

11-15-1972

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (menuhin)

Yehudi Menuhin

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

Recommended Citation

Menuhin, Yehudi, "Henri Temianka Correspondence; (menuhin)" (1972). *Henri Temianka Correspondence*. 1446.
https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/temianka_correspondence/1446

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; (menuhin)

Keywords

Henri Temianka, Yehudi Menuhin, November 15, 1972, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, humor

*2. The Grove,
Highgate Village,
London, N.6.*

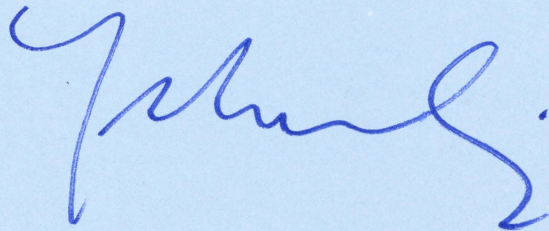
15th November, 1972.

Dear Henri,

I spent the night on the sleeper back from Liverpool with your most interesting and entertaining autobiography.

Enclosed is my Foreword which I hope will not let down too much the tone of the book.

With all best wishes to you both,



Yehudi Menuhin

Mr. Henri Temianka,
2915 Patricia Avenue,
Los Angeles, Cal. 90064, U.S.A.

PREFACE TO HENRI TEMIANKA'S "VIRTUOSO"

BY YEHUDI MENUHIN.

George Bernard Shaw maintained that as no-one could be bothered to read prefaces, these should be strategically placed at the end of the book (although for what reason he imagined the reader reader to apply himself after digesting what the author had to say rather than before, I do not know). As he was referring to his own prefaces for his own works, it may have been a token of his notorious self-esteem that he could not imagine anyone having enjoyed his brilliance and his genius possibly denying himself the guaranteed pleasure of a few more pages of the same literary gems.

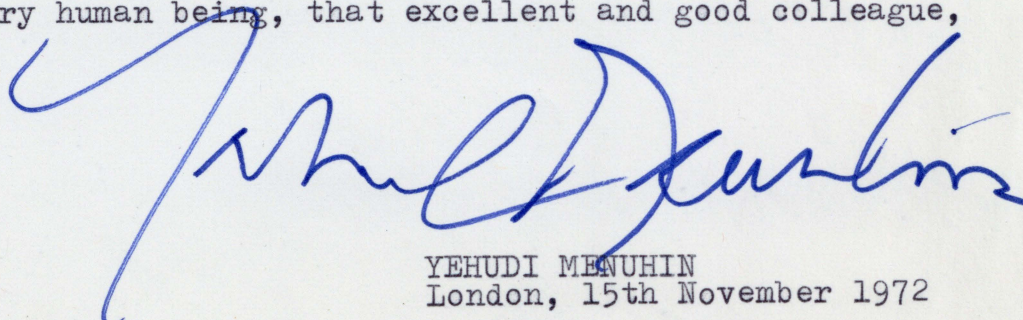
Be that as it may, I myself can offer no especial bonus to this entertaining and fascinating account of a violin virtuoso's life, but what I can do is to recommend it most heartily, for albeit the author insists that I myself sprang like a male Minerva, fully armed, from Zeus' head, thereby inferring that I would be thus disqualified from recognising the agonies and anguishes of that long painful ascent that is a career, nonetheless I can not only recognise the ring of authenticity, but avail myself of the opportunity to assure him that the reading of those early years filled me with a mixture of envy and admiration - envy for the lessons learned and the skills developed along a slower path than mine, as well as the quality of those climactic changes from disappointments to happy surprises;

and admiration for the fortitude and resilience he was called upon to show again and again.

Yet I can assure him that I do know some of those rock-strewn paths, hazards that are the easier to overcome the earlier they are met, and that I am by now qualified, not simply by the empathy of one violinist for another, but by having tried to compensate for my early good fortune by deliberately clambering down the mountainside now and again, whatever the risks involved, to teach myself what it is composed of geologically and to get my bearings from all possible angles!

It was foolhardy, but I know now how worthwhile and I am doubly supported in my convictions on having read Henri's frank, witty and so human book.

Certainly no broader public career could be brought to the attention of our reading and musical public, in that it concerns a born and cultivated violinist who has followed his chosen instrument into the most varied manifestation of its many incarnations. For he is at the same time the dashing, dazzling virtuoso, the dedicated and selfless chamber music leader and partner, the patient and able teacher, the distinguished and effective orchestra conductor, and finally he is that lively, brilliant and very human being, that excellent and good colleague, Henri Temianka.



YEHUDI MENUHIN
London, 15th November 1972