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# Henri Temianka Correspondence; (fuerstner)

Carl Fuerstner

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (fuerstner)

#### 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, Carl Fuerstner, September 15, 1991, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, Maurice Abravanel, humour, reading, daughter, father, family, wife, husband, Christmas, holiday, mother, son, religion, Germans, Russians, racial slur, music rehearsal, instruments, music education, recreation and entertainment, discontent, Armenians, János Starker

Carl Fuerstner 2518 East Seventh St. Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Leptember 15, 1991

Dear Henri, I'd be curious to see the look of astonishment on your face when you'll receive this letter from me! 2 am certain, however, that you haven't thought of me half as much in the past 30 or more years as I have of you! The fact is that every ningle time I pass my book case with your wonder single time I pass my book case with your wonder Ful book in it ( and there must be kundreds of Them imag ? make a big resolution to finally go to them? make a big resolution to finally go to them ad write to you the next day - and then I do it and write to you the next day although there not do it again and again - although that are quite a number of outward events that should give me an immediate reason to take up the pen there are so many anecdotes take up memory - little bon moto and anecdotes in my memory - little bon moto friends who shick I regularly relate to my friends one which I regularly relate to my then one inquire about my past and want to there one life story or even a biography - and then one of these leads to the other, and pretty soon con entire period of my past emerges into my that sciousness, and with it events and people that I had almost forgothen extraordinary persone That almost forgothen extraordinary persone connected with you and your extraordinary persona life you got lity your wit and sense of humor as well as remarks during refearsals and while as remarks during flying in planes on riding driving in cars or mideeval times when we in trains (in these are and and times of the still work of the set of th still used these old fashioned conveyances)in short, you have no idea how very much dre member if a member of you and about you, going back all

However, when I start remembering you now and telling stories and remarks and incidents i one keeps coming up most frequently and that to not really about you this try prime funny not really about you this try prime funny tory which I tell on every gethering or in any party something which constantly evokes enormous party something which constantly evokes antici-hilerity in fact it is my top story in front hilerity in fact it is my top story in front of people - a story which has tobe antici-bated by another one not in connection with pated by another one not in connection with you remember Harold bolf the one-time conductmenter of the Wtah Symphony still under abranelis his little teenage daughter Gaudan't kave abranelis his little teenage daughter couldn't kave mother i ho was Turkish why they couldn't ke a christian christmas 80th tree and the whole dingsbums, like all the other children, the mother answered and said you see we can't do mother answered and saiding ou see we can't do - that - your father is a Jew and Jam your mother from turkey - the girl, growing up can't among Mormon children, said: but mother, can't be by Jack 22 the Income months among Mormor shildhen, said: but Mother, cant we be Jack Jeos ?? This previous remark, possible only among less utbrane of your son topped by the priceless utbrane of your good in the boys topped by the priceless utbrane of ite boys Provo by Emmy the fatel question : we Provo asked him the fatel question came I do asked him 2 sherwpon your son came you a mormon father is a few and my forth is a reptile' to still brings to and of the mother is a reptile' nother is a reptile to still brings tears of the Porgotten this story - it still brings the laughter to my eyes - and screen stories laughter to my eyeling and screen stories present company to yelling tealing your sparily. present company to yelling tealing never mmy bresent of your see I'm stealing studies with my perties this last one studies due in my perties other, things studies due my parties this last one never formy but there are many other things also title apoint mind nemarks and jokes shally little apoint tions I in San Trancisco together and the model there mostly medical priends invalued there mostly medical priends tras June 22/941, the day the germans invaded Russia - and you said the gates of Moscor Russia - and you said the gates of and it

Carl Fuerstner almost came true! You mentioned this vaspos Tible because of the miserable organization of the Russians Foremember this remerk because you said it in German and stories some framen funny remarks and stories some framen in your fabulous book, and also with ber tense moments during relearsals with the tense moments to cometimes between but ense moments during relearsals with the Paganini Quertet sometimes between you and Poidant and even concerning me but it all came out to peaceful and day happy my god if years with the Governe be-of those wonderful years with the Governe be-another thing came to my mind a west of another thing came to my and 1942-we stood another thing came to hen you and 1942-we stood witting for a bus somethere in Plonide when Waiting for a bus somethere in Florida when this and a mining this awful guy carrent to us segurgi- and where are you coming from 2 and you said I bes born in totland - Che guy shot back "to me you look like a Jack" (in like a Dep' this was shortly efter neg flower glotel like a Dep' this was shortly efter may flower glotel then ow profile stor in the flue met gow won then ow profile sick in the flue met gow won in newyork alberry that's where I gow oit a concert in alberry took good care of your oit derful parents who took good care of and on the news ness - - you bere visited (inperson and on the phone ? h. met phone) by all the greats when he music work to plan member D member Dewermann and others whom gou talked member Dewermann and others Was so impres to each in his own language for our Town sed you recovered and my first time Hall resital me and my first Hall recital my god my first time in that hallowed place and that with the n that hallowed place and through that devilish Kentger Sonata, " preced music Istill don't

later on we heard who all were at the concert - Schnabel, Bartlett and Pobertson, Szell 3, Devermann, Schink Pachmaninov, and the other great Piano Duo, Dabin and bronsky, how I got Chrough this at age 26 and green after only a few months in America the next time Iplayed in Town Hall Was in the recital with Derence molnar in between all this was own existence in Lan Francisco - my playing for your lessons and clesses and getting to know a lot of repertoire unknown to me but taught by you CRondo Capriccioso by faint taught by you CRondo Capriccioso birtuosopieses taught by you CRondo Capriccioso for the birtuosopieses Taëns and a whole lot of real birtuosopieses Taëns and a whole lot of real birtuosopieses Premember parties at the house of my first acquaintance of the interior with a boy named Bob Jacoubian Studied with you - and many others tudents and the jealousy between your students dose students ones of naoum Rlinder for those students pealouse between your students and the mes of norm glinder for shore Hudents I also played noone had even told me the Dalso played of the Twicks and the arme twickle story of the Twicks and later on the mans and their messacre wir 1979 I willing the had my sabbe trical in Twickey in 1979 the had my sabbe trical in Twickey to the torough to had my sabbe trical in Twickey in the torough the mesself berg unpopular with the Twicks the torough mom mesself berg ide of it I had forgeten forws. graft trip to Cour d'alène, at the palewal home of mus trip trip to Coeur d'alène at the pelacial home of more gray - 400 of the mining - We started calling it the concert moon and honey trips - yes and my cat or yours? Pizzicato - Dam down to me lot to one lady cat now named Madeleine, daughter of Charisma who died she was most gorgeous and so with daughter - I had Scats at one point \_ she is men's sym daughter - I had Scats at one point gervice men's sym company - do you remember my Service movement phony Orchestra? one teme you played the stream you phony Orchestra? one teme you played the stream of the state Brakms Concerto and Completed by heart - you said "Bravo Carl" - I did a couple of recitals with Schuster also - took Said "Brevor Carl" - I did a couple of recitals onthe Schurter also - talking of cellists our friend Luigi Silve died at also - talking of cellists our friend Luigi Silve died at also - talking of cellists our friend Luigi Actions at 3 schools -also - talking of cellists our friend Luigi Silve alittle

HAPPINESS IS BEING So many other memories come THE LEADER to me - even the one in Some restaurant in San Francisco - I restaurant it apprecipte the food pour punishing remark is Carl, you your punishing remark is "Carl, you don't deserve a good meal !" So don't deserve a good meal !" So at the palatial (palacial 2) homes at the palatial (palacial 2) homes at the palatial (palacial 2) homes of mus, Koshland, Hern etc. in the of music sessions following to believe music sessions following to believe nowadays. Gne night I was invited to a priets ? yes, those were the days, wited to a nowadays. Gne night I was invited to a priets ? yes, those were the days, wited to a nowadays. On one side of me y god werdas, on the other the Monteuxs - my god Merolas, on the other the monteux - my god what times were those - or the big parties in the estate of man the in other of the opposite of the estate of mus. Stern in atkenton with all the famous visiting String quartets and all the conductors invited once I had the honor to turn the pages for George Szell-7 honor to turn the pages for George Zell -never learned so much as on that session of chamber music !! Well, "tempi passati" I did see you once in a refearcal "styour I did see you once in my short in the end of ouches tra ! that was in my short in the end of between Provo and Boos - you'refearced a between Provo and Boos - you'refearced a field hell, enough of reminiscences -siee with Principle of reminiscences piece with Principle of Julin Blooming. Been 32 hell, enough of to I'll in Blooming. about me - before that I lived for a short

time in Hollywood - travelling and tou ring in between with many singers and instrumentalists - 5 times through Alaska many concerts in the Cesere balletti allover america, then I was for ten sum mers a member of the Lummer academy of the mogarteum in Salzburg Festa Mu then & summers in graz, then with Festa Mu sica Pro in assisi - also with the Inter national Convention of boice Teachers in my home town, Strasbourg (Strassburg) and toured extensively. Here at THA was the Principal Opera Coach for the famous Opera theater of the (famous) I'll music School - my colleagues were and are Joseph Direction of the principal of the famous of t Gingold, Dranco Gulli, William Prinniose, Janos Starker and others — I had at first many chances for conducting, fine then, by and by, that dribbled away for then, by and by, that dribbled about the Gloo her, by and by, that arisken and gloo by I got the conductorship of the gloo mington Symphony Brchestrapich I lead mington Symphony group before politics and fessional sutside group before politics it for 6 marcellous seasons kind ely enjoyed intrigues of the distiest really enjoyed from me the only thing or my career perhaps in the latter part of my career perhaps in the latter part of my career I was retired against my will in 1982 and an since then in happy busting ted - and poor I'm trying to do

HAPPINESS IS BEING THE LEADER IV some composing again - but private Work in coaching is difficult to get once you are retired - in other words made into scrapion-zum atten Eisen gelegt - - it's ridiculous, Im Just as good in master classes as 24 as 4 years ago - - nor personal fo: things: my mother thorn you knew bell, died in 1970 (not ofth cancer, and painlessly, but she simply was extinguished like a flame burning brightly for 91 years - my ten years older brother in San Francisco got retired (also against his will) in 1979 then went through a decade

painful death & years ago, Hisson, Ronald is director of the community. Hospital in Carmel, Calif, his offe is from Basel Switzerland they have 3 children, the older girl is married to a boy in Industry (Oil) transferred lately to Buffalo - the younger girl a brilliant career girl indiplomary and International law lives in jus Boston, and the goungest, a boy, is just not entering College (2 Cranta Barbara) My brothers daughter ( win of Ronald the day to daughter ( win of Ronald the doctor) is a very well known dancer and choreographer till now at the Civic Bellet in Mashville her husband the director just divorced her after 22 years of marriage !!! They Lave one daughter, just entering College Potkat's some of my history in a nut shell - - Here in gloomington Lex-perienced a lot of set backs, perso, hal blows, defeats and adversity but ] guess you have to expect that (n' any professional surrounding not only in music - Ican only say, the atmosphere in Dochester,

HAPPINESS IS BEING THE LEADER Ŧ New york where I was active 5 more or less turbulent years was much more disgusting than Poinour when I do come by Jouthern California sometime & mill look you up - fire both are still here --- my ailmentiby the Way, on my leg, was called celle litis - It's a matter of bad circulation - but it has totally aboted by now. Henri, by not you probably will

have recovered from the initial shock of hearing so suddenly from somebody of the deepest any past - after not having had any contact in many years!' I wish you now all the best and to the lovely Emmy too ~ is she still so beautifully to 7 blond, or perhaps already thite? and where and how old is Danny, the creator of the reptile? To long then, allgood when and let me hear from you! Gour admiring friend Carl

[[Henri Temianka Correspondence Carl Fuerstner Letter #1]]

[[Page 1 – Letter]]

[[Letterhead: Carl Fuerstner 2518 East Seventh St. Bloomington, Indiana 47401]]

September 15, 1991

Dear Henri,

I'd be curious to see the look of astonishment on your face when you'll receive this letter from me! I am certain, however, that you haven't thought of me half as much in the past 30 or more years as I have of you! The fact is that every single time I pass my book case with your wonderful book in it (and there must be hundreds of [[written between lines:]] (I mean time) them) I make a big resolution to finally go to it and write to you the next day – and then I do not do it again and again – although there are quite a number of outward events that should give me an immediate reason to take up the pen – there are so many things in my memory – little bon mots and anecdotes which I regularly relate to my friends who inquire about my past and want to write my life story or even a biography – and then one of these leads to the other, and pretty soon an entire period of my past emerges into my consciousness, and with it events and people that I had almost forgotten – many of all this is connected with you and your extraordinary personality, your wit and sense of humor as well as remarks during rehearsals and while driving in cars or flying in planes or riding in trains (in these mideaval times when we still used these old-fashioned conveyances) in short, you have no idea how very much I remember of you and about you, going back all the way to 1939 and then up into the 50s!!

#### [[Page 2 – Letter]]

However, when I start remembering you now and telling stories and remarks and incidents - one keeps coming up most frequently – and that is not really about you – it is – my prime funny story which I tell in every gathering or in any party; something which constantly evokes enormous hilarity, in fact it is my top story in front of people – a story which has to be anticipated by another one, not in connection with you, remember Harold Wolf the one – time concertmaster of the Utah Symphony still under Abravanel his little teenage daughter asked her mother who was Turkish why they couldn't have a Christian Christmas with tree and the whole [[dingsbums?]], like all the other children, the mother answered and said you see we can't do that – your father is a Jew and I am your mother from Turkey – the girl, growing up among Mormon children, said: but Mother, can't we be Jack Jews:?? – This precious remark, possible only among Mormon people, is then Copped by the priceless utterance of your son Danny who was observed playing in the yard in Provo by Emmy with the other little boys who asked him the fatal question: Are you a Mormon? Whereupon your son came forth with "no, my father is a Jew and my mother Is a reptile" - - - I hope you haven't forgotten this story – it still brings tears of laughter to my eyes – and usually brings the present company to yelling and screaming -- - so you see I'm stealing your stories in my parties - this last one never fails but there are many other things sticking in my mind, remarks and jokes - also predicttions – I see you sitting in my shabby little apartment in San Francisco together with the Mosess and other mostly medical friends - - the day was June 22, 1941, the day the Germans invaded Russia – and you said: The German Army will be at the gates of Moscow in 6 weeks (and it

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[[Letterhead: Carl Fuerstner 2518 East Seventh St. Bloomington, Indiana 47401]]

almost came true! You mentioned this was possible because of the miserable organization of the Russians I remember this remark because you said it in German - - and the many funny remarks and stories, some of them in your fabulous book, and also I remember tense moments during rehearsals with the Paganini Quartet sometimes between you and [[Poidart?]] and even concerning me but, it all came out so peaceful and happy – my god, I wouldn't miss a day of those wonderful years with the Quartet another thing came to my mind – in the beginning of the war when you and I went on our concert tour – I think it was 1942 – we stood waiting for a bus somewhere in Florida when this awful guy came up to us, saying: -- and where are you coming from": and you said I was born in Scotland – the guy shot back "to me you look like a Jap" (this was shortly after Pearl Harbour) - then our lengthy stay in the May Flower Hotel in New York, you being sick with the flu and cancelling a concert in Albany - that's where I met your wonderful parents who took good care of your sickness - - you were visited (inperson and on the phone) by all the greats in the music world – I remember Feurmann and others whom you talked to, each in his own language - I was so impressed! You recovered enough for our Town Hall recital – my god – my first time in that hallowed place and that with the - -Kreutzer Sonata!! How I got through that devilish piece of music I still don't know - -

#### [[Page 4 – Letter]]

later on we heard who all were at the concert - Schnabel, Bartlett and Robertson, Szell, Feuermann, I think Rachmaninov, and the other great Piano Duo, Rabin and bronskyhow I got through this at age 26 and green after only a few months in America the next time I played in Town Hall was in the recital with Ferenc Molnar -- in between all this was our existence in San Francisco – my playing for your lessons and classes and getting to know a lot of repertoire unknown to me but taught me by you (Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saëns and a whole lot of real virtuoso pieces) – I remember parties at the house of my first acquaintance with Armenians a boy named Rob Yacoubian studied with you – and many others - - there was so much jealousy between you students and the ones of Naoum Blinder for those students I also played – no one had ever told me the terrible story of the Turks and the Armenians and their massacre - later on when I had my sabbatical in Turkey in 1979 I made myself very unpopular with the Turks telling the Armenian side of it – I just got through talking to you on the phone - - I had forgotten the Honey moon trip to Coeur d'Alene sat the palacial home of Mrs. Gray - we started calling it the concert moon and honey-trip - yes, and my cat on yours? Pizzicato - I am down to one lady cat now, named Madeleine, daughter of Charisma who died she was most gorgeous – and do the daughter – I had 5 cats at one point – she is my only company - do vou remember my Service Men's Symphony Orchestra? – one time you played the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of the Brahms Concerto and I conducted by heart - you said "Bravo Carl" - I did a couple of recitals with Schuster also - talking of cellist our friend Luigi Silva died at age 58 in New York at the time he was teaching at 3 schools -Julliard, Yale & Hartford I believe – a little [[^]] and Mannes [[^/]] too much - -

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#### III

[[Letterhead: HAPPINESS IS BEING THE LEADER]]

[[image- illustration of a lion conductor]]

So many other memories come to me – even the one in some restaurant in San Francisco – I apparently didn't appreciate the food enough and I hear in my mind your punishing remark: "Carl, you don't deserve a good meal!" Do you remember the wonderful soirees at the palatial (palacial?) homes of Mrs. Koshland Stern etc. in the years 1939 to 45? With the chamber music sessions following the ban-

quets? Yes, those were the days, hard to believe nowadays! One night I was invited to a pre Opera dinner (with Lily Pons in a big role, I've forgotten which) on one side of me sat the Merolas, on the other the Monteuxs – my god what times were those – or the big parties in the estate of Mrs. Stern in Atherton with all the famous visiting String quartets and all the conductors invited – once I had the honor to turn the pages for George Szell – I never learned so much as on that session of chamber music!! Well, "tempipasati!" -I did see you once in a rehearsal with your orchestra, that was in my short interregnum between Provo and Bloomington the end of 50s and beginning of 60s - you rehearsed a piece with Primrose (what could that have been?? - Well, enough of reminiscences about me - -? I got to see in Bloomington in n1963 – before that I lived for a short

#### [[Page 6 – Letter]]

time in Hollywood - traveling and touring in between with many singers and instrumentalists – 5 times through Alaska - many concerts with Cesare Valletti all over America, then I was for ten summers a member of the Summer Academy of the Mozarteum in Salzburg then 4 summers in Graz, then with Festa Mu sica Pro in Assisi - also with the International Convention of Voice Teachers in my home town, Strasbourg (Strassburg) and toured extensively. There at Ill I was the Principal Opera Coach for the famous Opera Theater of the (famous) Ill Music School – my colleagues were and are Joseph Gingold, Franco Gulli, William Primrose, Janos Starker - and others - I had at first many chances for conducting, but then, by and by, that dribbled away - finally I got the conductorship if the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra a nonprofessional outside group which I lead for 6 marvellous seasons before politics and intrigues of the dirtiest kind stole it from me – the only thing I really enjoyed perhaps in the latter part of my career – I was retired against my will in 1982 and am since then unhappy, frustrated – and poor – I'm trying to do

[[Page 7 – Letter]]

[[Letterhead: HAPPINESS IS BEING THE LEADER]]

[[image- illustration IV of a lion conductor]]

some composing again – but private work in coaching is difficult to get once you are retired - in other words made into scrap iron -- zum alten eisen gelegt [[\*]] – it's ridiculous, I'm just as good in master classes as I was 4 years ago - - now personal things: my mother whom you knew well, died in 1970 (not with cancer, and painlessly, but she simply was extinguished like a flame burning brightly for 91 years - - my ten years older brother in San Francisco got retired (also against his will) in 1979 then went through a decade of operations and great suffering till his

[[\* german translation: "to become the old iron"]]

#### [[Page 8 – Letter]]

painful death 2 years ago. His son, Ronald is director of the community. Hospital in Carmel, Calif. His wife is from Basel, Switzerland-they have 3 children, the older girl is married to a boy in Industry (Oil) transferred lately to Buffalo - the younger girl a brilliant career girl in diplomacy and international law lives in Boston, and the youngest, a boy, is just now entering College (UC Santa Barbara) My brothers daughter ("Cousin" of Ronald the doctor) is a very well known dancer and choreographer till now at the Civic Ballet in Nashville her husband the director just divorced her after 22 years of marriage!!! They have one daughter, just entering College. So that's some of my history in a nutshell - - Here in Bloomington I experienced a lot of set backs, personal blows, defeats and adversitybut I guess you have to expect that in any professional surrounding - not only in music - - I can only say, the atmosphere in Rochester,

[[Page 9 – Letter]]

[[Letterhead: HAPPINESS IS BEING THE LEADER]]

[[image- illustration of a lion conductor]] V

New York where I was active 5 more or less turbulent years was much more disgusting than here - -So now when I do come by Southern California sometime I will look you up – If we both are still here - - - - - my ailment, by the way, on my leg, was called cellulitis – it's a matter of bad circulation – but it has totally abated by now. Henri, by now you probably will [[Page 10 – Letter]]

have recovered from the initial shock of hearing so suddenly from somebody of the deepest past – after not having had any contact in many years!! I wish you now all the best and to the lovely Emmy too – is she still so beautifully blond, or perhaps already white? And where and how old is Danny, the creator of the reptile? So long then, all good wishes – and let me hear from you! Your admiring friend

Carl