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Letter, 1975 September 15, from Jester J. Hairston to Eva Jessye

Jester J. Hairston

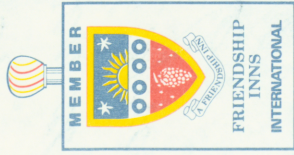
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Sept. 15, 1975

Friendship Inn
STARDUST MOTEL
1400 South Mooney Boulevard
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93277
PHONE (209) 732-6641

My Dearest Love; How
can you ever forgive me
this time? I have received 3 wonderful
letters from you and am just now answer-
ing the first one. But, if you love me as I
love you, I'm sure you will forgive me.
Yes, I saw Mabel King in action and I
think she is "Fabulous, indeed!" What a fine
performer! I'm so sorry we did not get to
spend more time with each other.

I was in Savannah a few days after Mabel
returned to N. Y. Then, when I finished my
role, I went up to Winston-Salem, N. C.
where the "Hainston Clan" was to hold its
annual convention. I stayed there 2 weeks.
There were 450 Hainstons at the Reunion!
On the day I returned home, I went right
into a nice role in the "Harry O" T.V.
series. All that time, nearly 9 weeks,
mail was piling up on my desk! As soon
as I finished the T.V. picture, Marge
and I cut out ~~out~~ for two weeks.

we left yesterday, carrying a whole suitcase of unread mail. But I had taken all three of your letters out and I thank you so much, for the clippings and five articles you sent me. Oh, what an honor and joy it is to have you as a friend.

And it warms my heart, indeed, to hear that you are going to receive the reward ~~you~~ you have deserved so long. If it is humanly possible, I shall be there at your side, my Love. Thanks for dreaming about me.

When this vacation is over, I shall begin my school and church concerts. And I am booked, solid, till May 31, 1975. I have been thinking about you in this regard, Miss Lesage. So many schools ask for me and I am not able to fill their requests. Do you think you'd be interested in doing a few, if I mentioned your name? If some of them had you and became acquainted with your talent and wit, they'd never want me again. I know dat an' so does

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you, but I would be happy to
recommmend you. Most of my
assignments require 3 hours
of rehearsal in the morning and
two or two and a half in the after-
noon; on the day before my Con-
cert. Then, if need be, a light
rehearsal in the morning of
the day of the Concert.

I demand that the singers know
all the music well, before I arrive,
because all I'm interested in
is phrasing and making the music
as much of an artistic experience
as I can. If they can't sing without
keeping their eyes on the music,
then I immediately cut that song
off the program. And go to one
they know.

You choose the songs for your
program. Then send them to
your program Chairman; in the
order in which they should
appear on the printed program.
I give a lot of study to building
a program, especially of my
songs. And when I'm doing stand-
ards or Latin notes besides,
you think about it, Love. Now
to the poems of mine you wish
me to send you. I've forgotten the
ones you wanted. Please
tell me again and I'll sit down,
immediately and type them for
you. My autobiography is in
the hands of "Double Day" pub-
lishers. Wish me luck. Marge
sends love to you. I pray for
you constantly. Love. Garrison