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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lte)

Henri Temianka

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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, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, press, April 4, 1983, family, death, discontent

April 4, 1983

Letter to the Editor
LOS ANGELES TIMES
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA 90053

"A CONTINUING TALE OF REPRESSION"
(L.A. Times Editorial, April 4, 1983)

The savage methods long used by the Soviet regime to force prominent Jewish citizens to sign "anti-Zionist" denunciations were revealed to me by the great violinist David Oistrakh during one of his last visits to this country, about a decade ago. Deeply depressed, he told me that upon his return to Moscow he expected to be coerced into signing one of these infamous statements. When I expressed disbelief, he explained. First, he would be barred from travel abroad, and would be forced to give up all his activities, including his position at the Moscow conservatory because of "illness." He would, in short, become a non-person.

But these fears were minor compared to the possible consequences to his family, including his wife's sister and mother. When I asked him why he did not immigrate to the United States, he replied that he could not bear the thought of never seeing his little grandson again, and all the other members of his family.

David Oistrakh died within the next few years at the height of his noble career. There is no doubt in my mind that his last years were poisoned, and his death hastened, by the mental cruelty to which he was subjected.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Temianka

HT:sk