

The following lines which were written some years ago about Ralph Vaughan Williams might well be applied to his two contemporaries also insofar as their attitude to national music was concerned . . .

“His art, being rooted in tradition, has had the strength to be progressive. His music . . . has arisen out of the life of the community and the spirit of the time to which he belongs, and as is the way of art so begotten and so nourished, it reveals the abiding and the essential in the local and the temporary—which is the way of the prophets throughout history.”

HUGH TRACEY.

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## INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC COUNCIL

The Honorary Secretary of the Society attended the Tenth Meeting of the General Assembly of the International Folk Music Council in Liège, Belgium, from July 28th to August 2nd, 1958.

A great deal of interesting matter was discussed although most of the attention of the Council was, naturally, directed towards the many Folk Musics of Europe. There were, however, several Members present whose interests were primarily African, including:—

Dr. K. P. Wachsmann	(Uganda)
Mr. J. H. Nketia	(Ghana)
Mons. Jean-Noel Maquet	(Congo)
Dr. Alan Merriam	(United States of America)
The Rev. Tom Nabeta	(Uganda)
Mr. David Rycroft	(South Africa)
Prof. William Bascom	(United States of America)
Mr. Andrew Tracey	(South Africa)

and others.

Recorded music collected by the International Library of African Music was played in open session together with a film showing the construction of Chopi xylophones and the dances which are accompanied by these instruments.

Discussions on African music led to the following statement which was proposed by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Hugh Tracey, and seconded by Dr. A. A. Bake:—

That this Conference, being agreed upon the great social usefulness and musical virtue of the many indigenous folk musics of Africa, urges upon each of the territorial governments concerned, as well as upon educational and religious institutions, philanthropic foundations, radio corporations and others, consideration of the following suggestions in the academic and practical fields, while there is yet time to take effective action.

### A) ACADEMIC

The provision throughout each territory of facilities for a folk music survey as well as studies of specific subjects connected with music to be undertaken by persons of approved qualifications with the support of the appropriate faculties of recognized universities.

### (B) PRACTICAL LOCAL ACTION

- (i) Co-operation in the phonographic recording, pressing and publishing of as wide a selection as possible of authentic indigenous songs and instrumental music.
- (ii) Ensuring the distribution of a minimum number of discs for use in educational centres, archives and museums.
- (iii) Establishing centres of folk music study within each territory where especially gifted folk musicians can participate according to their ability; and providing personnel, apparatus and finance to maintain their activities in two directions: in the collection, study and classification of material; and in the immediate application of such material to practical ends, e.g.:
  - (a) publication of text books for education;
  - (b) recreation, including broadcasting;
  - (c) special anthropological studies.