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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (catlin)

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

Henri Temianka, Dan Catlin, December 24, 1981, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, marriage, education, children, family, medical personnel, husband, wife, marriage, orchestra, legal matters, music critics, literature, concert tour, Yehudi Menuhin, Harry Truman

December 24, 1981

Mr. Dan Catlin
RR #2 Box 148
Stone Hill Road
Pound Ridge, New York 10576

Dear Dan:

The best time to answer a letter is immediately, particularly when it is as welcome a letter as yours. First of all, my congratulations on your doctoral degree and all the other good news about Dundeen and the boys. I know all about children growing up. Our older son Dan, 33, physician, director of a clinic, has an adorable wife, an adorable baby girl 14 months old and a house in Palos Verdes. Our younger son David Ivan, 24, has a T.A.'ship at UCLA in television and is all over the map. He has his own abode, and so Emmy and I have the big house and studio all to ourselves. Emmy sculps, and your old friend Henri recently celebrated his 75th birthday with considerable fanfare.

I am more active than ever, with my orchestra, violin, teaching, lecturing and writing when I can find a moment. David McKay skunked me badly a few years ago, when it suddenly transpired that not a single copy was left of the second edition of my book, and it became necessary to seek legal advice before I was able to acquire the rights to my own book and the "typography". I was guided by Melvin Nimmer, professor of copyright law at UCLA, said to be the leading expert on these matters. Both he and my own lawyer advised against taking legal action, which could have cost a fortune and dragged on for years. In any event, the book was reissued in paperback, and I am sending you a copy. It does not, of course, compare with the lavish hard cover edition, but it is receiving good promotion and is doing well. I am sending you a copy.

Early this year Harold Schonberg, music critic of the New York Times, announced that he was publishing a book this spring under the title of "Facing the Music". I promptly wrote him a friendly letter, enclosing the

rave review that had appeared in his own New York Times book review about my book, sent him an inscribed complimentary copy, and also evidence of the national promotional campaign my new publisher was engaged in. All to no avail! Mr. Schonberg, after acknowledging my letter, proceeded to publish his book just the same under my title, and again, my legal experts tell me that to sue him would be frustrating, prohibitively expensive, and endlessly time consuming. They say that while the book itself is protected by copyright, the title is not, and that one would have to prove damages.

My final aggravation as an author consists in the fact that I have completed a textbook on music history, under contract to Alfred, and having finished it, am now informed that they have suffered such losses in their textbook division that they have discontinued it. Now I must submit it to another publisher, but I am so swamped by my concert activities, that I simply don't know where to find the time to review the enormous amount of material before taking any further steps.

I hope I do not sound frustrated, because I really am not, just busy and happy. As an interesting sidelight, when a chapter was submitted for review to a college professor in the east, one of his chief criticisms was that I ought not to mention such esoteric names as Harry Truman in my text, because most of the students hadn't the foggiest notion who he was! If that is truly an indication of the present state of college education, I may have to reduce the whole text to one syllable words.

My trips to the east are always rushed. I spent a week conducting in Toronto last month, and may be in New York when I return from Paris in June after serving on the jury of the International Violin Competition at the invitation of the City of Paris and Yehudi Menuhin.

This is of course a very sketchy, incomplete description of my life here. More at another time. I wish you would come and visit us in Los Angeles.

I shall always have cherished memories of our association, and remain eternally grateful for your dedicated support and labor while we brought forth the book.

With affectionate regard and good wishes for the new year to you, Dundeen and the children.

Yours always,

HENRI TEMIANKA

HT/gv