

9-11-1943

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (gallagher)

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, Mercedes Gallagher, September 11, 1943, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, Yehudi Menuhin, music education, music critics, soloist, National Symphony Orchestra (Peru), concert tour, government, immigrants, husband, wife

1190 Green Street,
San Francisco, (9),
September 11, 1943

Mrs. Mercedes Gallagher de Parks,
Avenida Javier Prado 1690-Orrantia,
Lima, Peru.

Dear Mrs. Gallagher de Parks,

Many thanks for your letter of August 25th, which I have just received. I was greatly interested when my colleague, Yehudi Menuhin, spoke to me of the Academy of Music in Lima, and your plans to raise it to the level of a great national institution.

I am herewith enclosing some printed matter which will answer most of the questions contained in your letter. As to my linguistic ability, I speak fluent French, English, German and Dutch, and shall gladly take up Spanish in the event of my going to Peru.

I have never been in Spanish America, but I have played in Spain.

My wife, who was born in San Francisco, was very pleased to learn that the climate of Lima is so similar to that of this beautiful city. We have been married since the beginning of this year.

Now there are two matters which I must explain to you: The first is that I should place great value upon being able to continue my concert career, within reasonable limits. To this effect it would be necessary to have several months during the winter in which to concertize in the United States, and possibly in Europe after the war is over. I imagine that you would welcome an arrangement of this kind and that you would find many advantages in maintaining international relations through the director of your National Musical Academy. Similar conditions prevail at the leading conservatories in the United States, where the school year lasts only from seven to eight months. This makes it possible for these institutes to have artists of international reputation as directors and teachers.

The second matter is the following: At the present moment I am giving a great deal of my time to the war effort. I am connected with the Office of War Information in San Francisco. I realize that by going to Lima I could accomplish an even more useful task from the viewpoint of the good relations between our two continents. I have little doubt that the government of the United States would look with favor upon my going to Peru on a mission of such high artistic value and would relinquish me from my present obligations, provided the request were to be made by the Peruvian government. For your further information, I am a British subject, born in 1906. I have applied for final American citizenship papers, and may be a United States citizen soon.

Mr. Menuhin spoke very enthusiastically about Peru, and my wife and I should be delighted to live in Lima.

I shall look forward to receiving more detailed information from you concerning the proposed appointment and salary.