

The following report and draft of the cultural arts platform are excerpted from a report in the 1934 Yearbook of the Music Educators National Conference.²

"On July 4, 1933, a meeting, called by the Music Educators National Conference Committee on Contacts and Relations, was held in Chicago, in connection with the National Education Association Convention, to stimulate and foster the fine arts, including music. This campaign was made possible through a generous contribution by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. A total of approximately 500 organizations and individuals were contacted. A hearty response was received from leaders in all parts of the country.

"At the July 4, 1933, meeting, official delegates from 57 national organizations were present, representing a total membership of over 5 million American citizens. At this meeting there was adopted and endorsed by these official delegates a statement in regard to the status of the fine arts, and particularly music.

"Organizations represented at the July 4 meeting issued to their members copies of the platform in three ways: (a) By distributing the copies provided by the Music Educators National Conference; (b) by duplicating (mimeographed or otherwise) copies of the statement for their members; (c) by printing the platform in their official journals. While the number of copies distributed cannot be definitely stated, we have actual figures for the distribution of over 3 million and can estimate the distribution as not less than twice that number.

"Individuals and organizations present at the July 4, 1933, meeting were requested to see that copies of the platform were given to their local newspapers. This was done, although no actual attempt was made to keep clippings. Three newspapers alone, the Kansas City Star, the Louisville Courier Journal, and the New York Times would account for a distribution of approximately 1 million, and many other newspapers swelled this to a very much larger total. A conservative estimate, therefore, of the distribution of this platform would amount to not less than 10 million copies.

"The influence of the platform was even wider, however, in that in a great many cases extracts from the platform and reviews of it served as the basis for editorials both in magazines and in newspapers throughout the country.

"The importance attached to the project can be seen by the fact that clubs of varied interests, races, and creeds have been anxious to consider the activity as an integral part of their own work, in addition to their willingness to promote it as a part of their cooperation with the committee.

"It is not intended that work on this project shall cease. Inquiries are being received constantly for additional copies of the platform and the committee is also receiving copies of various publications in which the platform is appearing. It is urged that all members of the conference in locations where the newspapers have not already quoted the platform in whole or in part shall bring this matter to the attention of editors so that the campaign for the recognition of music shall continue."—OSBOURNE MCCONATHY, *Chairman*.

A CULTURAL ARTS PLATFORM FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"* * * There is urgent need for a declaration of faith that the arts are not optional luxuries for the few, but are essential for the complete living of the many.

"Music and the allied arts give cheer and comfort and richness to life. They bring beauty to our materialistic civilization. Beauty contributes to the morale and stability of a nation. Social unrest gains its readiest recruits among men who have not found beauty and joy in their work and in their environment.

"Our fathers faced a simpler world than ours, with relatively simpler needs. Modern inventions are shortening the working week and greatly increasing the hours of leisure. But in making this advance we have also incurred some penalties. Science and the machine have added so much to living that we may have rated them above human values. Life tends to be overmechanized. Education today must concern itself with physical and mental health and with emotional, social, and spiritual responses as well as with reasoning powers.

"The responsibility of the present generation for the education of those that are to follow should not be shifted to the future. Youth must be served while it is youth. If we fail in our duty to the boys and girls of today, it cannot be made up to them in after years when prosperity returns and public funds are more

² Report of the MENC Committee on Contracts and Relations, Osbourne McConathy, chairman, 1934 Yearbook of the Music Educators National Conference, p. 309.