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Letter 1957, from Jester J. Hairston to Eva Jessye

Jester J. Hairston

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(1957)

Tuesday

Dear Sis Geroge:

Thanks for your last letter. No, Darling, I have not forgot you and my love for you is as warm as ever. This has just been the best and busiest year I've had since '45, when I went over seas. Not much money, mind you, but activity galore. In all phases of other business.

You are certainly a busy person; running down to N.Y. every other day, running a choir in both Boston & N.Y. What are you trying to do, make all the money? And how is your husband? Does he still help you with the choir?

I am up here teaching again, at the College of The Pacific. This is my 9th summer and I have a class of 190 high school singers. Don't have but 2 classes a day and the rest of the day is mine to sleep, write or whatever I wish to do. The salary is excellent. It might interest you to know I am

using one of your numbers on one of my
programs here. O It is your Charming little
song: "Simon the Fisherman". I just bought
40 Copies for my Choir in Los Angeles before
I came up here and we are going to use it
on our program next winter. I know it
will be the hit of the show and I guarantee
you I'm going to sell thousands of Copies
of that song for you. Here there are kids and
teachers from all over Calif. and they all
adore it. Our program is tomorrow night
and I know it will be a hit. I'm going to
make a little talk about you and your
work before I sing the song. I just may tell
them how you have been rejecting my
love for you for 25 years. But I still love
you, Sis for ever, and always will. I'm going
to promote that song everywhere I sing
this year and you watch your sales rise
here on the west coast.

Picture business is very slow this
time of year. And so Marge and I are going
to take a little trip for 2 or 3 weeks when
I go back home. There is so much natural
scenic beauty here in Calif. and so much
folklore (gold miners and desperados) that
I think we'll spend our time going about
Calif. & Oregon.

My last picture: "Band of Angels"
comes out in August & hear. They had a pre-
view 3 weeks ago, but I didn't get to go. I sent
Marge and she said all the music I did
was still in. Hope it is still in when it
hits the theatres. But if it isn't I was paid
well. And the other studios know I did it.

You can hear my Choir in Something of
Value also. Harry Belafonte sold 400,000
records of my song: "Mary's Little Boy Child".
And if you get his latest album: "Can
Evening With Belafonte" you'll find my
song is among his all-time hits there. He
get just one more song that's a hit like

that I'm scaring you in front, I'm
going to be very hard to get along with.

Marge sends love. We have another
grandchild, a little girl this time, 2
little boys and a girl now. She's 4 weeks
old. That's about all now. Please forgive
me and I promise you I'll write
promptly next time. Love.

Hainston

Yes, you and I would have made a
good team. I can write down anything
I hear and you can hear and dream
up things nobody else ever heard
of.