

11-18-1967

Henri Temianka Correspondence; (rharris)

Roy Harris

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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, Roy Harris, November 18, 1967, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, music rehearsal, California Chamber Symphony, husband, wife, camaraderie, money, funds

November 18, 1967

Mr. Joseph Davis, President
California Chamber Symphony Society, Inc.
10889 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mr. Davis;

As per your request, I am sending you herewith a copy of the telegram received from Associated Music Publishers of New York City, with whom I have been under contract for many years. You will understand that without such a contract I would be unable to pursue my life's work as a composer of contemporary classical music. You may well imagine then how important it is that I preserve the professional and personal relationship which I have long enjoyed with my publishers.

"In consideration of your secure international reputation as one of our nation's great and honored symphonic composers we firmly oppose acceptance Temianka's low bid Harris premiere. We as your publishers must uphold the dignity of your position in the profession. Look forward to world premiere 11th Symphony in February with New York Philharmonic." ASSOCIATED

Concerning Henri's attempt to secure a world premiere for less than the cost of copying, it is obvious that current costs prevented the realization of his plan. Henri has insisted that his only desire was to honor Johana and myself: she as "a great artist", I as a contemporary American composer who has survived in this world of intense competition.

Johana and I think that Henri was not in the least concerned about her, else why would he have so conspicuously bypassed her high reputation while lauding himself to the skies in the fall announcement of his "Let's Talk Music" series for 1967-68. And, if he were primarily concerned with honoring my 70th anniversary, a world premiere would not be his prime consideration. His prime concern would have been that I should be invited to conduct one of my representative works suitable for his chamber orchestra. I have such a work and offered to conduct it without fee.

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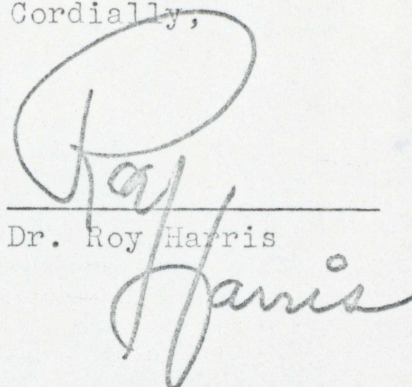
When my publisher's telegram negated the possibility of a "world premiere" of my new Concerto, I offered by telephone to cooperate with Henri by conducting the string work as a substitute. Neither Johana nor I believe that this substitution would have materially affected Henri's "Let's Talk Music" series. It is a large and dramatic work and has yet not been performed in this area, although it has been performed many times elsewhere with fine responses.

But Henri rejected the suggestion vehemently. And, who knows, maybe this outcome may prove to be best for all concerned.

With best wishes for good results in your labors for music.

Let's Make Music!

Cordially,



Dr. Roy Harris