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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, California Chamber Symphony Society, May 14, 1970, discontent



CHAMBER SYMPHONY SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

SPONSOR OF THE CALIFORNIA CHAMBER SYMPHONY

HENRI TEMIANKA FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

2915 Patricia Avenue
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May 14, 1970

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Sir:

I read with utter disgust yesterday's vitriolic review of the UCLA Chamber Orchestra's concert at Schoenberg Hall. The totally destructive tone of the review has unfortunately become the established and expected norm of the L.A. Times music critics. In this particular instance the performers whose finest efforts are demeaned and spat upon include such highly respected colleagues in our profession as conductor Mehli Mehta and many of the L.A. Philharmonic's first-chair men, collectively and slanderously dismissed for "faculty intonation."

Whom should the public believe, the critic who contemptuously implies that these artists are incompetent nincompoops, unfit to grace a podium? Or Zubin Mehta, Solti, Wallenstein and Van Beinum, all of whom retain them through the years as leading lights of our great Philharmonic Orchestra?

Don't tell me that this is freedom of the press. This is total, irresponsible anarchy, comparable to the burning and bombing of books and buildings. Now, more than ever, the arts need and deserve support, not the rantings and ravings of frustrated critics who, not having made it in the world of music themselves, have turned to poison pen and hate campaigns. Fritz Kreisler called them "those musicians by the grace of Grove's dictionary." Without the power and prestige of the L.A. Times which they abuse so savagely, the public would easily recognize their personal opinions for what they really are: unvarnished piffle.

I realize how slight are the chances of getting this letter published in your columns. Your music critics, in the name of freedom of the press, seem to be at liberty to suppress all letters except those expressing fawning support of their activities.

Yours sincerely,

HENRI TEMIANKA
HT/clm

cc: Mr. Otis Chandler
Mr. Robert Nelson
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Los Angeles, Calif.
Times
(Cir. 6xW 917,082 - S 1,219,382)

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Concert Review Rapped

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HENRI TEMIANKA
Los Angeles

Temianka is conductor and founder of the California Chamber Symphony.—Ed.

Los Angeles, Calif.