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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (gebauer)

Werner Gebauer

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (gebauer)

### 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, Werner Gebauer, April 15, 1967, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, orchestra, money, funds, David Oistrakh, Isaac Stern, concert tour, Yehudi Menuhin, Darius Milhaud, William Schuman, Roy Harris, music critics, newspaper, volunteer





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## CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

SPONSOR OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY  
HENRI TEMIANKA FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

April 15, 1967

TO OUR DISTINGUISHED BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OTHER OFFICERS OF  
THE CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

- May I ask for 3 minutes of your busy time ?

As in the case of a politically paid announcement, the views expressed in this letter are strictly my own and do not necessarily reflect those of anyone dedicated to the pursuits and aspirations of this Society.

I believe this Society to be at the cross-roads of important career developments and subsequent policy formulations.

Either we shall be satisfied with a "Da Camera" operation and organization (-and no pun intended), or we shall proceed in the conviction that this Society and the splendid orchestra it sponsors is by no means a temporary cultural catalyst, but it is here to stay!

If the latter should be our innermost conviction, it will become our collective obligation to work in concert toward the full realization of its multi-faceted potential.

It might be well to take inventory of those ingredients - pro and con - which will have a direct bearing on our future policies: a safely comfortable pursuit of the status quo, as opposed to the prospect of having to take certain calculated risks.

This Society may be justly proud of the professional pre-eminence of an impressive number of its supporters, in particular, among those of our members whom we are privileged to have on the Board of Trustees and on various strategic committees.

I dare say that the professional stature achieved by these ladies and gentlemen could have been hardly due to "playing it safe" at all times - nor could they have ever succeeded in their chosen field by virtue of unconvinced and unconvincing performances.



I hate to use the term "calculated risk"; to me, crossing a street, buying an automobile if I know nothing about cars -- these are calculated risks.

Fate is an element that is "uninsurable", or it is preordained - depending on our personal philosophy.

To deal with objects we know little or nothing about is something altogether different; to wit, Immanuel Kant: "Knowledge is of two kinds - something we know about, or something we find ways to learn about".

We have an awesome wealth of disciplined brain-power within our ranks. This Society also abides by a corporate structure which - like Cerberus - guards the hellgates of individual transgression and autonomous acts.

"I don't know too much about music -- but I immensely enjoy Henri's concerts and commentaries"; such is the fiber of many a well-meant summary I overheard members say --- which leaves the proverbial "escape-hatch" wide open!

When I spoke previously of TAKING INVENTORY of, among other things, our calibre of professionalism - what better source to quote from than the countless kudos, volunteered by artists and composers of universal renown: Oistrakh, Stern, Menuhin, Milhaud, William Schuman, Roy Harris, etc. etc.

None of them have personal gains to protect by acclaiming our California Chamber Symphony - nor are they obligated to give their fellow-artist, Henri Temianka, lip service!

The utterings of newspaper-critics -- if they condone or if they condemn performances and performers -- are, at best, constructive commentaries and will help us improve and refine our "product"; they are, at worst, personal or politically-inspired essays, designed to stunt the growth of an artistic endeavor. These critics may influence some fence-sitters to a change of heart but, in the long run, they have never, nor will they ever succeed in holding back the talented performer - provided, of course, that his mission is valid, genuine and inspired.

So much for our "product". But what about the Society which has assumed sponsorship of the product?

We are privileged to count many prestigious "names" on our Board and committees. Their terms of office are of two kinds:

- 1) active participation -
- 2) ... "in name, only" -

The above is neither intended to indict nor to condone an approach to holding office; after all, our Board and Committee-members generously



volunteer their good services-- often at a considerable time-sacrifice, taking them away from home and vocational demands.

While many of our esteemed Board members are stand-outs in their respective professions, and could and would undoubtedly administer the affairs of this Society FAR BETTER than I am capable of doing (IF they had nothing else to do but devote their energies and talents to Society-business)- their part-time, "labor-of-love" attendance to Board responsibilities necessitates the undivided attention of a business-catalyst.

All of which boils down to a Vote of Confidence for both "Product" and Administration.

The choice is yours- Ladies and Gentlemen; and your collective appraisal of purpose and goals for your Society will have a direct bearing on the scope of this organization's future.

We have TWO roads that we can travel:

- 1) a policy of "TO HAVE AND TO HOLD"- with little expectation of more than localized and possibly transient results-- in this case, you over-pay for my services.
- 2) to act commensurate with our belief that what we are is but a small portion of what we are capable of realizing from our "product".

In business, the end result is the Net Profit gained.

Ours is not a business- our "Net Profit" will result from striving for a cultural contribution of permanence- not to fashion a vehicle for the enjoyment of a select few.

This is not a "Moon-Shot" but- at least, to me- a logical progression, after having taken inventory of the manifold creative talents that I find around me!

Analogous to Business, to make money you have to spend money!

Should it be this Board's decision to endorse and prepare for an unrestricted future for this Society- (only modified by common-sense "watch dogging") then certain expenditures which I shall hope to justify to you at the forthcoming, combined Executive and Budget Committee meeting, will deserve your earnest consideration.

Be assured that my sole motivation for issuing this appeal is to persuade you to fully utilize my capabilities, and those of the orchestra you sponsor!



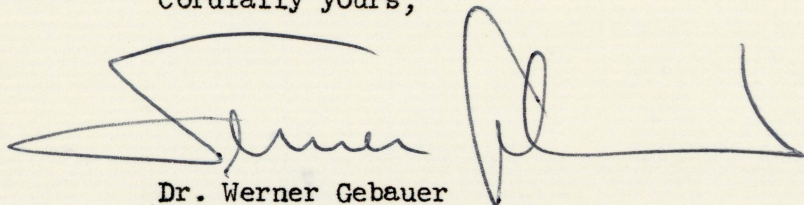
I am "SOLD" on this Society and on its potential!

As a former concert-artist myself, I profess to you an unbiased, critical admiration for Henri's superior talents and for the fine instrument he has brought into being.

To limit efforts of conductor and orchestra will be entirely due to obstacles our administration is unable to overcome; and not ever- let us be clear on that- limitations imposed by the abundant musical talent that is available to us!

I rest my case.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Werner Gebauer', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Werner Gebauer  
Vice President- Administration

WG:jc