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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (persinger)

Louis Persinger

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Keywords

Henri Temianka, Louis Persinger, October 7, 1943, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, Leventritt Competition, radio

Juilliard Graduate School,
130 Claremont Avenue,
New York (27).
Oct.7th,1943.

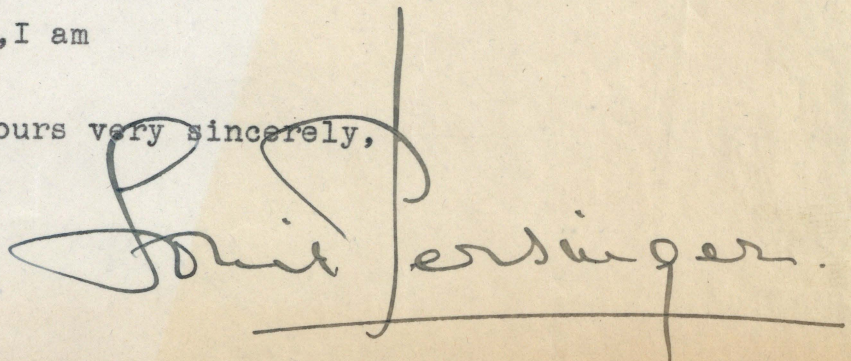
Dear Mr. Temianka:

Thanks for your letter. Yes, Dolores and her mother have been staying with us during the past week and I have given her several lessons and have listened to her practice a good deal. Her vibrato has improved, but I can't see that her tone production has gone ahead very much. I remind her constantly of some of the roughnesses of her bow changes and the occasional forcing, but I have discovered that she has a great deal to learn as far as getting the best out of her practice-time is concerned. And I simply cannot bear to hear Dolores or anyone else make those gushy, strained changes from up to downbow. You will be glad to know that Dolores, along with three or four others, is in the finals of the Leventritt competition, after the others were eliminated day before yesterday. And that notwithstanding the fact that I feel that she is depending entirely too much upon her talent, instead of having solidly prepared the works she had on her list. At any rate the finals take place this afternoon, in Carnegie Hall, with Busch and Hübemann among the judges.

As for the manner Dolores was announced at the NBC broadcast last spring you are perfectly right in assuming that I personally had nothing whatever to do with it, and I was astonished at hearing any teacher's name mentioned. My own experiences in that respect have been rather painful, too. The Juilliard itself bears no responsibility for any mentioning of my name; they had nothing to do with the whole affair. NBC has Dolores' whole musical background, and so has the Leventritt Foundation (I myself saw Dolores' application, with the exact amount of study done with each of her teachers). Likewise the Naumburg Foundation. You may have noticed that when it was announced that Dolores was one of this season's Naumburg winners your name was given as her teacher before mine. And you may be sure that I never forego the occasion of telling people of Dolores' study with you whenever I am asked about her. And, after all, her period of working with me has been comparatively short. Another thing, Temianka. I am not in the habit of trying to "glorify" myself in connection with pupils, even when in some instances I have been treated in a very unfair manner. (Menuhin, etc. etc.)

With best regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Louis Persinger". The signature is written over a horizontal line.