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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lees)

Benjamin Lees

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Keywords

Henri Temianka, Benjamin Lees, August 12, 1970, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, family, recreation and entertainment, Chamber Symphony Society of California, music education

Benjamin Lees
28 Cambridge Road, Great Neck, New York 11023

August 12, 1970

Dear Henri:

I hope you and the family have been well and that life goes along smoothly and pleasantly on Patricia Avenue. Is your chamber orchestra still functioning?

It was so good to see you in January on the occasion of the Mehta-Graffman concert. That event seems quite in the past now, what with new works in the offing and the coming season practically at hand. It promises to be a good one. The Concerto For String Quartet & Orchestra is being played by The Philadelphia Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra; Oboe Concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Pro Arte Symphony; 3rd Symphony with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Kansas City Philharmonic.

I remember your fine gesture in speaking to the chairman of the music department at Long Beach last winter. With that in mind, I would like to ask you if it might not be possible to speak with him again with an eye toward the 1971-72 semester. Secondly, if you have any close relationship with Walter Rubsamen at U.C.L.A. could you manage to query him about openings there for the same semester?

My reason for broaching this to you is that Lea and I have long been considering the merits and demerits of residing in New York any longer. It is not the same city we once knew, nor am I convinced that it is the end-all and be-all in this day and age. I don't think my career would suffer if we were to move to Los Angeles, as telephones still function and jet planes fly east hour after hour. It is a dubious pleasure to chop ice and shovel snow if one doesn't have to - and I don't think we must any longer.

Anyway, I wrote a letter to Rubsamen on my own last week but, as I say, should you manage to speak with him this might lend a little more weight. In any case, you have my deepest thanks in advance for anything you can do

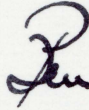
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- 2 -

with respect to all this. I am brilliant when it comes to speaking on someone else's behalf, but absolutely helpless in such situations for myself.

With warmest regards from all of us to all of you,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben".

Answered Aug. 27, 1970