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10-13-1961

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bflesch)

Bertha Flesch

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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, Bertha Flesch, Carl Flesch, Sr., October 13, 1961, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, music education, Liesl Mengetti, death, marriage, wife, husband, Adolf Hitler, health and sickness

Mrs. CARL FLESCH
121 W. 72nd Street
New York 23, New York

10/13. '61.

Dear Henri,

I just received your letter and cannot tell you, how unhappy I am about Liesl's death. When I was in Los Angeles 4 years ago, I spent some exceedingly nice days with her and saw, how happily married she was. She made such a happy and "fulfilled" impression and it is hard to believe, that such a lovely and brilliant person has gone forever. So many memories as the old days came back to me, especially of Baden-Baden, when my husband told me to take care of the "morals" of the pupils, especially the girls. I had several serious talks about this subject with Liesl at the time and had to be quite stern with her, but she took it like a good trooper and we never had any misunderstanding. When I was in L.A. she was so nice to me and we really were happy to be together after so long a time. It is terrible for her husband, to whom I wrote immediately; I hope, he may find the strength to get through this horrible time, though nobody can really help him, except giving him friendship and sympathy. I know, what great friends you always were and for you it also means an extremely sad loss; so many memories are connected with her. Keep these memories; they will help you, when you get old (though this is still a long time off). I just live of memories, without being morbid. But, when one remembers something very intensely, it gets to be the present in one's mind, and this helps, when sometimes the living seems a bit rough! I certainly hope to see you in February, if I shall still be of this world; I shall be 80 next summer and I cannot say, that I feel very young. But, thank God! my memories are beautiful and they are the real meaning of my present life, which - without these - could be rather barren. I was in Europe for 3 months, saw Carl and his family and visited many of my old friends, of whom not so many are left any more. (Hitler could good care of that I spent some weeks at St. Gilgen near Salzburg with Carl and Ruth and we often went to Salzburg and saw and heard several wonderful performances.

As for myself, I am quite well, considering my age, but I am suffering rather severely from arthritis, which prevents me from doing as much as I should like to do, but all in all I have no right to complain and I have to be satisfied. I hope, you are all well and in good spirits. How is the quartet going? Are you getting along well with Stefan? He certainly is a nice fellow to work with and I hope to be able to hear your quartet when you will be in New-York. Last winter I could not come because of the dreadful snow, but let's hope, there won't be anything like that next time. All my best love to all of you, also to Stefan.

Always yours

Bertel Bent