

12-6-1982

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (allen)

Henri Temianka

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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

Steve Allen, James Freeman, Henri Temianka, December 6, 1982, Chamber Symphony Society of California, Hollywood, CA, recreation and entertainment, culture, camaraderie, Yehudi Menuhin, Johann Sebastian Bach, Victor Borge, concerto, conductor, Jack Benny, Arthur Fiedler, Zubin Mehta, piano, bass, xylophone, Cesar Romero, Carol Lawrence, Paul Conrad, Joseph Haydn, symphony, virtuoso, Hong Kong, tour, UCLA, solo, instrument, charity



CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

December 6, 1982

SPONSOR OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY
HENRI TEMIANKA FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

Mr. James D. Freeman
Wood Freeman
2018 N. Vine St.
Hollywood, CA 90028

Dear Mr. Freeman:

I sincerely appreciate your courteous and informative letter of November 29. If all the pieces fall into place, as I hope they will, I would be honored to have you as my personal guest at our next Allegro Ball.

I have long been an admirer of Mr. & Mrs. Allen. Even so, I am overwhelmed by your description of the range and complexity of their accomplishments. Obviously, it would be both unreasonable and unrealistic to ask too much of their time and energies.

Our annual Allegro Ball, now in its twenty-first year, is rather different from run-of-the-mill benefits. Yehudi Menuhin made a special trip to Los Angeles to play the Bach Double Concerto with me in celebration of our Twentieth Anniversary. Victor Borge played and conducted on the anniversary of Denmark's Liberation Day. There has usually been a main theme, musical or otherwise. Jack Benny, Arthur Fiedler, Zubin Mehta, and a host of others have participated exuberantly in these annual celebrations. Mehta played the piano, the bass, and the xylophone in Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals." On another occasion, Fred MacMurray, Cesar Romero, Carol Lawrence, Paul Conrad and a dozen others joined forces to play Haydn's "Toy" Symphony.

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel is holding the dates of March 20, 21, 22, & 23, 1983, for our next event in their Grand Ballroom, and would like an early decision. My choice would be Monday evening, March 21, because it happens to be Bach's 298th birthday, and we are featuring his music with special prominence in our concerts this season. In fact, we have formed a special group of fifteen brilliant young instrumentalists now achieving international recognition as concert stars. The group, the Baroque Virtuosi, will be on its way to Hong Kong to give three concerts there on December 27, 28, & 29. Upon our return we will celebrate the Hong Kong tour with a special concert at Royce Hall, UCLA, on January 9.

Thus, it would be ideal to schedule the Ball on Bach's birthday, March 21, and to call it the "Baroque Allegro Ball," with Baroque dress optional. The guest of honor would be Johann Sebastian Bach, re-incarnated by Steve Allen at the harpsichord and the piano, surrounded by our brilliant and attractive group of Baroque Virtuosi.

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Mr. James D. Freeman

December 6, 1982

Among his many other talents, Mr. Allen is justly famous for his ad-libbing, both verbally and at the keyboard. Therefore, it is not essential for him to be involved in any advance rehearsal, unless he wishes to be. The Baroque Virtuosi will be fully rehearsed and ready to play a number of spectacular short solos, accompanied by the others in the group.

In view of his great musical talent, I would hope that Mr. Allen will be tempted to play a substantial role in the proceedings — the more substantial the better. I suspect he will have a lot of fun while supporting a good cultural and charitable cause, but I want him to feel free and unfettered.

It would of course be desirable to have a personal meeting with Mr. Allen, and I would be delighted to host a luncheon for him and Mrs. Allen and your good self. I will provide an adequate entertainment outline. It is our long-standing tradition to have the entertainment precede the dinner and dancing portion of the evening. Thus, after the cocktail reception from 7 'til 8 in the foyer, the guests take their seats at their tables. Introductions and entertainment from 8 'til 9; dinner and dancing from 9 o'clock onwards.

Proceeds from the Ball are used for the general support of our non-profit Society, which devotes much of its time and funds to giving free concerts for the young and disadvantaged, including schools for crippled children and Juvenile Hall, as well as handicapped and impoverished seniors at their various locations throughout the Southland. I need not tell you that the California Chamber Symphony is a well-established, highly respected organization, whose appearances range from the Music Center to UCLA, the Getty Museum, and many other locations. Classical music, unlike rock, is not self-supporting. Without the funds raised from our annual Allegro Ball we would not be able to maintain our activities.

I believe we need some personal communication to determine what Mr. Allen's title should be. When one says "Chairman," people wonder whether he is merely lending his name. If we say "Master of Ceremonies," Mr. Allen might think that there is more work than we have indicated. Perhaps a touch of whimsy would be appropriate, announcing that Mr. Allen will re-incarnate Johann Sebastian Bach in honor of his (Bach's) 298th birthday.

Our organization has always outdone itself in decorating the Ballroom in accordance with the theme of the Ball. I can see ourselves transforming the stage into the Leipzig Kaffeehaus where Bach used to improvise every Friday night at the harpsichord, surrounded by his fellow beer drinkers. There was a marvelously human side to Bach, all too often obscured by the majesty of his Cantatas and Passions.

If Mr. Allen so advises, I would gladly serve as narrator. At a given moment, we might even introduce all of Bach's twenty children, or invite the audience to join in singing Bach's Coffee Cantata. You see, the possibilities are bountiful.

Would Mrs. Allen be willing to lend her name to the Ball as honorary chairman? This would create an unusually creative partnership. An early reply would be gratefully appreciated, as the date of the Ball needs to be confirmed and our

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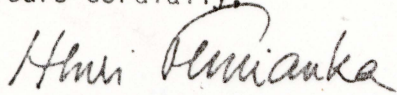
Mr. James D. Freeman

December 6, 1982

many dedicated and experienced Ball Committee members are eager to receive marching orders before I leave for Hong Kong on December 19, 1982.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you personally.

Yours cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henri Temianka". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Henri Temianka

HT:sk

cc: Dawn Berry
Secretary to Steve Allen

bcc: Doug Hayes