

1-15-1975

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lte)

KNBC

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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, January 15, 1975, California Chamber Symphony Society, money, funds

KNBC EDITORIAL

REPLY - SUBSIDIZING THE FINE ARTS

AIR DATE: JANUARY 15, 1975

KNBC broadcast an editorial January 6, 1975 opposing subsidies to the arts. Speaking in favor of subsidies is Henri Temianka, Founder and Director of the California Chamber Symphony Society.

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KNBC's recent editorial on subsidizing the fine arts expressed strong opposition to any subsidy, stating, "It's just that we can't see why the government should take tax money away from most people to subsidize a few." This is a fallacious argument.

Subsidizing the arts imposes no additional tax burden. At the present time, we are spending something like \$95 billion on defense alone, or approximately \$500 per annum for every man, woman and child in this country. Our present overkill capacity amounts to a ratio of about 17, and our ambitious military leaders are still not satisfied. The cost of a single supersonic bomber, if applied towards a creative purpose instead of a destructive one, would insure the survival of a dozen major symphony orchestras now threatened with extinction. To put it another way, the cost to each citizen in the United States would be \$1.00 per year.

The argument that, "once the tax dollars start rolling in, support from individuals starts drying up" is equally invalid. To the contrary, since the National Endowment of the Arts and other agencies allocate grants only on a matching basis, this creates a powerful incentive for individuals to contribute. It enables the government and the people to join forces as partners and friends in the pursuit of a noble cause. A further fallacy is the argument that government subsidy entails government control of artistic decisions.

The superior quality of hundreds of theaters, opera houses and symphony orchestras throughout Germany, Holland, Denmark and other democratic countries, and the smoothness and stability with which they have now functioned for many decades, with annual subsidies from their respective governments, constitutes overwhelming proof that there can be government subsidies without government shenanigans.

In response to KNBC's skeptical question as to "who decides just what an artist is or does anyway?", I can only weep for those who are unable to recognize what Rembrandt, Beethoven or Shakespeare did. It is the strongest argument of all in favor of a government subsidy of the arts, so that future generations may never have to ask that question.

#941 Broadcast times: 6:55PM - signoff - 6:55AM Time: 3:14



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