

lively drum. By and large, this is an impressive record with modern African musical art rather than music for everyday use.

As such it reminds me strongly of the "*Missa Luba*" of the "*Troubadours du Roi Baudouin*" (on Philips 428,138 PE) which according to the sleeve notes is "a mass in pure Congolese style without any influence of European music". The "*Troubadours*" are well enough known to make it quite clear that the mass may be based on traditional musical elements of the Luba but in fact is a very artistic composition performed by an extremely well-trained choir of world fame. No composer is mentioned and it is claimed that "the music was not written. The whole mass is the result of general co-operation and of a spontaneous inspiration." It would be interesting to know how this worked in practice. Listening to the record gives the impression of a well-balanced and well-worked composition which makes it difficult to believe that improvisation should have played such an important part in the creation of the work. It seems rather a counterpart to Barat's composition. In both cases we would like to know more about the composers or the origin of the works.

The records reviewed here give a fascinating impression of the great variety of musical styles and forms in recent African church music from folk to art music and concert styles.

PHILIPS (Dutch) stereo 840,254 BY, "*Missa Kwango*", performed by "*Les Petits Chanteurs-Danseurs de Kenge*" (West Congo) and directed by Pater Bernard van den Boom, SVD. A 12" L.P. cost DM 25,-.

From the English sleeve we learn that Pater van den Boom formed the choir in October, 1964, and that the choir "is made up of between 65 and 70 African schoolboys most of whom live outside Kenge in villages and are, therefore, in constant contact with their own tribes and tribal traditions." From them the Pater learned native tunes, songs in Kipelende, Kiyaka and Kikongo. These tunes he worked into the "*Missa Kwango*" and some church songs presented on side 1 of the record. On side 2 the Pater's arrangements of local folk songs (with original texts) can be heard.

In other words, the "*Missa*" is not a native creation but the Dutch Pater's, based on native songs. All songs — including the Mass, the church songs and the folk songs — are sung in simple homophonic style with little variation, and accompanied by drums, rattle and partly by guitar, or by accordeon. Thus the arrangements are simple and monotonous. There is some arranged antiphony. The songs seem to cover a wide range of styles: traditional ceremonial songs, story songs, dance songs and even modern songs (e.g. "*Marguerite*").

The choir is well-trained and it "has proved in several public performances, for instance in Leopoldville, that it is not only an excellent choir but also a first-rate dance group." The record is interesting in comparison with the other discs reviewed.

WOLFGANG LAADE.

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The Editor acknowledges receipt of the following books and records which we were unable to review in this year's issue. Reviews will be included in our next publication:

- Swahili — English Dictionary by Charles W. Rechenbach.
Catholic University of America Press, 1967.
- Angola Folk - Music, II. Chokwe People. Lunda District.
Campanhia de Diamantes de Angola.
- A Collection of Magnetic Tapes and Discs.

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NOTES AND NEWS

S.A.F.M.A. CONCERT, 6th APRIL, 1967

On the 6th April, 1967, SAFMA (The South African Folk Music Association), held a concert at the Selborne Hall, Johannesburg, in aid of the Library and recognition of Dr. Tracey's work.

All the singers taking part gave their services free of charge, and this spontaneous and generous gesture on the part of SAFMA and the singers is much appreciated by Dr. Tracey. The concert proved successful and a total of R500 was collected. The African Music Library displayed books and records in the foyer of the Selborne Hall for public interest.

The cheque for R500 was handed over to Dr. Tracey by the Chairman of SAFMA, Mr. Ray Sher, at the Folk Village week-end, held at the "Roger Brew's Holiday Camp."

The "African Music Society" warmly applauds this fine gesture made by SAFMA, and congratulates them on their many efforts, for furthering and stimulating the interests of folk music in South Africa.