

12-23-1957

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (golschmann)

Vladimir Golschmann

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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, Vladimir Golschmann, December 23, 1957, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, soloist, discontent, music critic, music education, audience, holiday, humour



SAINT LOUIS SYMPHONY SOCIETY
SAINT LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Vladimir Golschmann, Conductor

1176 Arcade Bldg. • Central 1-2137 • St. Louis 1, Mo.

December 23 1957

Cher ami:

Many many thanks for your article which I received to-day and just finished reading. It's truly a brilliant one. We do know that the problem you discuss is one that we all can discuss ad infinitum. Recently we had here a guest-conductor whose symphonic career was not too important and to whom a pair of concerts in St. Louis might mean a great deal. His soloist was Tschaikovsky who recently made his American debut. The regular critic sent ^{a new assistant} to review the concert, a sort of musicologist, a fellow who teaches something or something else here which is supposed to have something to do with music and the guy whose critical debut it was, started by showing the town that this could really be a town. That no New York was needed when it came to musical knowledge and brilliancy. Our musicocologologist started right of the bat by saying that Schumann's piano concerto was one of the worst ever written. He did not spare his words to substantiate his opinion. But he admitted that the Schumann's concerto was not as bad as the two Chopin did write and that these two were not as atrociously corny as the Liszt's ones. Etc. After that he practically dismissed the pianist and about the Brahms Symphony blessed the visiting conductor with some remarks about few passages which did not work the way he thought they should and ended: this is about all I have to complain about.

To add to his glory, the following Sunday, our local genius wrote about Beethoven and talking about genius explained at great length all the shortcomings of the poor fellow who wrote all the these and that we know about. He truly did not give Ludwig Van much to brag about.

Do not think that there were many complains or many people who cancelled their subscription. Only pianist and conductor went home not too cheerfully (I guess) as they are still young enough to take very seriously the comics.

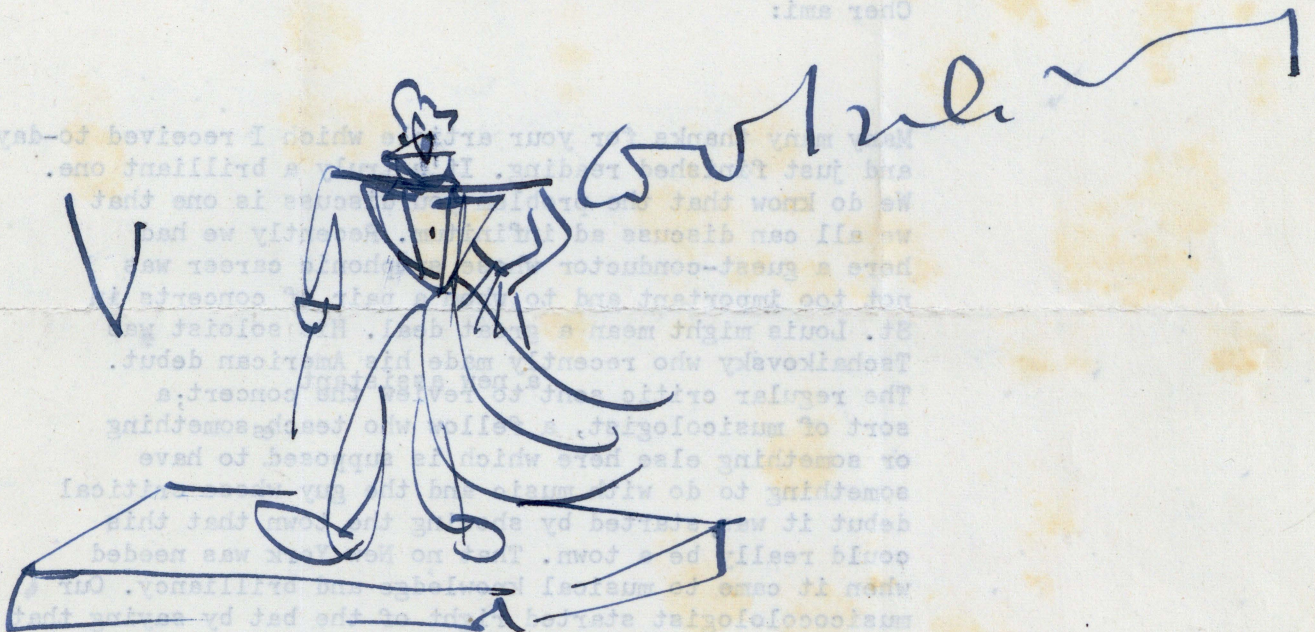
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Seriously: if the general rule of criticism would only be:
Say what the hell you want to say but at least end by saying
(when this is the case): I hated it all but the public loved it and
So and So got cheers from the audience.

Oh! what's the hell. But your article is a darned clever
and fine one.

Again thanks and from both of us warmest wishes for a
wonderful New Year.

Votre vieil ami



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