RR-LET-071-17-01

Festival dei Due Mondi

Presidente *Gian Carlo Menotti*

August 5, 1961

Dear Mr. Rubinstein,

I was profoundly unhappy that you were not able to come to Spoleto to receive the honorary citizenship offered to you and even more disappointed that I was unable to attend your concert in Florence. Unfortunately, all sorts of crises developed at that time within the Festival and my absence from Spoleto for even a moment would have proved disastrous. It may amuse you to know that one of our emergencies was a financial one (we are always operating on a shoestring) and that the arrival of your generous check saved us from a most embarrassing situation.

I am very happy to report to you, as a benefactor of the Festival, that this past season was, by far, our most successful one. We played almost exclusively to sold-out houses and the enthusiasm of both press and public was enormous. Our chamber-music concerts were particularly well-received (31 concerts in all, with a different program every day) and it is my secret and fervent hope that perhaps next year you might honor us with an appearance, even if it is only a brief one. It may also interest you that among the young pianists introduced this year, the American John Browning and the English John Ogdon were especially acclaimed.

May I offer to you in behalf of our board of directors and the city of Spoleto my most profound and sincere gratitude.

Sincerely yours,

Gian Carlo Menotti

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