

May 6, 1961

Dear Eugene:

I thought you would like to know that your Concerto was performed very successfully on April 18 and again on April 27.

I returned the Concerto to Theresa Costello last Monday and also included all the extra parts that were made up. If there is an opportunity to have it performed again with a full symphony orchestra there should be enough parts without having to have any made up. There was no use our keeping them when we didn't have the score.

I am very pleased to say that I have been the first accordionist to solo with a symphony in the Pacific Northwest. Sicklers had Galla Rini perform the 3rd movement of his concerto with a small orchestra but that is all that has been done in this area. They are in Spokane as I am sure you know. His performance was several years ago now.

Since I had to make or I should say the symphony had to make up so many extra parts, I am wondering if I was the first to perform your concerto with a full symphony orchestra. I would be most pleased if I was. Was it performed with more of a pit-sized orchestra?

I must say I was most pleased and gratified with the success of the concerts. Both were very well attended; in fact here in Walla Walla they had the best crowd they have had for a spring concert. The most pleasing part of all my efforts was the fact that the accordion was so well received. As I mentioned in my letter to Theresa Costello, I have played solo on several occasions with other artist-teachers from the Whitman and Walla Walla Colleges for concerts. I do know that if I wish I may play again with the symphony.

Pictures were taken during both concerts with a 4 lens camera (not flash). The ones taken here in Walla Walla turned out very well; I haven't seen those taken in the Tri-City Area as yet.

I was almost neglecting to tell you that shortly after I received the score for the concerto, I was asked to perform with the Mid Columbia Symphony in the Tri City Area on April 27. (The Tri City Area consists of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco - Population 80,000) (The two symphonies shared the expenses - How much each I don't know) It kept me going a few times back and forth 50 miles so they could share the music but it was well worth all the effort. This area is not as cultural by any means as Walla Walla but they have a pretty good orchestra and did a good job.

A stereo tape recording of the performance was made here in Walla Walla but as yet I don't have it. I would like you to hear it.

There was a lot of good publicity here so it should have done alot of good for the accordion. I am enclosing some of the publicity and also a review by the critic who will not say anything good unless he means it.

If you should have any questions, please let me know. I would be very happy to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Horace Lazzari

Horace Lazzari

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P. S.

Why did Marilyn Spinelli play the Concerto at such a fast tempo? It just didn't sound like the same composition. Expression and phrasing left much to be desired, notes bass switch changes were not used which are important. Perhaps was rushed for time to get it on the record.