

10-22-1960

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (hstevens)

Halsey Stevens

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Stevens, Halsey, "Henri Temianka Correspondence; (hstevens)" (1960). *Henri Temianka Correspondence*. 1933.

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Keywords

Henri Temianka, Halsey Stevens, October 22, 1960, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, books, literature

809 Whitney avenue
New Haven 11, Connecticut
22 October 1960

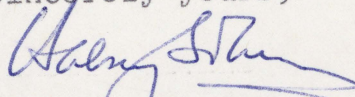
Dear Mr. Temianka:

So far as I am aware, Bartók made no stipulation as to the specific number of players required for the Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta. It was written, as you know, for the Basler Kammerorchester, and a part of the correspondence with Paul Sacher regarding the work has been published in a book called Alte und neue Musik, an account of the first 25 years of the orchestra. My copy was stored with my other impedimenta in Los Angeles, but there may be copies in one or more of the libraries. It might interest you to see whether there was any discussion of the size of the performing group at the time of its première.

You might also write Dr. Sacher, at Schönenberg, Pratteln (Basel), Switzerland, for his understanding of the matter. My own impression is that the balance would be precarious with only a double quintet; surely the violins should be doubled or (preferably) tripled, the violas doubled. Conceivably a single cello and double-bass in each group would be sufficient. I do not feel that the work calls for a full string orchestra, however; the celesta, among others, tends to be smothered by too many strings.

If I am in New Haven at the time of your concert (which is between semesters) I shall hope to see you.

Sincerely yours,


Halsey Stevens

HS:s

The enclosed brochure is just off the press and may interest you.