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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lees)

Benjamin Lees

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4 Lees rec 10
62 Wooleys Lane
Great Neck, New York

July 15, 1965

Mr. Henri Temianka
2915 Patricia Avenue
Los Angeles 64, California

Dear Henri,

Many thanks for your lovely letter, and the copy of Goldberg's article plus your letter to him. I am glad that all went well at Asilomar, and am sorry that it was impossible for me to attend. Eh bien, c'est la vie.

If I could play the violin I'd accept your offer to fill the second violin vacancy. How about being a composer-in-residence for the Paganini Quartet? You could become a latter-day Rasumofsky, though it is doubtful if I would be transformed into a latter-day Beethoven.

Your letter to Goldberg was excellent - direct, honest and to the point. It will be interesting to see if he prints it, or portions thereof in the L.A. Times. Let me correct you on one point - it is not the Cleveland Orchestra, but the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra that will play the Concerto.

With all the performances of this work in the offing, I am still entertaining a faint hope that it can be played with the L.A. Philharmonic, or some other major orchestra on the West Coast. It is curious that my works are played by the major orchestras in the East, with many a performance ever in California. If you have the opportunity of seeing Mehta perhaps you might wish to broach the subject of the Concerto with him. As I explained to you in Kansas City, he has never replied to any of my letters, and I refuse to approach him again. Perhaps you will have better luck by speaking to him yourself.

Everything is bristling with activity on this end. The new 3rd Symphony is taking shape steadily and, while writing this with one hand, I am engaged in composing the 2nd Piano Concerto with the other. Both works have extremely tight deadlines, but that's an old story. In between work Lea, Janet and I take time out for an hour or two of swimming in the late afternoon, followed by a barbecue dinner in the back yard.

I don't know when we'll be seeing each other this autumn, but trust that you will be in New York with the Quartet this winter, at which time we can certainly have a reunion. All I can say is that it was wonderful being with you in Kansas City, and I look forward to seeing you again on your next trip out this way.

Many thanks once more for your letter to Goldberg. It was a fine gesture on your part and I am more than grateful for what you had to say.

Warmest regards from all of us to all of you.

Cordially,

Lea (LEES)