

7-24-1969

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bar-illan)

David Bar-Illan

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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

Henri Temianka, David Bar-Illan, July 24, 1969, culture, camaraderie, concerto, Musical meter and rhythm, Sergei Prokofiev, Béla Bartók, sonata, virtuosity in musical performance, recreation and entertainment, pianist, piano, chamber music, Los Angeles, CA, concert tours, rehearsal

This address until Sep 1
914

David Bar-Illan 16 Sage Terrace
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583
July 24, 1969

Dear Roy,

For the past month I have worked - almost exclusively and as assiduously and conscientiously as I know how - on the concerto. I have brought the first two movements to tempo and I can get through the last (as you may remember, I am a slow learner)... and I am completely bewildered. I simply cannot find the piece. Perhaps my development stopped with Prokofiev and Bartok or, to be more cogent, with your First Sonata. Perhaps in pursuing my career through the virtuosos repertoire, I lost touch with "what's happening", & perhaps I am a hopeless square and a reactionary, but this is simply not my language. I listened to the tape of the sonata and, as if to confirm that I am indeed a reactionary, I fell in love all over again with the first three movements, and did not dig the fourth at all. In fact, I shall do what I wanted to do long ago and program the work for several recitals next season including some in the Los Angeles area. Preferably, if you permit it in the original form, without the 4th movement.

I cannot, however, see my way clear to performing the concerto. I am sure it is a good work, because I have all the respect and admiration in the world for the talent that produced the Sonata, and I know that if I don't understand its latest mutation only my inadequacy is to blame. But I cannot, with all the good will in the world, and notwithstanding the acutely gnawing sense of obligation, permit myself to make a statement in a language I don't understand. I hope you will understand - and forgive me.

cc: Mr. Henri Temianke