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### Letter, n.d., from Jester J. Hairston to Eva Jessye

Jester J. Hairston

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JESTER J. HAIRSTON  
3959 La Salle  
Los Angeles 62, California  
AX. 2-1303

Dear Sis George,

Thanks for your interesting letter. I'm glad to hear about ANTA. Of course it hks not worried me, because I haven't been too well all year. And probably could not have gone in the spring if they had called us. My old ulcer gave me a fit right after it was and on top of that I caught a cold which hung on till a week ago. I'm O.K. now! I have a choir in the stage production of "Last in the Stars". It received very good notices. Nick Steward and his wife own the theatre and produced the show.

I am up here in Stockton teaching at the college of the Pacific again. This is my 6th. Consecutive year here as guest conductor. Didn't I write you from here last summer. I'm staying only a week this summer. They are singing all my arrangements (8) four brand new ones. And I meant these kids sing. I have a class of 150, all good musicians in the choir. Most are black. I guess it's a little too expensive for More: \$275.00 per 5 weeks at the Camp. But they get more here than they'd ever get in their schools. Each week the biggest Conductors on the Coast are invited to come and work a week with the kids. And at the end of the week they give a concert of the things they've learned under that conductor. Last week Kurt Adler, head of the

San Francisco Opera Co. was guest conductor. I am here this week with the Choir and Misha Bakalnikoff of Columbia studio has the orchestra. It is doubly profitable for me, because there are scores of music teachers here in the summer, working on their M.A. and Ed. degrees. They sit in the back of my class and watch me work. Evidently they are impressed, because most of them order my songs for their choirs as soon as I get back to their schools. I have 4 new ones the kids love this year.

I'm so happy to hear you're so busy. Well, you'll always be busy, with your unique ability and personality. If you had married me when I was begging you, years ago, we could have retired now and live the rest of our lives on our royalties. Now I'll have to wait till we come back in reincarnation. I'll put my bid in now so you won't forget 9,000,000 years from now. When I finish this week I think I'll take Marge and drive around the west coast a couple weeks. We do that now and then and we've seen many beautiful spots here. Write me again soon. Your letter here on your choir is most attractive, as usual.

Yours,  
Fairiston

God has been good to me,  
Dad George. I don't make much money, but I'm always busy and I have a ball. Marge and I have only each other and as soon as we get enough saved up we take a trip and enjoy it.