermediate German	5		24	D	B	-		10
Speech 2	Public Speaking	2		12	C	-	-		2
Chemistry 7	Qualitative Chemistry	5	2	24	-	C	B		10
English 2	English Literature	5		24	-	B	B		10
Religion 1	New Testament Literature	5		12	-	-	B		5

Total Credits Secured 96 Gr. Hrs. Number Credits Required for Grad. 186 gr. Hrs.
Grading System; Letter Passing grade A-D; Average passing grade C.
This transcript issued 12/2/40 to Mr. Bowers (Signed) H. Liston Dean

FISK
UNIVERSITY

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE
Knoxville Tennessee

Official Transcript of the Record of Mr. James William Bowers

Address 262 Decatur Street B'klyn, N.Y.

1. Attendance: Admitted Freshman Class

Attended From Sept. 15, 1926 to May 30, 1928 Graduated -- Degree --

11. Present Status In good standing

111. Entrance Credits from: (1) Thyne Institute, Chase City, Va.

(2) _____ (3) _____

Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source	Subject	Units	Source
English	4		Spanish			Biology		
Algebra	2		German			General Sc.	1	
Geometry	1		History	2		Cml. Subj.		
Trigonometry			Civics	$\frac{1}{2}$		Home Econ.		
Latin	3		Physics	1		Manual Tr.		
French			Chemistry			Physiography		
			Arithmetic	$\frac{1}{2}$		Total	15	

How admitted By certification Conditions None

1V. College Credits:

Catalog Number	Descriptive Titles	Hrs per Wk.		No. Wks.	Quarter Grades				Credit Qr. Hrs
		Rec.	Lab.		Fall	Win	Spr.	Sum.	
1926-27									
Chemistry 6	General Chemistry	3	2	36	B	B	A		15
English 1	Rhetoric & Themes	5		24	B	B	-		10
Mathematics 2,3	College Algebra; Trigonometry	5		24	C	-	B		10
Speech 1	Public Speaking	2		24	A	A	-		4
German	Elementary German	5		24	-	B	B		10
1927-28									
Psychology 1	General Psychology	5		12	B	-	-		5
Mathematics 5	Analytic Geometry	5		12	D	-	-		5
German 11	Intermediate German	5		24	D	B	-		10
Speech 2	Public Speaking	2		12	C	-	-		2
Chemistry 7	Qualitative Chemistry	3	2	24	-	C	B		10
English 2	English Literature	5		24	-	B	B		10
Religion 1	New Testament Literature	5		12	-	-	B		5

Total Credits Secured 96 Qr. Hrs. Number Credits Required for Grad. 186 Qr. Hrs.
Grading System; Letter _____ Passing grade A-D; Average passing grade C.
This transcript issued 12/2/40 to Mr. Bowers (Signed) H. Liston Dean



BARBIZON · PLAZA HOTEL

101 west 58th street . . . central park south . . . new york



February 24th, 1941

Mr. George M. Reynolds,
4 901 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Reynolds:

omit

The enclosed blank and request for a report and recommendation on the application of William Bowers for a Rosenwald Fellowship only reached me very recently after having been forwarded and re-forwarded across the country while I have been away on a trip to California and back by way of Florida. I am distressed that this unfortunate delay has made me so late in returning the report to you for your consideration, but I sincerely hope that it is still in time to be available to your committee in weighing the merits of Mr. Bowers application for a Fellowship grant.

If there is anything further that you might wish to inquire from me in regard to this matter, I shall be happy to be of whatever assistance I can. Any communication will be forwarded to me most directly, in case I am on tour, if you will address me in care of Mr. John Charles Thomas, Hotel Berkshire, 21 East 52nd St., New York City, from which his secretary will forward it to me wherever I happen to be at the time.

I trust that the information I have given in my report concerning Mr. Bowers is satisfactory, and I sincerely hope you may find it possible and desirable to grant his application for a Fellowship. I am sure that he will do his utmost to prove worthy of it.

Respectfully yours,

Carroll Hollister

Carroll Hollister

FISK