Few Original Rice Songs

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At present, the Rice Institute student body has three songs which it traditionally calls its own—"Rice's Honor," "Gray Bonnet," and "Fight Song."

Yet only one of these songs, the "Fight Song," ("Fight for Rice; Rice fight on . . .") belongs exclusively to the Institute and to the student body. Written by Dr. Neely E. Ross and Dr. Lewis Girard, class of 1941, this song is the only one of the three to have original words and music.

A Fast March

"Rice's Honor" is merely "The Trio" from the fast march, "Our Director," by Biglow. It is not only Rice's alma mater, but also the school song of many high schools over the country.

In order to make this fast march an alma mater, any band, including the Rice Band, must slow the tempo considerably. Decreasing the tempo, however, causes the tune to "drag"—and it loses its original vitality. It is also more difficult to sing this way.

"Gray Bonnet" is simply new words to an old song, "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet."

The Rice Hymn

However, Dr. Girard and Dr. Ross have written another song which is exclusively a Rice song, but which has been neglected as such, "The Rice Hymn." Here is one song which can definitely stand publicity, for no other school can lay claim to it—it is all ours.