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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, camaraderie, press, February 5, 1975, Rene Kister

February 5, 1975

TIME MAGAZINE
Time & Life Building
Rockefeller Center
New York, N. Y. 10020

Attention: Editor

Dear Sir:

With reference to your claim that Artur Rubinstein is now 88 (TIME, February 10, 1975, Page 39), allow me to shed some additional confusion on this hotly debated issue. In a Rubinstein monograph published in 1956 by Rene Kister (Geneva), the writer, Bernard Gavoty, then music critic of the respected Paris Figaro, quotes Rubinstein directly and emphatically as follows (the next voice you will hear is that of Artur Rubinstein):

"But, how old do you think I am, my dear chap? Not as old as Riemann does, I hope! When I open that villainous dictionary I stifle with rage! He generously makes me sixty-nine years of age and I'm only sixty-six. Three years mean something, you know! Of course it was tempting to him to have me born at Lodz in 18~~86~~, in the same year that Liszt died at Bayreuth: that gave me honourable connections - but, very sorry! I was born in 1889, on the 28th January, one day after Mozart, whose birthday is the 27th. Oh, these legends!"
(Underlining, my emphasis)

I enclose a xerox of the quote in the hope that you may, at long last, have no further difficulty in establishing beyond the peradventure of a doubt that Rubinstein's exact age remains a bundle of contradictions, a dubious riddle wrapped inside an impenetrable mystery.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Temianka

HT/cb
Enclosure