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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (babin)

Victor Babin

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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (babin)

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, Victor Babin, January 19, 1943, piano, camaraderie, humour, virtuosity in musical performance, celebration, recreation and entertainment, military rank, infantry, camp, Vitya Vronsky, employment

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Jan 19, 1943

In Springfield, Ill. on concert tour.

Dear Timi,

Just another of the 27 received naturally in Tuscaloosa near Santa Fe came last night. In war to write either to Pittsburgh or to New York. In fact, since you left the anaesthetic world of cement-givers and entered one of the many branches of the basic slaughter-house business, I really don’t know where you sleep last night? If this letter should have the good fortune of ever reaching you, please give me your present address and less, and don’t say "somewhere in San Francisco." In the meantime, I shall address this to Columbia.

Thank you for your good wishes for 1943. Nowadays, when anybody wishes anybody else a "Happy New Year" the polite formula does it automatically. The sincere person cannot possibly hope that his wishes may come true. My wish to my friends (you among them, of course) is that things in 1943
don't get worse. There is still a chance for that in the world.
As you probably have heard already an concert in San Francisco
has either been canceled or postponed until April 24. So there is
a possibility that you still may get your one great musical
experience of the year. However, don't be too optimistic; it
may well be that by spring I will be a private in the
army for the second time in my life. I don't say I enjoy
the thought much — much rather were a general but
it is unlikely to like the time so I don't expect much in two
activities. So I will stay a Colonel in music and a private
in the infantry.

If you are already the chief in Western department
of whatever service you are doing and have got me in
as your Russian-speaking secretary and if that would make
my potato-peeling is some sort in Oklahoma unnecessary
I would be impressed with that. I doubt if I will
not write to you anyway soon
With hearty greetings in which I have always been

yours,

With a Russian slide

[Signature]
Jan 19, 1943
In Springfield, Ill. On concert – tour

Dear Temi,

Your letter of Dec 27, received gratefully in Tesuque near Santa Fe came late enough for me to write either to Pittsburgh or New York. In fact, since you left the anachronistic world of concert-givers and entered one of the many branches of the heroic slaughter-house business, I really don’t know where you live?! If this letter should have the good fortune of ever reaching you, please give me your present address and don’t say “somewhere in San Francisco” either. In the meantime I shall address this to Columbia.

Thank you for your good wishes for 1943. Nowadays, when anybody wishes anybody else a happy New-Year the first person does it authentically, the second person cannot possibly hope that his wishes may come true. My wish to my friends (you among them, of course) is that things in 1943
don’t get worse. There is still a chance for that in the world. As you probably have heard already our concert in San Francisco has either been cancelled or postponed until April 24. So there is a possibility that you still may get your one great musical experience of the year. However, don’t be too optimistic: it may well be that by spring I will be a private in the army for the second time in my life. I don’t say I enjoy the thought made – I much rather were a general but it is unlikely in life the one person gets high marks in two activities. So I will stay a colonel in music and a private in the infantry.

If you are already the chief in whatever department of whatever service you are doing and can get me in as your Russian-speaking secretary and if that would make my potato-peeling in some fort in Oklahoma unnecessary – I would be overpowered with blith. I doubt if I will, but write to me very very soon.

With hearty greetings in which Vitya joins me I remain yours, with a Russian soul,

Victor