

Sunday 12 October 1986

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Greetings *****

You may not have left NY yet, but there are three people who have left California for Florida: Glen Prior is now at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg Florida and David Hill is using the computer music facilities at Tallahassee Florida and now Denny Genovese just wrote that he was in Nokomis Florida or however that is spelt. Mislaidd it.

Trying to make up for lost time: I was put in the hospital and most of the prostate was removed and I was sent home after a six days with the catheter and had to go through another week of that, so couldn't do much settling at this new address till that was taken out.

This place is about twice the size of the other cot tage and has a garage and two workbenches. There will be space to set up one or another set of metal bars or tubes outside.

The acoustics of the livingroom are excellent--hardwood floors and no deadening carpet or crummy old drapes as in the Place up in Glendale--the Glendale place was very dusty and hadn't really been cleaned in 20 years. The Glasiers painted some of the rooms and refinished the floors before I moved in.

This is the first time since I began refretting guitars that it was possible to hang them on the wall--eight guitars in a row, by system of course, along the east wall of the livingroom.

Chalmers called me from Houston yesterday--trying to dispose of his house there and of course nobody wants to buy homes there with the depressed conditions. He will go back to Oakland early November regardless.

So now he is packing.

I don't think you will have any trouble about the Busoni affair since you can consider the quotation (up to some 150 or 2200 words) as a REVIEW. It isn't Busoni's fault or my fault or yours, that Busoni happened to be 80 years ahead of his time (proposing third-tones and sixth-tones in 1906) and still 64 years ahead of his time when recapping things in 1922. So at this very late date we still have the right to critique and review.

This Intimidation by Copyright has gone much too far in several cases--I ran across books which THREE PAGES of copyright acknowledgments in fine print that almost required a microscope.

Who would think they could collect from us for just a couple of paragraphs?

It would be quite another matter if we were quoting somebody's popular song lyric or somebody's short poem where the copyrighted item was only a couple of stanzas and thus was being republished in toto. That would not be fair use.

In my bulletins and articles I have usually rewritten anything where there might be risk of verbatim quotation.

The 1906-and-after NEW AESTHETIC OF MUSIC book was translated by Theodore Presser & Co., but these 1922 Melos articles were some other outfit I believe.

This of course epitomizes the horrible situation in music, where all the highmunkymunks and pundits and self-appointed Authorities and Experts INTIMIDATE and THREATEN and SCARE and SCOLD anyone who wants the slightest progress. At age 69 I have outlived most of my enemies so can't be shushed up quite so easily, and since I have no time left, might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb. Nobody appreciated it whenever I gave in to them! I got no Merit Badges for Masochism nor for Unconditional Surrender. My conforming to the Pianolatrous World in my teens and twenties did not get me any job at all and never brought one cent into my exchequer and did not make anybody love me. So why should I give in?

Indeed, I was fifty years old before I got any respect.

My mother and father and their relatives operated on a basis of "What will people think?" and what good did that do them? Where did my sister get being reserved and formal and conventional?

Too many people trying to make music a RELIGION, even a CULT, as you said.

I simply do not have any more time left and if I am to leave anything behind me it has to be publicized NOW. This fortnight in the hospital and seriously ill is a stern warning--some people did not live through the same condition. If this had happened two years ago up k in Glendale I would not have been saved. There was nobody to turn to and no place to get help.

I think it is quite painfully obvious: which is going to prevail, the computer industry or the piano industry so I believe I made the right choice before it was too late. If I had been a run-of-the-mill po piano teacher or cellist or arranger, where would I be today? Certainly never in OMNI and Life.

Unpacking boxes and filing stuff away and throwing stuff out and settling will take quite a while because of things which have been unavailable for so long that I forgot what they were for or whether I still had them.

Yours