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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (wicks)

Camilla Wicks

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Description

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

Keywords

Henri Temianka, Camilla Wicks, January 12, 1948, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, Aukra (Norway), music rehearsals, music recordings, discontent, money, funds, father, daughter, family, husband, wife, Emmy Temianka, bad weather

Aukra p. Molde
January 12, 1948

Dear Mr. Tevianuka

What a long time it has been since I have written to you! I am sorry I have not sent a letter sooner.

So far I have had 45 concerts here in Europe! And on the 30th of January the marathon begins again with an appearance with the big Stockholm orchestra. (Mozart A+ and Poeme of Chausson) A week later a recital there, and then concerts in Malmo (orchestra) Göteborg (orchestra) Amsterdam, The Hague, Paris (!), Denmark, another in Helsinki, and of course millions more in Norway. If I hold out that long we will return on the Stavanger-fjord May 11th!

I have made four recordings for a company here and in Stockholm (Estrellita, Borodin Serenade, Ave Maria, a Slavonic Dance & minor Dvorak) and now before we go to Stockholm I will make four more - Jamaican Rumba, Zoltarelle-Wieniawski, De Falla Spanish Dance, and one other. I am not completely

Satisfied with the first four as I made them in one afternoon, and also my hands were tired after playing the Paganini Concerto and Samuel Cadenzas with the Oslo Philharmonic the night before. They will pass, however, as my first professionals, and my next will be better. The Company was extremely satisfied.

I loved my first visit to Finland. The first concert was the Sibelius concerto with the Helsinki Radio Orchestra, and as it was broadcast, Sibelius listened in, and next morning called the impresario to congratulate me! Later in the week I was allowed to visit him at his home, and stayed a whole hour, as he seemed to enjoy himself. You can imagine how proud I was! He is such a wonderful man.

Next day after the Sibelius concert I gave my own recital, and was very surprised to find myself getting an ovation. 25 curtain calls after the concert - 5 extra numbers - and at last I must go out and shake hands with the huge crowd clustered around the stage! The lights were turned out after about 15 curtains, so the last ten were taken in the pitch dark - only shadows were visible! I was happy to be such a success there in Helsinki. I gave 5 other concerts in cities over Finland, and everywhere we met

with friendly, lovely people. I
am anxious to go back to that
wonderful land!

Norway has given me some
good experience in the way of
barn storming hardships - too hot
and damp air, or icy cold winds
sweeping across the stage or bad
pianos sometimes even nearly a
half tone low (even after writing
and insisting on 440), playing when
I am sick, and many other
equally difficult obstacles. I think
it has helped my playing. But I
feel that I need a period of quiet
work again before I am completely
ready. I have just realized how
little I know of the violin
repertory - none of the Bach piano &
violin Sonatas - only a few Mozart &
Beethoven Sonatas, none of the Bach
concertos, and I must learn the
Katchaturian, Carl Nielsen (Danish)
Stravinsky, and other equally important
concertos - oh and the Prokofiev 1st.
And I am still afraid to play the
Tchaikovsky concerto. But anyway,
I am advancing. That is a comfort.
The only trouble is the lack of time.
When I prepare a work now, I must

do it quickly and try to beat time
on having it ready to play - in tune,
up to tempo, and letter-perfect. But as
for studying it - that is impossible.

X Shall you be staying in Hollywood
next summer? I would like very much
some help from you if that is
possible. We shall be in Song Beach
again, but only because Daddy knows
the real estate business there and
we need money. I hope we can
soon live somewhere else. It is such
an uninteresting city, but at least it
has the ocean.

I have without fail (except in
Sillkhamer, where the critic was the
piano tuner, I argued with because
of the 435 piano) gotten excellent
write ups - most of the time "raves".
I really don't understand how I can
fool all the critics all the time. It's
fun though! Reminded me to tell you
about the funny criticism the angry
piano tuner wrote.

Am now busy learning the Prokofiev
Sonata opus 94. Beautiful thing. And I
have some excellent music from Norwegian
composers. Modern and fine. It will
be interesting to play it in America.

Thank you for suggesting the Bartok
contest but as I was too busy at that time
I couldn't enter it. Please give our greetings
to Mrs. Teneba. Best wishes from us all. Yours
Miller

[[Nick Dante 8/30/18]]

[[Henri Temianka Correspondence
Camilla Wicks
Letter #3]]

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