

Friday 4 Joon 1993

Brian McLaren 2462 SE Micah place Corvallis OR 97333

very bad clutter and not much I can do about it. The other day I tried out the new xeroxing place on Adams avenue disadvantage is the long walk there. Jonathan who found it doesn't realize how far it is. the machines are older and slower, but for ordinary copying of typing are normal and so I tried out one of my early sheet music things--TWILIGHT IN THE CHAPEL, piano piece composed in 1934.

Hard for today's people to believe that almost every home and apartment back then had a piano. and it ordinarily cost only \$4 to get it tuned, so they were pretty well kept up.

It's obvious that unless I xerox many of my old piano pieces there will be no evidence that I was musically literate and nothing will survive, unless I send copies out to a dozen distant places, which I am now doing.

Visitor yesterday: Bradley Sheklian from Glendale--moved fairly recently to a place near the Brand Library. Found out about me through Johnny Reinhard whom he found out about very indirectly.

He is trying out the 8-tone macro scale.

So I handed him the 16-tone guitar from the wall.

Very glaring sun yesterday and I may have overcooked the top of my head. Setting up the red Megalyra the one which had been at the Museum exhibit for fourteen months. Of course since nobody was allowed to play it there was no appreciable damage. It needs one pickup re-made--before it was taken up there, somebody snagged the wires in the coils. I am trying various kinds of armor, such as Shoe Goo II to embed the windings.

Probably not worth the fuss and bother of Casting Resin (epoxy mixes) from a big paint store downtown that I might get if this rubbery stuff fails. Probably anything as good as this is to repair shoe soles and walk on for miles will protect the pickup windings.

People trying to go the now-wrong way west on Polk Ave. but so far the police aren't around to stop them. I would almost guarantee that this part of Polk Ave. was planned as an alley since there are alleys in the neighborhood as wide or slightly wider and the sidewalks are a joke. Young wives pushing baby carriages down these sidewalks and having to get out into the street over and over again since much of the sidewalk is impassable.

Treasures From the Alley: somebody threw out a bar stool. That means that since I have another bar stool I have the proper supports for a Megalyra Contrabass.

Lots of people moving out of San Diego in June.

June has been the bad-luck month for nearly all my life. Very few good luck Junes. Any other month is better, May or July or February or whatnot.

More people getting interested in having refretting done. But they tell me how discouraging the guitar shops are and they don't want to take on a non-12 job.

The news is as of today: over a hundred fretting tables in my collection here for any possible refretting that would make any sense, and some that don't. I would not want anybody to fret to 43 !

No use anybody handing the Enemy such ammunition to be turned against us.

Mundy 21 Jewn 1993

Brian McLaren 2462 SE Rich Place Corvallis OR 97333

Greetings =====

Early morning and allegedly the first day of Summer. I am slowly recovering from a week of intermittent indigestion. Got somebody to go after bland stuff such as rice-cereal and applesauce. I couldn't possibly have gone to the big market that day. I could today if I need be.

Lots o spiders here. Not the dangerous kind but maybe if I had eaten them it would have upset me. Probably not. Other possibility is that a piece of cheese that had mold on it had upset my digestion. I didn't see the mold till the next day. So had to throw that piece out.

So I defrosted the icebox and cleaned some o it out.

Last week before the indigestion happened I got a surge-protector. The fridge and some other things are now plugged into it. Thunderstorms are likely in the Summer and also there are surges from heavy equipment in this block or across the street being turned on now and then. Not as bad as Glendale, where surges actually burnt lightbulbs out, but why take the risk?

Very bad buzz on the radio here, much of the time especially at night. I have to test whether this is mainly over the power line. I have a battery transistor portable and that doesn't pick it up as much. But maybe I can get an antenna on the roof since usually this kind of noise is appliances in neighboring houses. The real static-makers are some distance away.

I have written an number of people about archives and about sending out copies of the music scores. Awaiting results before I grind out more xeroxes. More opportunity now because for the first time in 60 years of writing music I can REDUCE oversize pages to 8 1/2 x 11" or smaller and thus have a things I send out, fit STANDARD files.

3 1/2¢ a page. Nothing like astronomical costs I would have faced in 1950 or 1965. Back in 1961 I had written out many pages of earlier stuff, using fresh music paper and India Ink, but when I went around Los Angeles finding out about copying and about diazo paper etc., and two large stores in Hollywood (no longer there alas) that carried music supplies and their quotes of any copying process whatever were so shockingly high it was way beyond my means and the danger of all my scores dying with me was practical certainty.

Today with xeroxing at so many places in competition with each other it now is possible for me to take all worthwhile stuff a few at a time and copy them and send them out to various places.

In 1962-1965 (mostly 1963 late) I had my electronic organ set up and this was BEFORE the disastrous several moves. I had assistance from Ervin to tune it to 17, 19, and 22 (the 24 was possible but very poor timbre because the oscillators were being forced too far from the position they were wired up for) and you have some of the results, i.e. the Excursion Into the Enharmonic which is the portion that was rewritten and reedited in a final draft in India Ink. There is more especially more 17, that I have here in rough draft in pencil in one of those school-music-writing-books. Took ill and had no time and my mother was in very bad condition getting worse. And the City of L A condemned the house and some houses next door also.

(1965 after the Watts Riot #1 and through 1966).

Saturday 26 June 1993
B. McLaren Corvallis O R 97333

Greetings ===

Phone rang a while ago and it was Larry Hanson in Sherman Oaks near the Valley community of Van Noise.

Mike Perlowin talked him into having a 34-tone guitar fretted somewhere up there in L A and so he will be trying to get people there playing in 34. In the meantime of course, I do have 34 on Buzz's disk for the Mir ge and tried the other evening and it works and it sounds smooth enough.

I have an old electric guitar that I put in 34 quite some time ago but due to the dreadful forced move to San Diego and the move in 1986 inside San Diego, didn't put my homemade pickups into that. During the summer I can--I have pickups that will go in somehow. So I will have 34 as well as whoever he finds in the L A area.

I suppose it will take him much of the Summer to get all that done.

Lrv is helping with advice of course.

=====

Got your corrected version of TWILIGHT IN THE CHAPEL. As I explained before, I will get some expression marks in italics into it later and also the title with press-on letters I can xerox and reduce to fit and I can also shrink your version slightly for the sake of margins.

That worked out well with the IN LIMBO affair that had virtually NO margins and I reduced all 80 pages slightly--95% I think it was.

Just a matter, during the next month of my routine trips to the xeroxing place.

I lost more weight from the indigestion last fortnight and will have to gain three pounds back or something like that. At least I didn't get the flu as I had feared.

It probably will take another two weeks to get somebody to take me to computer places to get that power cord--glad you gave me the Warner's name, and -- already I am getting bits and pieces of hints how to proceed.

The Partch book? Well, the main problem, which I saw all of twenty years ago and discussed with anyone who would listen to me, was Partch deliberate INCOMPATIBILITY so that other composers couldn't use his instruments. I resolved that the Megalyra instruments would be compatible and so they are.

The last two L A visitors were able to play them AT ONCE.

Apropos of the telephone article you sent. I may have to start believing in a Devil: No human being would be so cruel as to invent Call waiting! I was a "victim" of Call waiting this morning. rude clicking in my ear and I went around cursing it for a while afterward.

This may be why they are now advertising Call Return, in the LA area--it may be slightly more humane. Something like being Dummy in a Bridge game. or those, back in the 1930 movies, who "cut in" on the dance floor.

Now off to the big market and the branch library and the mailbox across the 805 River that collects on Saturday afternoon. Only one