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29th March, 1961.

Dr W.E.H. Stanner,
Dept. of Anthropology,
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CANBERRA

Dear Dr Stanner,

You may remember replying some time ago to my query regarding your collection of recorded aboriginal music. I had hoped, long before this to accept your invitation to come to Canberra to hear some of it but, until this year, this has not been possible.

I should perhaps begin by saying that, since writing to you last, my interest in primitive music has not waned. On the contrary! For the fourth year I am a recipient of a full-time research grant in the Department of Music. And, in addition to research, I am conducting two courses in "Ethnomusicology". The first, for Music III (distinction) students, is an introduction to the study of non-European musics; the second, for Music IV students is more advanced and deals with ethno-musicological theory. Both courses count towards a B.A. degree with honours in Musicology.

A large part of the introductory course deals with Australian aboriginal musical styles. In the course of my work I have been able to collect quite a variety of different kinds of singing. Samples from the Kimberley regions are from one collection only, that of Julitha Walsh for the A.B.C. Your own collection, I know, is larger and more comprehensive and the purpose of this letter is to ask you if there is any chance of it becoming available on disc.

Trevor Jones also conducts a course in Ethnomusicology at the University of W.A. So, among the next generation of students atleast, the demand for aboriginal records in Australia will be larger than it is now!

I am well aware of the difficulties in bringing out records of this kind. But if, at any time, you are preparing to launch such a project, I shall be willing to assist in any way I can.

You may be interested to know that the Baldwin Spencer recordings (cylinders) of 1912 are due to be released shortly on L.P. disc.

Yours sincerely,