

Office of the President

April 9, 1991

Professor Roman Totenberg
329 Waverly Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02158

Dear Roman:

Thanks very much for your note. I am sending you another book, in German, which has just come out. I also am making a contribution to the fund in your honor at Boston University.

I have had many occasions to think about you and your influence on me, and I don't think I have had the opportunity to express my gratitude sufficiently. I was never destined to become a great violinist, but somehow you had confidence in my musicianship. As a result, after much hemming and hawing, so to speak, I seem to have gotten off to a solid start, although somewhat later in life. I did another concert with the London Philharmonic, and I got good notices, which I am enclosing. I also have done a recording of the music of Joseph Joachim with Elmar Oliveira playing the Hungarian violin concerto. Last summer we began a festival here that was wonderfully well reviewed, and Jerry Grossman played in it. We are doing another one this summer on Mendelssohn. I have done a couple of concerts here with Rudolf Firkusny, who was sufficiently enthusiastic to arrange for me to conduct in Prague in October.

I will be conducting at the Colorado Music Festival in June and, of all places, in Manila in January. In addition to the chamber series I run with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, I have been named principal guest conductor for next season and will make my debut with Gil Shaham and the Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 1. I will return to the Pro Arte next year with Stravinsky, Wilson, and Haydn; and I have been invited back to the Royal Academy in London, where I did a very successful concert last winter. All in all, it looks as if something is happening. Much of this I owe to you, and it is something I will never forget.

My parents seem well and send you their best. I heard from David and Sonia Landes that Melanie is not well. I hope that her health has improved. If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to ask.

With warm regards,



Leon Botstein

LB/dhm
Enclosures