

PARADE OF AMERICAN MUSIC
Suggested Publicity for American Music Month

AM 1-6



Note: Information in underlined passages is required. The wording may be rephrased.

In February 1955, founder *Ada Holding Miller*, the 17th NFMC President, established the NFMC American Music Department along with the Parade of American Music. Its purpose was to create a time for special emphasis on all kinds of American Music.

In 1987, New York Federation Life Member and widow of *Professor Rudolf R.A. Schramm*, along with friends, established the **Professor Rudolf R.A. Schramm Award for the Parade of American Music.** Mrs. Schramm and friends donated the funds to endow this annual monetary award to the NFMC Music Club presenting the most outstanding American Music program during the month of November.

Professor Schramm was a distinguished composer, conductor, musicologist and arranger; first Music Director of the U.S. Office of Education; conductor of over 15,000 TV and radio programs, including President Roosevelt's "Fireside Chats" and Mrs. Roosevelt's "My Day"; composer of over 80 film scores, including the documentary "Nanook of the North"; one of the founders of the National Symphony Orchestra in D.C.; first music scientist to develop the Total Rhythm Families. Dr. Marion Richter and Dr. Merle Montgomery were his students.

By action of the NFMC Board of Directors in August 1998, American Music Month was changed to the month of November beginning in 1999. This was done at the request of the Sonneck Society for American Music. It was founded in 1975 and named for Oscar Sonneck, early Chief of the Music Division of the Library of Congress and a pioneer scholar in the study of American Music. The Society was incorporated in 1975. It seeks to stimulate the appreciation, creation, performance, and study of American Music in all its historical and contemporary styles and contexts, including art, popular music, the music of ethnic groups, minorities, and the full range of activities association with music in North American, including Central American and the Caribbean. In 1998 the Sonneck Society voted to change its name to the Society of American Music