

11-15-1972

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bernheimer)

Martin Bernheimer

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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, Martin Bernheimer, November 15, 1972, newspaper, chamber music, recreation and entertainment, culture, camaraderie, virtuosity in musical performance, music critics, orchestra, concerts, soloist, violinist, recordings

Los Angeles Times

November 15, 1972

Mr. Henri Temianka
2915 Patricia Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90064

Dear Henri:

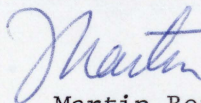
I am appalled by your letter of November 12 because it confirms my long-standing fear that your organization is either unconcerned or ill-informed regarding the scholarly niceties of Baroque performance practice.

A decent critic who writes on this subject does not consult a printed score for clues regarding embellishment -- the ornamentation in Bach's day, after all, was improvised by the performer and not indicated by the composer. (The Baroque score functioned merely as a blue print.) Nor does the enlightened critic necessarily go to recordings for his standards of reference -- some very famous performers have recorded some ghastly stylistic blunders.

Reputable musicologists -- and, I would have thought conscientious performers -- are better advised to consult history books, contemporary treatises -- perhaps even the specialists at university music departments -- when they deal with such matters.*

The remark about "telephoning in the continuo" was, in my opinion, a wholly permissible and good-natured bit of humor in what was essentially a favorable review.

Sincerely,



Martin Bernheimer
Music Critic

MB:ms

cc: Wayne Warga
Daniel Cariaga

** (In the case of the Bach concert, at least
cadential trills and appoggiaturas.)*