

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



For Release to Newspapers,
Monday, April 29, 1940.

WPA MUSIC PROGRAM TO EMPHASIZE PAN AMERICAN MUSIC

Symphony and concert orchestras and concert bands of the WPA Music Program will present music of Latin-American composers before audiences in many parts of the country this week in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Union, Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner in charge of Professional and Service Projects, announced today.

The performances will be continued several weeks during the spring and many phases of Latin-American musical composition will be represented. Diplomatic and consular agents will be patrons or special guests at some of the programs, Mrs. Kerr added.

Dr. Earl Vincent Moore, Director of the WPA Music Program, said that music in the libraries of the Pan American Union and the bands and orchestras of the U. S. Navy, Army and Marine Corps have been made available on 30-day loans for distribution to project units. Much of this music is in pen-note-manuscript and Lieutenant Charles Benter, Captain Thomas Darcy, and Captain William Santelmann, leaders of the respective service units, gave personal assistance in assembling it for the forthcoming programs.

"Because of the varied audience types reached by the WPA Music Program," Dr. Moore said, "we are able to contribute materially to an improved understanding and appreciation of the music of Latin America. The widely celebrated anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Union affords an admirable opportunity to emphasize this music, and the project musicians are offering every cooperation with the proposed program."

While most of the recognized composers in the Latin-American countries are to be represented on the programs, he continued, predominant interests are reflected in the requests for loans of compositions by Alberto Williams, Abel Ruffino, Jose M. Castro, and Pascual Rugatis, of Argentina; Antonio Carlos Gomez, Hector Villa-Lobos, and Luiz Levy, of Brazil; Celerino Percera, of Chile; Emilio Reinoso and Luis Cases Romero, of Cuba; Vicente Garcia and Vego Augusto, of the Dominican Republic; Domingo Santa, of El Salvador; Jesus Castillo and Victor Figueroa, of Guatemala; Justin Elie, of Haiti; M. Adalid-Camero, of Honduras; F. A. Particheli, of Mexico; Carl Schnohl, of Paraguay; Oriheula and Eduardo Stubbs, of Peru; Benone Calvacecchia, of Uruguay, and Augusto Brandt and Andres D. Pardo of Venezuela.

Three special programs on "Music of the Americas" were given recently by the WPA Music Project of New York City at which consular officers of various Latin-American countries served as patrons, Dr. Moore said. Presiding at these programs were Burle Marx, composer and former conductor of the Rio de Janeiro Philharmonic Orchestra, who has been a guest conductor with project orchestras in Boston and New York; Dr. Carlton Sprague Smith, chief of the music division of the New York Public Library, and Mme. Irma Labastille.

Composers represented on these programs include Enrique Soro, of Chile; H. Villa Lobos, and J. Octaviano, of Brazil; Salvador Contreras, Pablo Mancayo, Daniel Ayala and Blas Galindo, of Mexico; Juan Jose Castro and Honorio Siccardi, of Argentina, and Alejandro Caturla, of Cuba. Most of this music was written as art songs, or for chamber ensembles.

Throughout the series the purpose to "foster good will among the republics of America through music," was emphasized, Dr. Moore declared.