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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (sitterly)

James F. Sitterly

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April 22, 1992

Henri Temianka  
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Dear Maestro Temianka,

This letter is to express my deepest appreciation for the kindness and consideration you have shown me and my family over the years. I can think of no other individual who has given more valuable and enlightening lessons of music and life than you. Associating with a man of your intelligence and critical facility is both a challenge and a blessing. I am indeed the most fortunate one to have been able to witness your limitless skills in so many facets of music and living. Each time I leave your presence I am in awe of what I have experienced and I replay your conversations and gestures hoping to make a permanent imprint of them on my memory.

Your call (April 1, 1992) was another amazing aspect of your continuing tutelage. I have been very fearful of pursuing many avenues of employment because of the competition and difficulty I have in asking people to help and gracefully accepting rejection. The few who have offered help have not been forthcoming and I am frozen in fear about stories of how impossible it is to penetrate the business, and the inadvertent slips that can cause total exclusion from serious work. I will make the calls and pursue the work I know is out there, hopefully representing myself in the most suitable manner.

Another reason that I am especially grateful is in the way you seem to realize that while I suffer with many faults in my current condition ( and you have seen me in many such conditions) the prevailing attitude which you maintain towards me embodies a belief that eventually I am going to be organized and when I am I will be a significant contributor to my field, as a player and as a composer, perhaps as a teacher - and even a musical biographer! No one could ask for more. So in no uncertain terms you give me hope for the future. You give me reason to believe that continued application of my talent and efforts will lead to some



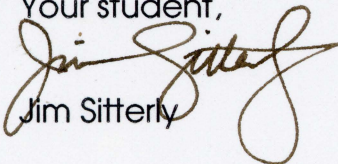
degree of reward.

I have never taken for granted or even expected you to offer me the opportunity of involvement in your musical activities. I recall the wild excitement I exclaimed to Michelle when you asked me to play on your Columbia Artists tour. It is a fact that the exact same excitement accompanied each and every offer for employment, each as unexpected as the next. As I recall all of the concerts and programs you asked me to join I can only shake my head and think how fortunate I am to have been involved. I just wish I could remember all of your jokes.

Picking you up and taking you to your final series of Youth Concerts was an unparalleled honor and to have participated as a player an even greater one. To have played a solo on these programs was beyond my wildest dreams- and then to play my own composition- this is joy that would take even a proud man over the brink. All in all as I think back over the years in our various incarnations of association what makes it all so wonderful is knowing that the Brahms concerto is responsible for my knowing you. Even in silence that concerto continues to tower over us all like the great protective spirit it embodies.

Perhaps what you have given me which I shall cherish the most is a mature and artistic appreciation of my family, kids and wife. You have taught me by example and discussion the way of becoming a considerate husband and father. You showed me that just a simple rose was enough to show love - and that a sense of dignity can be gained in the way one manages his surroundings. No one could appreciate the beauty of my wife more than you and the ability to see the miracles in front of our face is what you gave me. You opened my eyes to what you recognized as a genuine angel. And no man is more qualified to judge than a man whose own wife is an angel as well!

Lasting fondness and admiration,  
Your student,

  
Jim Sitterly