

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION OF LOUIS W. BALLARD

The nominator writes, "I whole-heartedly recommend Louis Ballard, the most creative human being, of any race, that I've been privileged to know. He is a Quapaw and Cherokee Indian. He is a world renowned composer, and educator, and a leader in working toward multicultural understanding....I believe that Louis Ballard has yet more innovative contributions to make to society. He has at least three works in progress. He...is expanding his work, American Indian Music for the Classroom which is the only definitive work on this subject. He continues to research Indian music of literally hundreds of tribes in the Americas. He has spoken of a dream to establish a Native American Musicians Association that would include musicians and composers embracing both tribal interpreters as well as contemporary artists. A MacArthur Fellowship would allow him to realize these dreams. I know he struggles to create his beautiful music in spite of financial constraints and an academic world that stifles the study, development, and performance of traditional/contemporary American Indian music....I truly hope you will seriously consider my recommendation....He deserves a wider recognition that a MacArthur Fellowship would give him. And I think the world needs his music."