

6-24-1986

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (menuhin)

Henri Temianka

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Temianka, Henri, "Henri Temianka Correspondence; (menuhin)" (1986). *Henri Temianka Correspondence*. 1469.
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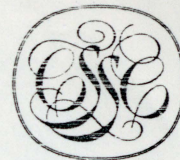
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Keywords

Henri Temianka, Yehudi Menuhin, June 24, 1986, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, recreation and entertainment, California Chamber Symphony Society, money, funds, music education, husband, wife, Emmy Temianka, discontent, health and sickness, Helen Dowling, Viola, celebration

June 24, 1986

Sir Yehudi Menuhin
Mykonos
GREECE



CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

SPONSOR OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY
HENRI TEMIANKA FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

My dear Yehudi:

Our last communication was on May 22, when I gave my final Master Class at the Yehudi Menuhin School, and your driver handed me an envelope containing a check for \$2000 and a printed slip with your compliments, which I hereby belatedly acknowledge. I trust Helen Dowling conveyed our message of regrets when we were unable to attend your concert on May 28, due to severe colds and the impending long flight to Los Angeles the next morning.

I enormously enjoyed the eight stimulating days spent at your school, surrounded by some of the brightest and most talented students I have known anywhere. What you have created is unique, and a monument to your vision. For I have found in no other school the concept, and the implementation of that concept, whereby young people are given such loving and enlightened guidance, towards becoming both complete musicians and civilized human beings.

Among the many features I admired were the equal emphasis on solo playing, chamber music and orchestra; the esprit de corps so very evident in the fact that everyone took turns in leading and supporting roles; the ease with which many played the viola as well as the violin; and the rare combination of easy courtesy and exuberant joy in music making. The Norrises have my special admiration for the dedication they bring to your project.

I must now address myself to another aspect of my visit, mindful of the French saying, "Les bons comptes font les bons amis." When you took the initiative in inviting me, I accepted with enthusiasm, taking it for granted, as you did at that time, that my expenses would be met by your school's Foundation, not by you personally. When I phoned to congratulate you on your birthday, you, for the first time, mentioned the problem that had arisen. I immediately agreed to a compromise. There is no need to go into tedious detail. You, the world's most experienced traveler, know that the total payment of \$2000 which I received merely constituted reimbursement for my American plane fares and some of my expenses while in England.

I would not mention any of this, except that your zealously devoted assistants on both sides of the ocean appear to labor under the impression that I have been engaged in a Machiavellian scheme to rob you of your life's savings. I wish they would realize that, even if I were half my age, flying halfway around the world to donate my services is not nothing.

Compared to your many acts of generosity in the course of our long friendship, what I did was little enough, and I feel amply rewarded by the beautiful experience at your school.

With affectionate regards to you and Diana from Emmy and myself,

Yours ever,

Henri