



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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July 20, 1944

Dearest Laura Jane,

Can you ever forgive me for my tardiness? I am really ashamed of myself.

How have you been? Do you enjoy being home again?

Several weeks ago I was asked to play the Tschaikovsky Concerto at the St. Paul Pop Concerts on Aug. 2nd. I am looking forward to it very eagerly and I do wish that you could come to the concert. It would be wonderful to see you again. I'm so sorry to have missed seeing you when you passed this way at the end of June - but when your letter arrived I was in the midst of final examinations at school - and couldn't write in time to meet you - if that would have been possible. So - please do come if you can.

Do you have your piano pupils in Little Falls again this

summer? It seems to be such fun to teach them and is a wonderful experience for them to be influenced by you. There really is nobody else they could know who is so vitally interested in music - and who studies so excellently. Also - do you plan to study Modern music with Mr. Janini in the Fall? I should like very much to hear some of the things you have written since you were here.

As to my theory studies - I am working on figured bass - I enjoy it very much, more than anything else I've studied as yet.

Saturday Mr. Serkin is to play the ~~Emperor~~ Concerto at Ravinia - I am sure it will be a wonderful concert - I want very much to hear it.

It is getting very late - and I must close.

Mother sends her best regards to you and your mother and so do I.

With much love

Your truly but devoted friend

It is possible that I may be in ^{Barbara} Little Falls for a day or two after the concert - so if we don't meet in St Paul I want very much to see you then. Love - Barbara

Apr 20, 1944

Dearest Laura Jane,

It was so good to hear from you. I am very sorry that I was unable to answer sooner but both Mother and I have been down with the flu for several weeks - and it has really set our schedule off.

We were so happy that you could come here this past month. It was lovely to see you again. I do hope that you are feeling better now. There really can be no reason for a person as fine as you to be discouraged. After all, we are,

you write again.

Mr. Shure thought that I ought to learn a Mozart concerto - so I have been working quite hard on the E^b - Köchel 482 -

It is a wonderful piece - and I cannot stop practicing it. I have been looking everywhere for a cadenza - as Mozart didn't write any. There is one in the music by Hummel - and although it seems to be the best one written yet - it is so inferior to the concerto as to be quite a disappointment. If you happen to hear any good cadenzas, Laura June, I would

each of us, on the earth for some reason and that thought alone is reassuring if others are momentarily dismal. I do love having you here - and especially talking about compositions & chorals & etc.

By the way - the progression you worked out for me in that choral won the approval of Dr. Jonas. I am beginning to understand it better now - as that one ^(choral) was the first.

On the Saturday that you left - your mother called - about 10:30 in the evening to ask if you were still here. I was so glad to ~~see~~ talk to her again. Please send her our best regards - when

appreciate it very much if you could tell me about them. Miss Kirsch, my teacher, suggested that I try to write one - as one might as well play his own bad cadenza as play someone else's bad Cadenza. Anyhow - - -

I want to thank you very much for the recording of Faure's Nocturne and for the music ~~use~~ that you gave me. It was so sweet of you to think of me.

I must stop - as it is shortly time to go to school.

Mother sends best regards.

All my love,
Barbara.

VIA AIR MAIL



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Miss Laura Musser
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Oct 19

Dear Laura Jane,

It was so good,
to hear from you again.
I, too, have been very
busy - and unable to
answer you sooner. I
was glad to hear that all
is well with you and that
you are studying piano
with Mr. Tenyos. I am
sure that you will make
much progress.

Guess what! We
have a new piano - and

3.

Incidentally - did you hear the NBC program last Sunday. Didn't Miss Anderson sing exquisitely! We have written to Miss Anderson, Mr. Ruoff, and Mr. Geoff - asking them for dinner some evening when they are here. I hope that they can come - because it was such fun last year - and I am sure will be all the more with Miss Anderson and Mr. Geoff.

I have been studying

2.

I am simply thrilled over it. It is a Mason & Hamlin - and I am sure that you will love it as much as I do. My work becomes much easier and much more fun.

As to Miss Anderson's concert - we are looking forward to it very much - both for it's sake and because it will bring you here. Mother and I have our tickets already - but thank you all the same for wanting to get them. She sings at the Civic Opera House.

The Beethoven Sonata
Opus 31 no 3 - and as
it is not easy - I have much
work to do on it. Anyhow -
it will be wonderful to
see you again when Nov
19th comes around.

Mother sends her best
regards to you and your
mother - and so do I.

Please write soon.

Love

Barbara



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Nov. 3, 1944

Dearest Laura Jane,

I received your wire - and Miss Anderson's concert is on Nov. 19th at the Civic Opera House.

We are looking forward to having you here on the 17th as you mentioned in your letter. Also - we have asked Miss Anderson, Mr Rupp and Mr Jofe for dinner but haven't heard from them as yet.

Mother sends her best regards and I do too, for you and your mother. I hope to hear from you before we see each other again.

Love
Barbara

VIA AIR MAIL



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Monday

Dearest Laura Jane,

Last week I spent a few days in Little Falls - and I was so disappointed that you were not there. But - I did see your Mother and sister - and they told me that you were to be home on Sunday. If it is possible for you to spend some time in Chicago - I should love to see you again.

On Aug 2nd I played in St. Paul at the Pop. Concerts - I don't know if you received

the letter I sent to Little Falls
several weeks before or not. But,
it would be wonderful to see
you again - so please write
if you will have time.

Many things have almost
happened this summer - but
nothing actually. I have
heaps of things to tell you -
and I am looking forward to
seeing you.

Mother sends her best
regards.

All my love,
Barbara

Saturday.

Dearest Laura Jane,

I was so ~~happy~~
to hear from you - and also
I am so sorry that you've
been down with the flu.

I hope that you are
feeling very much better
now. It really is
wonderful that you
will be in Chicago in
March. We are looking
forward to seeing you
and having you come
to Miss Anderson's concert
with us. And - we can be

made the orchestra do the most remarkable things. Of course the Brahms was wonderful.

As to my work - I am studying the Schubert B^b Sonata - and ~~was~~ working on Chopin F Minor Fantasy. In counterpoint - I have hopes of finishing the species next week - and beginning on canons.

Life still goes on here,

together when Mr. Rupp comes to dinner - what fun! You must plan on staying at our house as long as possible.

Last week I went to a symphony concert with the Jonases. The program was really inspiring. They did a G Major Suite by Bach, the Beethoven 1st Symphony and Serkin was the soloist in the Brahms B^b Concerto. Defever conducted and he

I guess.

At any rate - Mother
sends her love and
so do I. We are
looking forward to
being with you.

Affectionately

Barbara

via airmail



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via airmail



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- B. Elfenbein - 4728 North Saint Louis Av. Chicago 26 Ill -

Monday

Dearest Laura Jane,

It's been such a long time since I've heard from you - That I have been really worried. I certainly hope that you are well, and that the only reason that you haven't written is because you are busy. Anyhow - we are expecting you on the 24th - or whenever Miss Anderson's

concert is scheduled to be given.
And also for the dinner on Mon.
which we are expecting Mr. Ruff to
come to. - And Laura Jane, do you,
perhaps, know where we could
reach Mr. Ruff now? as we would
like to remind him before he arrives
in Chicago - in case he has forgotten
or something.

For the past two weeks
there has been a Mozart festival
here. The Symphony Orchestra

played a great many works of Mozart.
and also Mr. Schnabel played
5 of the most wonderful concertos.
Of course, words cannot possibly
tell how wonderful they were -
but anyhow - I was in perfect
bliss - and was unable to practice
for almost the entire two weeks.
But now I am getting back to work
on the Chopin F Minor Fantasia.
Also, I am beginning to study

theory with Dr. Jonas this week.
He is an excellent teacher - and
I hope to learn a great deal.

Anyhow - please write soon -
as we haven't yet the tickets for
Miss Anderson's concert - but
will get them as soon as you let
us know definitely if you are
coming.

Mother sends her love - and
so do I - and we are looking
forward to being with you soon.

Barbara

Via Air Mail



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March 9, 1946

Dearest Laura Jane,

Thanks for your
sweet letter and please
forgive these few lines
I was so glad to hear that
you are well -

We are looking
forward to seeing you
on or before the 26th -
As to the tickets to Miss

- three -

American music. It was not particularly enjoyable (altho Mr. Kirkpatrick seems to be an excellent pianist), until for an encore - he played a short theme written by Stephen Foster for either the Flute or Violin. It was, truly, the loveliest thing I've heard for ages. It reminded me of Mozart - or Schubert - and really I felt badly because there isn't anymore music as wonderful as this little theme by Foster.

I must close - as it's

- two -

Anderson's concert - mother is getting them this week - Yes - it is at the Civic Opera House - but it would probably be too late by the time you could send for them. Several times they have been sold out 12 weeks in advance - so we can settle it when we see you.

Tuesday I heard a recital given by John Kirkpatrick of - as usual, - all

— four —

very late.

Please give my best
regards to your mother.

Love —

Barbara

Let me know when you are to
arrive. Mother sends her love.

Bar