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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (gelles)

George Gelles

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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, George Gelles, February 1, 1966, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, chamber music, instruments, Joseph Haydn, Musical meter and rhythm, Ludwig van Beethoven, audience

96 Richdale Avenue
Cambridge, Mass.
February 1, 1966

Dear Mr. Temianka,

In reply to several points in your letter, forwarded me by the Editor. First I am a performer, though my instrument is the horn. As to the musical questions you raise:

1. When I said "only the first of the bipartite variations was heard twice," I meant just that, that both halves were repeated. As I remember, in the succeeding variations only the first halves were repeated.

2. In "extra high B flat cum grace note," the word 'extra' is meant to indicate that the phrase structure of the passage is somehow effected by the 'extra' note. This, I believe, was made clear enough by references to the Haydnesque nature of the movement.

3. The "daringly slow" was in no way disparaging. Few quartets, as I'm sure you realize, are able to make the movement convincing at Webern's tempo indication, as you people did. If I remember correctly,

the MM. of 56 was pretty consistent throughout the movement, to the exclusion of other of Webern's indications. This added, for me, any 'daring' quality to the performance, and in no way detracted from the pleasure the movement gave.

Finally, the 'bit of blasphemy' was meant only to contradict the first of Beethoven's words, "Heiliger Dankgesang," certainly not to qualify the over-all reading.

Admittedly, my adjectives may have been on the dark side, and if this gave offense, I apologize. As I said early in the review, the group does give pleasure, and for this, of course, any listener is thankful. Hoping to hear you on your next trip East, I am

Yours truly,

George Gelles
George Gelles