

5-1-1959

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lowry)

Henri Temianka

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/temianka_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Temianka, Henri, "Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lowry)" (1959). *Henri Temianka Correspondence*. 1329.

https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/temianka_correspondence/1329

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Henri Temianka Archives at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Henri Temianka Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lowry)

Keywords

Henri Temianka, W. McNeil Lowry, May 1, 1959, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, money, funds, camaraderie, children, music education, recreation and entertainment

1 May 1959

Mr. W. McNeil Lowry, Director
Program in Humanities and the Arts
The Ford Foundation
477 Madison Avenue
New York 22, New York

Dear Mr. Lowry:

Many thanks for your letter of April 22nd. I have indeed enjoyed our recent sessions in your office. Since their conclusion, I have been stimulated to do a great deal of further thinking. In particular am I struck by the need to study two possible developments in our musical situation that were not discussed at our meetings. Both deal with the musical climate in which the whole new generation is growing up, not just a small corps of professional musicians. Ten and fifteen years from now, today's young people will be the ones to support or fail to support our symphonies, operas, and chamber music. They will be the ones to insist or fail to insist on higher cultural standards in our radio and television programs. Is the Humanities and Arts Program prepared to support existing efforts and initiative in this direction?

Here are two possibilities which I would like to outline:

1. Concerts for Youth. As a local example, I will cite Concerts for Youth, Inc., which I founded last year because of the desperate necessity of filling an existing void. Its opening concert of this year's spring series occurred last Saturday, April 25th, and featured Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, with Peter Ustinov as narrator. The El Rodeo school auditorium, in which the concert was given, seats 695 and the children paid \$1.25 each for their seats. Although the concert was given in duplicate, we cannot cover our costs, which include a fifty piece professional orchestra. The deficit is being covered by fund-raising efforts among the local citizenry.

Were we able to repeat this performance in a dozen schools in the Los Angeles County area, a great deal more good could be done and the average cost per concert would be reduced. At present our efforts are limited by our means, despite much hard and devoted volunteer work.

2. String Quartets in Residence. A few universities (University of California at Berkeley, Indiana, Redlands) have string quartets in permanent residence. I shall list the four important objectives achieved under this arrangement:

- a.) Needed minimum security and peace of mind for the string quartet organization, enabling it to devote itself to its art, without need for commercial diversions.
- b.) Leisure to study and perform new works by American composers, and to advise and cooperate closely with the composer engaged in the process of creating a new work.
- c.) The development of a musical climate in which the entire student body, the faculty, and even the townspeople share, with constant and frequent opportunities to hear the greatest music of the present and past performed in an environment conducive to deeper understanding and appreciation.
- d.) The creation of a center for string study, meaning violin, viola, and cello, all of which are represented in a string quartet.

As I have stated in our conferences, the art of string playing is declining critically. If our major orchestras are to survive, the creation of additional centers for string study is vitally necessary.

The recent appointment of a quartet at Redlands was only possible through private generosity. I believe that if a grant could be made for a project of this kind, a genuine need would be met, and many universities would respond with enthusiasm.

Mr. D'Arms has undoubtedly shared with you a paper which I gave him at the conclusion of our conferences.

Mr. W. McNeil Lowry

1 May 1959

Page 3

This paper points to a different approach to the chamber music situation. I have made a few changes in it, and have for this reason enclosed herewith another copy for your perusal.

Please do not hesitate to call on me at any time if you feel that I can be of any further service to the Program in Humanities and the Arts. May I add that it was a great pleasure to spend these many stimulating hours with you personally in New York.

With kind regards,

Yours cordially,

Henri Temianka

HT:fw
Enclosure

BCC: Dr. Robert M. Hutchins