

# AFRICAN MUSIC

## JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN MUSIC SOCIETY

---

VOLUME 3

1963

NUMBER 2

---

### EDITORIAL

In all seventeen years of the African Music Society's existence, its main purpose has been to discover the disciplines and foundations of African artistry for future generations to build on. The pages of these Journals bear witness to the work and goodwill of dozens of men and women who have shared this ideal.

During the last few years indigenous Africans have begun to benefit from the pioneer work of others and indeed to do some pioneering on their own account. At the same time an increasing proportion of the population which is attracted to the industrial centres, and to the seats of learning and government, now about ten per cent of the total, are more and more exposed to and find themselves espousing the types of music and painting which have their origin outside the continent.

Non-alignment in African politics is now commonplace. Non-alignment in the arts, so far as foreign influences are concerned, is essential if the foundations of African art and philosophy are to be secured. This has yet to be accomplished.

In the meanwhile the seduction of easy music, propagated largely by machinery through the shallow selections of "popular" programming, is eroding the very soil from under the foundations of artistic integrity in many parts of Africa. Musicians and artists are constantly succumbing to the pressures of social popularity, the sales value of repetitive "art work" and the jangles of the current dance music and thereby jeopardising their freedom of choice. This, no doubt, will continue; but the persons who are so engaged should not be mistaken for those rare creative spirits who do not sacrifice their artistic disciplines in the scramble for novelty.

As Igor Stravinski has so aptly said:

"The more art is controlled, limited, worked over, the more it is free. In art as in everything else, one can build only upon a resisting foundation; whatever constantly gives way to pressure constantly renders movement impossible. What-ever diminishes constraint, diminishes strength."

The Society continues to look for the evidence of that resisting foundation.

THE EDITOR.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE.

The Hon. Editor regrets the unusual delay in the publishing of this edition of "African Music". In common with many other journals devoted to African subjects, considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining an adequate amount of original research matter for publication owing to the increasingly disturbed political situation throughout the continent which, in many territories, has militated against the possibility of field work in musical subjects.

It is hoped that members of the Society and others will make a special effort to contribute articles of musical interest for inclusion in the 1964 edition.