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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (Ite)

Henri Temianka

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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (Ite)

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, July 23, 1969, music education

July 23, 1969

The Editor
Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, California

Sir,

Last night I attended a Beethoven concert at the Hollywood Bowl, and rejoiced in what appeared to be the unexpected return of the entire U.S. Air Force from Vietnam. The almost continuous roar overhear brought back thrilling memories of the London blitz. Soon thousands of cars streaming down Highland Avenue joined in the celebration, honking horns, unfortunately drowned out much of the time by the planes.

Behind us, in the aisle, stood a white jacketed young man with the work STAFF across his lapel. He was operating a walkie talkie programmed to regurgitate the moonlanding during soft passages in the music. In the box next to ours children were giggling nervously, perhaps terrified. Old men periodically rose from their seats and wandered off to some distant goal, eventually returning. The faint aroma of hot dogs and mustard was in the air. Now and then, snatches of Beethoven got through to the audience, distorted by the amplification system.

The performers on stage did their heroic best all evening. Hats off to them for their gallantry and determination, and unquestioned artistry, in the face of hopeless odds.

Perhaps this was Beethoven as Beethoven himself heard it, when, prior to the onset of total deafness, the agonizing noises inside his head almost drove him to suicide.

The Hollywood Bowl is one of our proudest assets. Can it be saved from death by decibels?

Yours sincerely,

Henri Temianka

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[[Henri Temianka Correspondence Letters to the Editor Letter #7]]

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