

11-7-1983

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (colburn)

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, Richard Colburn, November 7, 1983, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, pianist, Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann, Israel Baker, funds, money, concert tour, telephone

mailed 11/9

November 7, 1983

Mr. Richard Colburn
1120 La Collina
Beverly Hills, California 90210

My Dear Dick,

The doubts which I expressed concerning Brian Leonard in my letter to you of October 25 have unfortunately been substantiated far too soon. As artistic director of the Chamber Music at the Taper series, I authorized pianist Brooks Smith, whom I greatly respect, to choose his partners for the opening program on Sunday November 13, consisting of the Brahms B Major Trio and the Schumann Piano Quintet. He invited Israel Baker as first violin, who in turn expressed his preference for Brian as second violin in the Schumann.

I gave my approval for these arrangements and letters of agreement were sent to all performers, each receiving the same honorarium (enclosed is Brian's contract with his signature).

A few days later, Baker notified Brooks that a severe cold and pressures of another concert engagement forced him to withdraw, and later left a message to that effect on my telephone machine. I contacted Brooks, and after consultation with him, engaged Yukiko Kamei to replace Israel Baker. I promptly tried to notify Brian, but was only able to leave a message.

At the end of the day, Brian returned my call, informing me that, without consulting me, he had decided to play first violin and engaged Iris Trebacz to play second in the Schumann. I advised Brian of the different arrangements I had made. He acquiesced.

The next night he called to cancel his lesson scheduled for Friday, (he had had one lesson the previous Friday) and announced his decision to discontinue his studies with me. The conversation was extremely brief, and I did not mention the concert, as I took it for granted that Brian would honor the signed contract.

Mr. Richard Colburn
November 7, 1983
Page 2

I was mistaken. Brooks Smith telephoned me Friday to inform me that he had received a call from Brian, "flatly stating" (Brooks' words) that he would not participate in the concert. Brian never notified me. His cancellation came so late that we were unable to delete his name from the press releases or house program being printed.

This is the third time, in as many years, that I have had this kind of experience with Brian. Last year he simply did not show up for the morning dress rehearsal and concert that same afternoon.

I regret to have to give you this disappointing report, after all your efforts.

Yours cordially,

Henri Temianka

HT:sj