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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (miscellaneous)

Benoff

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (miscellaneous)

### **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, December 1958, husband, wife, Emmy Temianka, radio, musical recordings



December, 1958

Dear *Emily & Henry*

The MUSIC LISTENER notes that "A MASS OF LIFE" by Frederick Delius will be played on the FM station, KCBH (98.0 on your FM dial) at approximately 8:15 P.M. Monday December 22nd. Playing time is more than ninety minutes, and this is perhaps the third time in ten years that I have seen the work scheduled.

I write you as lover of music and urge you to avail yourself of the opportunity to hear one of the greatest works in musical literature. The size and technical complexity of this masterpiece has hindered the performance and popularity of Delius' work, and it exists on 2 LP records, now withdrawn from the catalogue; played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, and a group of excellent soloists, all under the direction of one of the great conductors of our time, Sir Thomas Beecham, it is this recording which is to be played. Delius is the Chekhov of music; difficult to capture. Sir Thomas Beecham is his advocate, and the work is a masterpiece ~~xx~~ of the recording art.

Don't try to find out about the work in order to better "understand" it. Music belongs to the mysteries of the universe, and for the utmost enjoyment of its limitless possibilities, one should submit to its indefinable ecstasy and power, rather than indulge in a vulgar search to unmask it and obtain prosaic meanings.

Although the work has for its text parts of Nietzsche's "Zarathustra" and is a paean to the creativity of man, I would still maintain that the letter A or the color red has yet more literal meaning than this entire work. It is greater than its creator, and no amount of attempting to fix its orbit will shake it from its place in the mysterious firmament.

"A MASS OF LIFE" is one of the noblest and most majestic utterances in music. This in itself makes it a reaffirmation of the beauty of life and the spirit of brotherhood, which I take to mean the commingling of the individualities of men. It is most appropriate at this time of the year - more so than the greatest gift sent anyone in the coming days.

Try to listen to it. It may be a bit strange to you on a first hearing, but it is so beautiful and moving, that I am sure you will find it an experience rarely undergone.

With all best wishes,

sincerely yours,

*LB*  
*Wes*