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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (colbert)

Ann Colbert

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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, Ann Colbert, March 11, 1975, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, Jean Pierre Rampal, orchestra, concert tour, newspaper, Marilyn Horne, money, funds, soloist, rehearsal, radio

March 11, 1975

Mrs. Ann Colbert
c/o Colbert Artists Management, Inc.
111 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mrs. Colbert:

Because of the high esteem in which I have held you for so many years, the thought has occurred to me that you are perhaps not being kept informed of some of the current business practices of your firm.

On March 24 Jean Pierre Rampal will be appearing with the California Chamber Symphony in his fourth consecutive annual engagement. I believe we were the first to present him with orchestra in Los Angeles. Confident both of the ethics and business acumen of your management, we never thought it necessary to insert a contractual clause guaranteeing that Mr. Rampal would make no other appearances in Los Angeles during the month preceding and following his concert with us.

It was therefore a great shock to us when we suddenly discovered, through an advertisement that appeared in the Los Angeles Times, that Rampal was booked to make two additional appearances in downtown Los Angeles, one only two days following his concert with us, the other four weeks beforehand. I immediately telephoned Miss Eisenberger to express my deep concern, but encountered nothing but uncomprehending, unsympathetic silence at the other end of the long distance line.

Alas, my fears were only too well founded. Rampal's recital at the Wilshire Ebell last February 24 was a disaster. The hall was three-fourths empty, which the newspapers did not fail to report. By glaring contrast, the same auditorium had been sold out the previous night for Marilyn Horn.

We are now forced to squander unbudgeted money on additional advertising in the hope of filling the hall for Rampal's appearance with us. All our other concerts this season have been sold out, but none of the soloists were placed in a position of competing against themselves. We are particularly shocked by the fact that your firm did not even have the courtesy to inform us of Rampal's other appearances and, in fact, acted quite deviously in keeping the information from us. Also, in contrast to previous years, Rampal this time only arrives the night before the concert, placing us at a double disadvantage in that there is neither time for adequate rehearsal, nor for radio interviews to help promote the concert. I fully appreciate the fact that you want to make Rampal's concert tour as profitable as possible, but I frankly don't believe that this kind of hectic scheduling serves your artists' best, long term interests.

*Yours sincerely,
H.P.*