

3-5-1979

## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bodnar)

Nina Bodnar

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (bodnar)

### 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, Nina Bodnar, March 5, 1979, camaraderie, virtuosity in musical performance, recreation and entertainment, culture, violinist, violin, music education, chamber music

N.Y.C.  
3/5/79

Dearest Mrs. Temianka ~

I am writing to let you know that I decided against going to Aspen this summer. There are several reasons for my decision - the main one being that I want very much to study with you again. I want to make this summer a productive one ~ I am somewhat frustrated with the fact that I have been unable to learn new repertoire this year because of all the performing and auditioning I've had to do. I only have two dates this summer and I want to take advantage of my free time and work as hard as possible. If I went to Aspen I would have to play just as much as I have this year - I appreciate all the interest in my talent, but somehow at the same time I feel that I am not progressing as well as I can because of the constant pressure. And frankly speaking, I will be just as talented a year or two from now, and more important, more prepared for the life everyone sees for me - so why rush so much now? I can't say that I'm not flattered or excited by all this attention, but I'd feel much more excited if I felt I were really ready... so I'm going to start this summer by adding some concerti to my repertoire. I can't play the Tchaikovsky everywhere!!

I'm praying that you will be home for at least part of the summer. I really miss you. If it's possible I want to find a place to stay near you (perhaps rent a room) so that when you're home I can see you as often as I can. Forgive me if I am being



presumptuous in assuming you want to have me back again ~ but I'm too excited to be polite.

I have a great passion for the Brahms Concerto.

Most of Miss Delays students are playing it now. But I refuse to study it with anyone but you. I know it's terribly difficult, but do you think I could study it this summer? With your help, it won't be nearly as hard as the kids here make it sound. I don't think Brahms would be particularly thrilled to hear some of the offensive versions of the concerto that I've heard here. I suppose it must be difficult to control oneself playing such a gorgeous piece, but you should hear some of the gushy slides and sexy sounds (delayed vibrato etc.) that are in my eyes cheap and very out of place... what I don't understand is why Miss Delay allows it. Anyway, if I can't learn the Brahms this summer, whenever I am ready to play it I want to do it with you. (along with Prokofiev D maj., Satelius, Beethoven, etc, etc... !!)

At this point I'm not even sure if I want to be here next year. I came here expecting to be lost among a sea of great talent - to be inspired and somewhat frightened by the high level of playing - but I am now a bit disappointed with the standards here (I expected them to be much higher) and with the exception of two or three students, I am not impressed. Perhaps if I had more time with Ms. Galmes and Miss Delay I would gain more, but with their schedules it's impossible, and although I'm a "favorite" with the both of them, that doesn't change the 60 minute a week feeling -

I have been seriously considering preparing for the Queen Elizabeth Competition (May 1980). If you think

it's a good idea, I will go for it. And if I do, I really think I'd be much better off working at home, and with you. Miss Delay could get me a career by having me play for all of her "important" friends and I wouldn't have to enter any big competitions. But somehow theres more challenge and excitement in entering competitions, whatever the results. And of course then I'd also have to learn all the pieces I should know and want to know.

Obviously, I miss you terribly. Just between the two of us, you are a much more inspiring teacher and of course a great artist (which Miss Delay is not) - and Dorothy Delay is a fine teacher with a great mind and great connections - and an over complimentary reputation. I wouldn't mind waiting ~~to~~ 3 hours for a lesson if it were with you. I don't especially appreciate waiting such a long time to hear "That's wonderful" to everything! It'd be ok if I believed it, but I don't - and this time its not my insecurity, it's my good ear!

Well, I have a lot of decision-making to do.

Your advice would be very much appreciated. I had no idea how much I respect you and love you or how much I had to be thankful for before coming here - I am so grateful that you understood why I came here and had the good judgement to let me see for myself how things are here. And knowing that you still care about me makes me feel wonderful - I remember Mrs Maxwell becoming distant when I went to study in France. It broke my heart because I loved her very much. I'm so happy that you are not like she was. Then I would be stuck here without knowing that I had a better alternative (not to mention the fact that my



faith in love would once again be shattered)

☽ send you a big hug and kiss  
and all my love forever ~

Nina

[[Nick Dante 7/17/2017]]

[[Henri Temianka Correspondence  
Nina Bodnar  
Letter #13]]

[[Page 1 – Letter]]

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3/5/1979

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[[Page 2 – Letter]]

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[[Page 3 – Letter]]

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