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Letter, 1974 August 30, from Jester J.and Marge Hairston to Eva Jessye

Jester J. and Marge Hairston

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Recommended Citation

Hairston, Jester J. and Marge, "Letter, 1974 August 30, from Jester J.and Marge Hairston to Eva Jessye" (2015). *Eva Jessye Correspondence*. 524.

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Aug. 30, 1974

My Darling Sweetheart:

Thank you so much for your lovely letter and the program of the fine work you are doing. You see, more people love you than just me. It is about time people began to recognize the contribution you have made to American music in this country. And are still making! I am so proud to tell people, everywhere I go, that I not only know you, but have been making love to you for forty years; to no avail. But I'm still going to love you, with all my heart, the rest of my life.

Marge is so much better these days, thank God. I'm happy that I am not on the road, conducting at this time. And, being home since March has helped my own health so very much. Of course, I do as many local concerts as I can squeeze in between my TV shows. Perhaps you can heal a minister here called, Rev. Robert Schuller, of the Garden Grove Community Church. He is a powerful white preacher and has a huge following. I am going to conduct his church choir, on this coming Sunday night. I just give them one rehearsal. If they don't know the music well, I just throw that song out of the program. But this choir is conducted by one of the finest conductors in southern Calif. and a good friend of mine. It was ready for me at the rehearsal last night, and we all had a good time.

I still have five more TV shows to do, in the first batch of shows we are doing. Our program opens on Wed. the 4th. of Sept. so please be on the lookout for it. I have less to do in this show than I've ever had in any show I've ever been in. But I love working with young people. They keep me young. Of course, I exercise every day of the year and walk as often as I can also. If I did not keep my arms in shape I could never (at 39) do the kind of performances I have to do with young people. I received an invitation to come to Michigan, next Feb. to conduct six high school choirs combined. I told the man I might not be able to make it, because of my show, but I recommended you for the job. I told him I learned so much of the work I do with choirs from you and that you could do a much better job than I and besides, you are right there in Michigan. So you may be hearing from him one of these days.

And anytime I get a call from Michigan I shall try my best to persuade them to send for you. I have as much work here on the west coast and in the deep south as I can do. Next spring I am going to Decatur, Ga. to conduct a big Southern Baptist church concert choir. Must go now, Baby. This is for you to buy some Beeman's chewing gum. Love from both of us.

Mary & Gunston