

THE CREATION OF A MUSIC CENTER IN AMERICA BECOMES MORE SIGNIFICANT IN THESE DAYS, THAN IN ANY OTHER TIME. FOR, INDEED, SO LONG AS CULTURE AND ART EXIST, THERE IS HOPE FOR HUMANITY; AND ALL THOSE, WHO BELIEVE IN THE VALUES AND INHERITANCE OF CULTURE AND ART SHOULD STAND IN THE FRONT RANK. IF THERE EVER WAS A TIME TO SPEAK OF MUSIC, IT IS NOW, IN THE NEW WORLD.

THEREFORE, OUR FEELING OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE GOES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE B.S.O., AND ESPECIALLY TO MR. D., OUR PRESIDENT, FOR THEIR DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A MUSIC CENTER IN AMERICA, AND FOR HELPING TO MATERIALIZE THE IDEA.

NOR, IT IS EASIER TO CONCEIVE AN IDEA, THAN TO BRING IT TO EXISTENCE.

MY VISION OF A MUSIC CENTER IS OF LONG STANDING. IN 1913 and 14, IN A QUIET, RESIDENTIAL PART OF MOSCOW, I FIRST CONTEMPLATED A CENTER OF EVERY BRANCH OF MUSICAL ART. THE ASSISTANCE OF GREAT ARTISTS AND BRILLIANT MINDS OF THAT EPOCH HAD BEEN SECURED. THEN, CAME THE WORLD WAR AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917. ...

ONLY IN AMERICA, MANY YEARS LATER, WHEN I BECAME CONDUCTOR OF THE B.S.O., DID I RETURN TO MY LIFE-LONG DREAM. I FELT THAT A MUSIC CENTER IN THIS COUNTRY WAS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT DEFINITELY, ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

THE QUESTION WAS: HOW COULD IT BE MATERIALIZED ?

THE FIRST HOPE CAME IN 1929, WHEN I WAS ASKED BY MRS. EUGENE MEYER TO START A MUSIC AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., BUT THE DEPRESSION SET IN BRINGING A FINAL STOP TO ALL FURTHER PLANS.

IN 1936, MISS ROBINSON SMITH, PRESIDENT OF THE BERKSHIRE MUSIC FESTIVAL ASKED THE B.S.O. AND MYSELF TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR SUMMER FESTIVAL..

I EXPLAINED TO MISS R. SMITH THAT MY IDEA WAS TO CREATE A GREAT MUSIC FESTIVAL OF A NATIONAL, AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL SCOPE. / OUR FIRST FESTIVAL WAS STARTED; AND A YEAR LATER, MRS. GORHAM BROOKS OFFERED HER BEAUTIFUL FAMILY ESTATE "TANGLEWOOD" AS A PERMANENT HOME FOR THE FESTIVAL.

IT IS THEN AND THERE, THAT MY DREAM OF A MUSIC CENTER WAS REVIVED.

AT A MEETING <sup>with</sup> ~~ON~~ THE TRUSTEES OF THE B.S.O., I SPOKE OF MY VISION OF A MUSIC CENTER, ITS MEANING IN AMERICAN LIFE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE ARTS AND CULTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. I SHALL NEVER FORGET THE WORDS SAID BY OUR PRESIDENT, MR. D., WHEN I <sup>en</sup> unfolded MY PLAN: "GO A-HEAD? WE CANNOT AFORD TO LOSE IT". / THE SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEES OF THE B.S.O.; THE SUPPORT OF THE ROCKEFELLER AND CARNEGIE FOUNDATIONS, ASCAP and OTHER GREAT AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS PROVE THE NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR UNDERTAKING.

TO-DAY, THE GROUND IS SET, AND WE LAY THE CORNER-STONE OF THE BERKSHIRE MUSIC CENTER. I LOOK INTO ITS FUTURE WITH FAITH & CONFIDENCE.

MY FAITH IS JUSTIFIED, BECAUSE THE <sup>leading</sup> ~~NEW~~ FORCES OF THE MUSICAL WORLD HAVE JOINED OUR FACULTY. I AM HAPPY TO PRESENT: Mr. WOODWORTH Paul HINDEMITH; Olin DOWNES; Mr. Copland; Dr. Graf; Mr. Burgin; Mr. Chasins Mr. Chapple; Mr. Holmes. Mr. Laurent, Mr. Gillet, Mr. Polatschec, Mr. Mager Mr. Lefranc, Mr. Bedetti, Mr. Moleux, Mr. Allard, Mr. Valkenier, Mr. Raichman, Mr. Bernard Zighera,

*Sanroma, Biggs, Wyllis.*

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MY CONFIDENCE IS ALSO JUSTIFIED BY THE SPLENDID WORK ON THE PART  
 OF OUR COLLABORATORS. I WANT TO THANK MR. JUDD, ou Manager, FOR  
 HIS INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE; AND DR. MARGARET GRANT, Secretary of the  
 CENTER, FOR HER DEVOTION TO OUR COMMON TASK AND IDEALS.

AS I HAVE STATED IT BEFORE: WE WANT TO BE MODEST IN OUR PROMISES;  
 BUT, BY NO MEANS, DO WE WANT TO BE MODEST IN OUR ASPIRATIONS.

"~~THESE OF US, THE FIVE SEVEN~~ WE FEEL IT OUR DUTY

~~TO~~ TO HAND DOWN THE OLD TREASURES OF ~~AMERICAN~~ MUSICAL CULTURE TO  
 AMERICAN YOUTH. ENRICHED BY THIS CULTURE, THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF  
 AMERICA WILL CARRY IT FURTHER TO NEW ACHIEVEMENT.

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