

1980

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (hardin)

Byron Hardin

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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, Byron Hardin, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, medical personnel, Los Angeles Doctor's Symphony, music rehearsals, musical recordings

Comments

Due to the exact date of the letter being unknown an estimated date has been provided.

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BACKGROUND, EXCUSES AND APOLOGIES

On Memorial Day, 1972, Henri Temianka telephoned me and invited me to rehearse a Concerto with one of the amateur orchestras which he conducts and trains. I refused, explaining that it had been many years since I had practiced, since the early 1950's, before I began medical school.

But, the challenge and opportunity simmered and I had second thoughts. A week later I spoke again with Henri who said that I should consider trying any piece which I thought that the Los Angeles Doctors' Symphony could run through at sight. The orchestra is composed of various medical and para medical amateur musicians, he explained. After repeated disclamations I said that I should be happy to rehearse with the group. Any attempts would be gratefully received, he assured me.

As a boy in Aberdeen, South Dakota, I performed the Beethoven C Major Concerto with the orchestra of the Northern State Teachers' College. Since I practiced less than an hour a day in those childhood years, I thought that I should be able to exhume and refurbish that work now. My parents are living and well and enjoy reminiscing about those good, old days when all the children were at home. I decided to have a recording made of the rehearsal session and this copy is a result.

The cadenza was a problem. The one I played as a boy was written by a lady named Darmstadt-Stern, I remember, but the score is lost. Hurriedly, I learned the last portion of the Beethoven cadenza number three and that is why only a part is played on this performance.

Excuses about the condition of the old Chickering piano must be made - though I know that "a good carpenter does not blame his tools." The session was held in a recreation center where an elderly grand piano has stood for many decades and no reconditioning has been done. Extreme effort was necessary to obtain any tone from the upper half of the piano, and the interphalangeal joints were aching when the performance was finished.

But, this recording is sent to you for your pleasure. I hope that you enjoy it.

Byron Hardin

Thanks, Henri

Byron