August 30th, 1945

Mr. James D. Murray
RCA Victor Co.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York City

Dear Mr. Murray:

I am sorry to have to tell you that I cannot see my way clear to approving the issue of the Chopin Concerto. After listening carefully and repeatedly to the proofs which have been sent to me on my very excellent gramophone, I find that both orchestra and piano are not clear, each part uneven in volume, the whole of the performance being utterly uninspired - in which ofcourse I must take part of the blame on my own performance.

If I may express my personal opinion, I would like to say that the preparations for this recording were totally inadequate in the way of rehearsals, acoustics, choice of piano, and mechanical approach to the work. Even at that time I had misgivings about the result. Also, I find that the cuts made are detrimental to a noble exposition of this concerto.

I am sorry to disappoint the Victor Company but it is my firm conviction that it is better for both of us not to issue a bad record.

I look forward to my work with Stokowski and I think that in the Appassionata of Beethoven and also in the Beethoven Concerto with Toscanini we have something to give to the public.

Very sincerely yours,