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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (serkin)

Henri Temianka

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CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

SPONSOR OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY
HENRI TEMIANKA FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

September 24, 1974

Mr. Rudolf Serkin, Director
The Curtis Institute of Music
Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Dear Rudi,

In all candor, I must register my disappointment upon reading the announcement of the musical program to celebrate The Curtis Institute's Golden Anniversary. Surely, this should have been the time to feature those alumni whose careers reflect and illustrate the achievements and history of The Curtis Institute, and honor the memory of its altruistic, far-sighted founder.

Of all the violin students taught at The Curtis Institute in the Twenties by the now legendary Carl Flesch, I am the only one remaining fully and visibly active, as a concert violinist, conductor, author, and educator. You, as a life-long friend, are not unaware of this. Any doubts can be laid to rest by consulting current reference books, from Who's Who to Groves, in all of which I am listed; or the Schwann catalogue featuring my recent recordings; or the National Endowment for the Arts, which has accorded me three annual grants for my current activities as the founder and director of the California Chamber Symphony. I am lecturer at U.C.L.A., visiting professor at Brigham Young University, and an editor of The Instrumentalist magazine. Columbia Artists Management is scheduling an extensive tour with my orchestra next season. In my book, Facing the Music, published last year by David McKay in New York and now being translated into German, I wrote at length about my studies at The Curtis Institute, where I had close personal associations with Carl Flesch, Josef Hofmann, Mrs. Bok (later Mrs. Zimbalist), Grace Spofford, and Arthur Rodzinski, with whom I studied conducting. My extensive collection of letters from these wonderful people, who presided at the birth of The Curtis Institute, is one of my treasured possessions.

Considering all this, I am amazed to be asked only to attend the celebration as an onlooker, while others who have had little or no association with The Curtis Institute are invited to play a leading role in the Golden Anniversary Concert Series.

With fond, nostalgic, and grateful memories of The Curtis Institute I knew, and with all good wishes for its continuing glory,

Yours Cordially,

Henri Temianka

Cc: John deLancie