Anthony Smetona
Visiting Professor of Music

Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Mr. Artur Rubinstein
C/O Masonic Auditorium
Temple at Second
Detroit, Michigan

March 30th, 1971

Dear Mr. Rubinstein,

It is very difficult to write to you, for what could I possibly say to you that has not been said better a thousand times before ?

The purpose of this short letter is to ask you to permit me, and some of my students to say "hello" to you backstage after your concert. We would be very grateful, for it is an honor and a privilege to be able to hear the last of the really great pianists, and it is always exciting to meet you personally. Each time there is something new.

My mother often speaks of a time after a concert in Chicago, perhaps thirty years ago, when she went backstage and introduced herself as the daughter-in-law of the last president of Lithuania. You were very charming, as always, and recalled a time when my grandfather, the president, came back to see you after a concert in Lithuania. (News photographers in Chicago photographed my mother with you after the Chicago concert, and today, the newspaper article and the photograph remains a much-cherished memento.)

I have heard you many times over the years. One performance I remember in particular. The Brahms B-flat Concerto with George Szell in Cleveland in 1953. To say that your performance was "great" would not be enough. Rather, it was a revelation, a miracle, to realize that such playing was even possible. After every concert, I went backstage of course. Always I was afraid, and always you seemed very annoyed. (I understood, of course, for who wants to be plagued.) Finally, after a concert in New York about ten years ago, Madame Rosina Lhevinne, my teacher, took me backstage to see you. You were courteous, gracious, and kind - almost as if I, not you, were Artur Rubinstein. I was so overcome I could think of nothing to say. To this day, it is one of my most pleasant memories of a great artist, and a greater human being.

With admiration and respect,

Anthony Smetona

Music Department
(313) 487-4380

P.S. The brochure is only to identify me to you.

Antanas Smetona

"Astounding Virtuosity".....

"GRANDIOSE PLAYING BY LITHUANIAN." "There was grandeur in everything that Antanas Smetona played at Wigmore Hall last night. This Lithuanian pianist, making his debut in London, kept his audience alert by the virtue of the splendid music he was playing and even more by the ease with which he played it." *London Daily Telegraph, April 19, 1967*

"The recital revealed a young man of commendable pianistic poise and of truly impressive technical fluency. As he matures there should be no musical heights beyond his grasp." *Robert Finn in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, December 6, 1965*

"Young Smetona brought a technical competence and a musical understanding that easily conveyed all that he wished to offer his listeners." *Paul Hume in the Washington Post, December 27, 1966*

"SMETONA SHOWS VIRTUOSITY" "He is on his way to become a major pianist. He merges virtuosity with a quiet poetry and makes every work exciting. Washington will be fortunate if he puts us on the list for his next tour." *The Evening Star, December 27, 1965*

"YOUNG MASTER AT THE PIANO" "Delineations full of poetry, forceful color, precise ornamentation, and an artistic soul" *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, October 3, 1966*

"ASTOUNDING VIRTUOSITY" *Westfaelische Nachrichten November 30, 1966*

"Powerful technique, fingers of steel" *Journal De Geneve, September 29, 1965*

ALICE TULLY HALL — FEBRUARY 22, 1971

MONDAY EVENING AT 8:30

Antanas Smetona, pianist

Antanas Smetona, grandson and namesake of the last president of Lithuania, was born in Paris, France. With the outbreak of World War II, his parents came to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where the young pianist made his first public appearance in 1945.

Following the completion of his musical studies at the Cleveland Music School Settlement in 1965, where he was the only pianist to be awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment that year, he studies at the Mannes College of Music in New York City, where he received in 1961 the degree of Bachelor of Science. Subsequently, he was accepted as a scholarship student by the Juilliard School of Music where he was awarded the Master of Science degree in 1963. Concurrent with his graduation from Juilliard he was awarded a Fulbright Grant, and in 1965 and 1966 held a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service. In 1966 he received a grant from the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund for Music and 1967 was awarded the Alfred Hertz Memorial Prize in Music by the University of California (Berkeley). Mr. Smetona has received distinctions in international piano competitions in Vercelli, Geneva, and Paris. He was a student of Leonard Shure for ten years and also worked at the Mannes College with Mme. Nadia Reisenberg. At Juilliard he was a student of Rosina Lhevinne.

Since making his orchestral debut in Cleveland in 1954, he has concertized extensively throughout the United States and Europe, both as a recitalist, and with orchestras in Chicago (Chicago Symphony), New York (Symphony of the Air), Hamburg, Germany (Hamburger Symphoniker), Frankfurt, Germany (Live telecast of the Tchaikovsky B-flat minor Piano Concerto), and other cities.

PROGRAM

Rondo a capriccio in G Major (1794/95) ..... BEETHOVEN
Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 81a ("Les Adieux")

Nocturne in F Major, Op. 15, No. 1 ..... CHOPIN
Sonata in B-flat minor, Op. 35
Ballande in G minor, Op. 23

Intermission

Sonata in C minor, Op. Posth. ..... SCHUBERT

TICKETS:

All seats $3.50; Students with I.D. $1.50. On sale at Alice Tully Hall Box Office, Broadway at 65th Street, New York, New York 10023, and at Ticketron Outlets. (For location nearest you, call 644-4400.)

Personal direction:

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