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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (doistrakh)

David Oistrakh

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Emmy Temianka

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[[Henri Temianka Correspondence David Oistrakh Letter #11]]

[[Page 1 – Postcard]]

[[Translation from Russian provided by donor.]]

Riga, 15 - VIII - 63.

My dear friend Henri,

I am writing to you from Riga, where I am presently performing several concerts as conductor and soloist. The recordings in London, about which you are writing in your letter and because of which you are now in contact with Yehudi Menuhin, would have been extremely pleasant to make, and one cannot imagine a better company for that than collaboration with you and Menuhin. However, besides obvious attractiveness of this venture, there are some great difficulties in its undertaking. Firstly, the schedule of Igor's and my own performances during our entire stay in London is extremely overloaded. For instance: I am playing on the 19th and the 21st, Igor -- on the 23rd and 24th; we are performing together on the 25th, 26th and 29th, he alone on the 28th. In addition, there will be rehearsals as well as trips to Manchester and some other cities. It is hard to imagine, how we can combine all this with the recordings.

Secondly, for several months already, "Decca" has been negotiating with our London manager, Mr. Victor Hochhauser, about the possibility of recording Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with Igor and myself. This project is still in the air, because in order to go ahead with the recording, Mr. Hochhauser must first of all get a permission in principle from our organizations in Moscow.

Thirdly, I know that "Everest" is quite a distinguished record label, but Menuhin clearly had in mind making this recording with "EMI," which has been his record company for years and where I made many of my records as well. As you can see, there are still many serious problems here, including complete lack of time for the rehearsals.

In my letter to Yehudi I asked him to discuss with Mr. Hochhauser any real possibilities, if they exist at all. After that, but not before, Mr. Hochhauser will be able to request a formal permission from our officials, with whom he keeps constantly in touch. Thus, I am unable to give you any kind of definite answer at the present time, since the situation right now is rather complicated even for myself.

As a favor for me, Henri, I am asking you to please relay the contents of this letter to Mr. Bernard Solomon of "Everest," because I forgot his letter in Moscow and therefore am unable to answer him directly. In any case, I shall certainly be delighted to see you in London and later, in January, in Los Angeles. Warmest regards from our entire family to your darling Emmy and all yours.

Sincerely yours,

David