

6-11-1974

## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (alexander)

Sylvia Alexander

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (alexander)

### Description

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

### Keywords

Sylvia Alexander, Henri Temianka, June 11, 1974, education, humor, instrument, conductor, maestro, culture, violinst, virtuoso

June 11, 1974

Mr. Henri Temianka  
c/o Mr. James Wade  
David McKay Company, Inc.  
750 Third Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10017

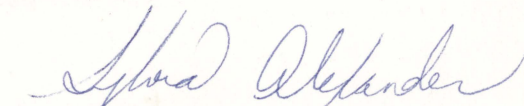
Dear Mr. Temianka:

I simply had to let you know how enormously much I enjoyed Facing the Music, although I think the title is too punny. I laughed outloud several times while reading the book and it felt so good to laugh. I'm a graduate music student (flute) who has gotten a degree in Spanish by working my way through school as an executive secretary and, up to this point, done a marvelous job of avoiding music. Now that I've thrown myself entirely into it, I find that I become so uptight about performance, dictation, writing, deciphering theory, etc., that it was most welcome to have a good laugh about music in general.

"The View from the Podium" was especially memorable - while I read it, I was reminded of so many things...one was an incident where a fanatical bassoonist in our high school band was responsible for a fevered downbeat from the conductor resulting in no sound at all from twelve flutists. It was a piece we loved and on which we normally played our hearts out, but there we sat with twelve muted instruments. Our demented double-reeder had stuffed "Repent, Repent; the End is Near" signs into our instruments in an effort to reach us in the most effective way possible.

You have, by the bye, won me over as a fan, too - there are so many fine violinists and conductors to experience in New York City that if I must choose, I'm inclined to single out the one who distinguishes himself not as a musician alone. I rarely beat down the doors to hear Julius Baker play, even though he's technically brilliant, because he's personally transparent...you, on the other hand, display real soul.

Gratefully,



Ms. Sylvia Alexander  
fledgling flutist and  
super secretary

cc: Editor

26 Ravine Ave., Glen Cove, N.Y.

11542