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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (darms)

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, Edward Darms, January 19, 1963, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, David Oistrakh, orchestras, education, money, funds

Personal address:
2915 Patricia Avenue
Los Angeles 64, Calif.

January 19, 1963

Mr. Edward Darms
The Ford Foundation
477 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Darms,

I believe that you and your associates may be interested in the progress we have made in a program we initiated in Los Angeles two years ago. We began by founding a chamber symphony, where there had been none on the West Coast. Its quality may be gauged from the enclosed tribute by David Oistrakh after his recent appearance with us.

Because of your interest in music you are undoubtedly aware that, although there are a number of small baroque ensembles here and abroad, full chamber symphony orchestras are exceedingly rare. As a result, the extensive and magnificent chamber symphony repertoire remains unplayed, unexplored. I feel that here is an enormous challenge and need.

But all this is only the first phase in a much bigger cultural and educational project. Using the orchestra to carry out this project, we are presenting this season, in cooperation with the Committee on Fine Arts Productions at the University of California, Los Angeles:

1. An adult subscription series with commentary.
2. Special student concerts with commentary, offered free to students from all universities and colleges in the Los Angeles area.
3. A children's series with commentary.
4. A full hour TV program presented by KNBC as a public service.

The enclosed announcement of the current adult series will give you an idea of the caliber of our programs.

We also have made a beginning toward expanding these programs to include colleges and communities in the general Southern California area. Many of these colleges and communities have neither the budget nor a stage large enough to present a full symphony. For them the existence of a chamber symphony becomes an important cultural and educational asset, available not only for pure concert presentations but also for opera productions and the like.

We are offering an award of \$1000 for the writing of a new chamber symphony work. I know that you have given much encouragement by commissioning new works for full orchestra, but we believe that American composers should also write for chamber orchestra and that these works should be performed.

All our accomplishments to date have been made possible through the enthusiastic support of large audiences plus the aid of public spirited citizens who have joined together in a non-profit corporation, the California Fund for Music, which sponsors our activities, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

We urgently need more aid. The two special educational concerts for the students were made possible through grants from the University of California and the Recording Industries Trust Fund. If we are to continue giving these concerts and make them available to other colleges in the area, we shall have to find the funds.

The cost of the orchestra for our single TV program was met by a private donor. The public response to this program of great music and commentary, unmarred by commercials, was overwhelming. We wish we had the means to present more of these programs in a city like Los Angeles which at present has no educational television station.

We wish we had the means to record some of the great music we perform, which American recording companies leave untouched because of the all-controlling economic factor.

We of the California Fund for Music would be deeply grateful if we could obtain aid for one or more of our projects. I would appreciate an opportunity of discussing these matters with you, Neil McLowry, and others whom you may wish to include, during my visit to New York in February. Attached is a schedule of my availability in New York. Also, there will be a private screening of our videotape on Friday, February 8, 3:00 PM, at Educational Broadcasting Corporation, 1657 Broadway, to which I would be happy to invite you.

Yours cordially,

Henri Temianka, President