



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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Air Mail



Mrs. R. D. Muser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

From the Hotel Buckingham #1202

101 W. 57th St.

N. Y. C -

that I plan to attend worship ^{there} on the
Sunday that Melma doesn't solo, for I
am most loyal to her. The people at the
Greenwich Village Presbyterian ~~Church~~ ^{Church} are
more my age, and as I like to make
new friends, it is an ideal place for
such a purpose - Next Sunday, though,
I shall go to Broadway Tab., as I am to help
out with the music service of the Sunday
School every third Sunday.

Mon. ev. I heard Ray Leo,
pianist at Carnegie Hall. Such a
hard, cold, person & performer she was -
no spirituality or depth. Her voice
when she announced her encore was
brittle & hard!

L. & M. night. I had supper
at Ruth's - and we spent a most home like

Nov. 16, 1949



Dearest mother;
Bless your
dearest heart for writing
me such a wonderful letter
even tho' I've been neglectful
of you. My intentions have been
of the best but time does creep
up on one before one knows it.
I hate to admit it but I completely
forgot about daddy's birthday. I wrote
him a card, letter, and the signed
statement, and now will find him
a little gift. I think he might
like a book, don't you? I've been
doing so much reading of late.

just finished an intensely interesting
and thoughtful discussion by Carrie
Van Darsen on the life and death of
Jesus - Now we started Harry Emerson
Fosdick's "The Man from Nazareth" - and
then will read Solomon Resch's life of
Mary - I'm doing all this reading with
an eye to August Christian Endeavor
Meeting, at which I will be asked to
preside, as well as a guide toward a
better understanding of the Church and
Religion.

Last Sunday, after I had that
wonderful spirit with you, I attended
services with Ruth and her mother at
the Greenwich Village Presbyterian
Church. There was a Commemoration of Annis-

tion day, and we conversed with meeting spirit all
day. I don't think I stay at the church as much as
the service being both of the Sunday school and of the
other service. We often cannot find a place for this
service at our old place and then sitting
I suppose also within the church and then sitting
I don't know how many times the women speak and
the attendance of all the church - I was a little late
so not alone meeting with and we make after the
services - I was intended to be with a fine young
man, many of you to take to Harry Resch and
tell him about me, so he heard to be me again -
I liked the members of the congregation so much that

evening together. Her mother is a most interesting woman, and so thoughtful. I had a voice lesson with Thelma yesterday - the best lesson I've had to date - She told me I'm developing a nice contralto voice, which sounded most hopeful. I really am taking my work with her quite seriously, and she is so sincere in wanting to help me in every way she can - Also am starting French again - Madame is also pleased with my growing vocabulary - We finished reading Merimee's Carmen and are starting his "Venus D'ile".

I presided at C.E. meeting last Sunday, and reviewed the Van Rassen book - Everyone liked my talk so much.

Have to leave for organ practice -

How I love to hear from you, so please write soon I am so happy that Aunt Laura may spend times with us! I can hardly wait to get home -

With so much love,
Laura Jane -

P.S. I shall certainly write Guilford when I get time -

she can't be heard to better advantage! Told her she ought to concutige, and she said she's thinking seriously of doing so that is, if she can get a good manager! Well. Took her & Mr. G. to see "Miss Mc Kate". They took me to dinner first, and we had a most hilarious visit. Mr. G. has a sense of humor that is just like V's, and his choice of words sometimes is somewhat shocking - but oh so funny! We sat in the lobby of the Wellington before show time, and Mr. G. was demonstrating a "heel & toe" movement that I will have to do in time on my pedal work. He demonstrated so gracefully & easily (like a ballet dancer) with such a straight face and all so serious like that I

nearly died laughing. Melma made him Feb. 17, 1949 stop, and told him afterwards that people would think he had to go in a hurry. Well guffin' me up, so bye-bye! (choking)

Mother darling; Your loving, Laura Jane

I just got back from the Beauty Parlor and have a few minutes before I go to the church to practice the organ. I am afraid I slipped up a little this week on the correspondence line. The reason was St. Valentine's day for I sent out a no. of valentines to my friends at home.

Yours & Caddy's most loving remembrance reached me today. What a dainty perfume it is, and now I shall love using it. Aunt Laura sent

HAVE 3 TICKETS FOR "L'ABOYÈME" FEB. 18, 1949. FEB. EVENING, FEB. 25.



me a most interesting book, "Elephant & Castle" about social conditions in postwar England! A number of friends remembered me with cards, and so it was quite a gala occasion, and I am sure I was a most happy Valentine" this day.

Said Sunday at C.E. Meeting, I had charge of the meeting. My topic was in keeping with "Race Relations week," but as this subject is very complex, I only touched on it lightly and only in a general way. This seemed to be what the audience wanted for no one appeared to be antagonized after.

Monday night, I did a "retake" on "Gianni Schicchi" (pronounced "Specky") & "Salomé". This time I wasn't so overwhelmed with Wellisch's Role of "Salomé", for I had heard her as "Aida" a few days before, and her voice is not accurate as a solo instrument. Her acting is what counts. And in "Salomé" where she has an over support from the orchestra, she can get away with it! Helma was in "Gianni Schicchi", and while it's not much of a "voice role", she's on the stage for 73 min. Poo Helma! with her beautiful rich voice which, incidentally, I am appreciating more & more since I've begun work with her - It's a crying shame



SAVE THE EASY WAY
BUY U.S. BONDS ON
PAYROLL SAVINGS



Mrs. R. D. Musser
Lindau Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

From The Hotel Dore # 204

30 West 54th St

New York City

Jan. 30, 1949

Mother darling.

Received the two enclosures of Guilford Dudley's letters. Poor fellow! you probably are the only people he writes to, and he just always quailing from you, doesn't he? At least he writes often enough! One wonders at times about the so-called divine Mercy & Compassion in that it allows people to die under the most miserable circumstances, and

in the same breath one wonders about man's inhumanity to man - that such things can be joked about! From now on I've made up my mind not to joke any at other people's misfortunes - I know how those things can hurt!

Friday, I commenced the "voice" study with Helma. Plus her dear heart for wanting to work with me even tho' I do pay her for her time, but I have yet to find out whether she thinks I'm hopeless or not! Well I mean to work hard, and do the very best I can, for even

if I never sing, it will give me poise, a sense of relaxation freedom of coordination, breath control, and a good speaking voice. I take from her twice a week - a little expensive, but well worth it -

Yesterday, Ruth Ward of the Lemonade opera took me to tea, and we had a nice visit. She's a very interesting person, and I enjoy her very much!

Sunday, I had my organ lesson, on the Church organ. It was interesting, but certainly, the work-out is hard on Tom's feet, but feel that I've made a good start!

Please write me soon, Lovingly, Lena Jean





Mrs. R. D. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

From The Hotel Dorset # 204

54th & 6th Ave -

New York City, N. Y. -

March 24, 1949

Dear Mother;

Your little note cheered me up so much, for your daughter needs so much love, tolerance and understanding - especially when she's blue - You see with my handicaps of bad hearing etc. a situation of this kind can hurt so much more, especially since, now, I have no one to go to. Philma did hurt my feelings very much, and I can't understand her attitude since I have tried to be

a loving friend to her (and everyone else). Naturally when people take advantage of me, I have to stand up for my rights. I hate to lose friends, but if people take the attitude of letting me do it all, and then on top of it - hurting my feelings by implying they don't want to introduce me to their friends, it's more than I can stand. I am to share my friends, and everything I have to make people happy - Now if Philma wants to be a friend to me, she's going to have to show me that she wants

me for a friend. And act as a friend
would act! I still am in doubt about
continuing organ & voice - I may be I
can find other teachers just as helpful
I am sure either Mrs. Rupp or Mme.
Gianjini can help me with the voice.
As for the organ, I can study with Mr. Avery
when I come home - And we shall see -
I need so much love - more so than
any one else, and why people can
do or say nasty things to me, I don't
know, because I never want to hurt any
one. With much love, Laura Jane -

5195
BROWNIE



Jan. 18, 1949 certain advantages I feel I can
get in no other way, but from

Dearest Darling Daddy & mother; now on I'll try ~~and~~ come home

A week ago tomorrow I ^{afternoon} than I have in the past.
left for the big city, and oh how As yet, I haven't started my lessons,
I tried to leave you both, but I ~~and~~ won't do so until next week,
feel I must make three trips for I want to prepare the ground
so that I can make new con- a little.

facts, and thus be of greater service to my fellow-men. What is my
circumstances, and I do hope I
am going about it in the right
way. The Dorset mgmt. was glad
to see me back, and gave me a
nice room - a bit smaller than the
ones I used to have, but just as
nice. I have made inquiries at

New York is a hard-boiled both the Buckingham & the
city all right, but it does have Dorset for apartments. The Bucking-

them has put me on their waiting
list and the Dorset offered me an
apartment for \$300 a month that
I could't even consider, so will
have this room for as long as I can.

Have seen several of my friends:

Jane, Paul, Linda Klein, Maud,
and saw Melma in Church Sun.

She's terribly busy with opera houses,
and doubt whether she will take
me on for "Voice Production" lessons. Mr.
Stoth said he'd see me Friday about
organ lessons, and maybe something
can be worked out if it won't be
too expensive.



Now, you kind darling, I want to thank you for a most beautiful
holiday - Your wonderful gifts of the chair, bathrobe, & stockings
certainly were more than I could possibly wish for. You
really shouldn't have given me so much - You are entirely
too generous - Our lives together have become so tranquil
now that I hope nothing will ever disturb them again -
Alas, I am more than looking forward to your visit in
February, and know what a wonderful time we will have -

Last night, I went over to see Uncle Pliny -
He is quite feeble, but his health is good & his mind clear -
He had spent Xmas with Betty in Princeton -

It is so mild and balmy here - almost like
spring - more speck of snow any where - By the way,
is the furnace fixed?

Do please write often for your dear letters
mean so much to me - since I don't have any fluttering toes
or jumpy heads near me -

Your devoted & most loving, Lura Jane -



Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

From The Hotel Dorset #204

54th & 6th Ave —

New York city, N. Y. —

Air Mail



BUILD YOUR FUTURE
WISELY, SAFELY
U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

*Mrs. R. D. Mueser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota*

From The Hotel Dorset # 204

54th + 6th Ave -

New York city, N. Y. -

Jan. 21, 1949

Mother sailing; (Eck returned most enthusiastically)

I got your dear most welcome letter the other day, and how I loved it. Each day & night my thoughts are filled with you and daddy, and the many lovely things you have done for me. You are both so dear and so close to me!

Well New York goes on & so do I. I've seen any of my friends so far! My room at the Dorset is very nice. Have talked to Melma a couple

but smaller than the ones I've had before. It isn't quite so drafty as the others, and I don't fear taking cold the way I used to. There has been so much sickness here that each time I go out I put Vicki up my nose! Today is cold & wet. It snowed a little too and my Stadium boots (property of Miss Laura Jane Mauer) felt mighty good!

Am living at a much slower tempo than I did last fall. Have hardly

of times. She's been having trouble
with her throat, and not feeling too
well. Mr. Grotty has been away
all week, and shall talk to him
on Monday about organ. Have
seen Jane once, as well as Pearl
but not for bridge. There is so
much sickness here at this time
that it's not surprising that our
social activities are slumping -
I have been to the Met twice this
week - Saw "Carmen" & last night
"Peter Grimes" - a most gripping
drama of sadism & madness I have
seen on the operatic stage. The

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music is composed by Benjamin Britten, and while not outstanding as opera music goes serves the purpose of the drama admirably. "Peter Grimes" is more for the theatre than the operatic stage. This afternoon is "Frustrata" which will be broadcast. I am told I am extraordinarily lucky to get a seat for it, as the "Met's" new star Giuseppe di Stefano is a second Caruso.

Along with my life there has been a little drama this week. Thurs. night, at "Carmen," I lost my purse, and had the front row (when I had a seat); the orchestra members and the ushers in a ditch helping me find it. A dear elderly lady sitting next to me became quite distressed at my predicament and lent me \$1 for car fare - a most gracious & loving gesture I have ever seen on the part of a stranger. Unfortunately, she left before I could get her name. I had nearly given up recovering the purse when a nice young man came into view, with it dangling triumphantly from his fingers - now the only problem remaining is to get the \$1 back to the dear lady who was so willing to help me out. Luckily, she's a "Monday" subscriber, and I can no doubt trace her through ticket 108 whose seat she had! I hope so!

Yesterday, I went to lunch at Jane Davies', and as I was finishing, a rather corpulent, familiar looking gentleman came up to my table greeting me by name. I couldn't place him at first, but it soon dawned on me it was one of the "Met" office staff, for he'd seen me at "Carmen" and asked me how I liked it. I told him I thought Nadine Connor's "Micaela" the best I had ever seen - such soul sweetness, gaiety & simplicity as she gives in her roles is a delight to see. He agreed with me, and left without further comment. A moment

later, I looked up, and saw, of all people,
Miss Connor coming toward my table. With great
cordiality, she shook hands with me, telling me
how glad she was to meet me - Really, mother,
she's the prettiest, sweetest person I've ever seen
and so genuine - I told her how much her
performances had delighted me for with her
I could feel a spiritual depth not felt in the
others. Then I mentioned I knew Melma -
whereupon she said, "That blessed 'Tippy' was
one of the grandest souls she knew in the Co.
and that she was a warm genuine friend to
anyone fortunate enough to know her - And besides,"
Miss Connor added, "she's loads of fun" - It's funny,
I have apt to hear Melma criticized - I am sure
I echo Miss Connor's sentiments 100% - I hope
sometime we may meet again -

Well, darling, I have to close -
Good-bye, my dearest & God Bless you both.
Your loving & devoted, Laura Jane -

Jan. 28, 1949 these floods and rains, and out here
way there's snow & freezing tempera-
tures.

Daddy darling;

How very much I loved your
nice new letter to me - I think about
you so often, what fun we all have as
a family, and the way we tease & play
with each other. I miss our cozy break-
fasts together and the double dummy
games. I taught Pearl how to play it,
and she liked it very much!

It's raining cats & dogs outside
and the weather is like spring. The East
is certainly having a hard time with all

Last night, Mrs. (Jane) Williams
had a birthday, so Pearl & I spent the
evening with her. Took her a few little
gifts and some ice cream & cake which
they all enjoyed - Earlier I had gone skating
for twenty minutes. I'm doing a little of
that once a week - to strengthen my
ankles - only I wish there weren't so many
people on the ice for when one is learning
it is difficult to do it on your own
when a crowd is pushing & shoving -
This evening I'm going to a

Secret bridge party at the Bockers,
Church people, who are simply lovely -
Thelma & Mr. Booth are going to be there
too, so it ought to be fun -

You certainly are having a
gay time in Minneapolis. But please
don't overdo as I don't want anything
to happen to keep you & mother from
coming East. Everyone asks about you
here, and are so anxious to see you -

Thank you again for your lovely
letter, and please write soon -

With much love

From your devoted Laura Jane -

5 198
BROWNIE



Showers of wishes

When you finish both organ & voice study, you can get a job in a church any place in the country. "Malma," he continued, "is difficult at times, but I've learned to let her kick around all she wants to, for she does have a tough time of it down at the "Met" with that crowd, and she does get irritated but she is sincere in her efforts, and doesn't intentionally mean to be disagreeable! If you feel she is helping you, stick with her and forget the other, for learning to get along with people no matter what is the most difficult thing in the world. And when you learn about all these different temperaments, it helps ~~you~~ ~~yourself~~ you in a way that nothing else can, and you are equipped to take your place in life

and be a success whenever you go. To me, That's the secret of ~~being~~ rich, fully satisfying, mentally & spiritually mature living." What do you think of Mr. G's advice?
March 29, 1949
With so much love,
That little precious mama; Louis Jane

Your daughter just adored the lovely letter that you wrote me yesterday, and oh how happy & comfortable it made me feeling your & Ed's love surround me as it did! You don't know how wonderful it is for me to have parents like you!

I have started piano with Mr. Groth from the technique angle, and I think he'll prove to be the best teacher I ever had!

He seems to understand my technique requirements so well, and is working along the lines of technique rather than piece playing. His aim (quote) "is not to make you sound like Radenowsky, but to help me get the most out of what I have with as good technique background as possible". He is so proud of me in ^{the} organ work that he wants me to become a real professional! He wants me when I come home this spring to take over the church organ right from the start!

As for as Helmer's attitude is concerned, I finally told Mr. Groth what had upset me, and he said "it's her. Her temperament!" I should know - I have to live with her. He said that she gets that way with him too, and that at those times, he gives her "plenty of rope". When I told him about the Rockfells and those others, he snorted, and said, "That superficial crowd! Did she tell you that they called her, and wanted the job as 'supers', and that she nearly had a fit trying to get them in? You can be a super any time you want to if you apply for the position yourself! As for that professional crowd, keep away from them, they're as hard-boiled as they come, and not worth their salt. A lot of them are dissatisfied society girls who want a thrill". When I told him I felt like quitting the voice, he said "Of course, you do as you think best, but you are doing so well, and

March 19, 1949

Dear Mother;

I have been unable to write this week because of a cold that I contracted as a result of my visit to Mary Queen's last Sunday. This my first cold of the year, and I hope my last. In spite of it, I tried to carry on, but finally took to my bed, and the rest has done me good!

Yesterday, it snowed, and today

it's very cold but sunny out!

Helma leaves Wed. for Boston for a two week's stay with the opera co. I shall miss her deeply for I have enjoyed my work with her so much. Strangely, as it may seem, I am really catching on, and her delight is as great as mine when I master a difficulty. Now I'll tell you why - the voice lessons. As long as I'm doing them, and will do it when I come home I want to learn something about choir directing & voice

placement. Then I'll be able to take charge
of the music at the Church with full
knowledge of what I'm doing, and both
Helma & Mr. Galt are wonderful teachers
at this sort of thing -

Mary Ann and I had a grand
visit together - she is well but very
pale & thin & delicate - Her little son is
walking and an adorable child! They
have a tiny little home in Swinnton, & I believe
that is one of those housing project places -
She enjoys living in the East -

Brownie
SEP 19 1960
Thanks so much for your two grand letters
and please write soon again. Lovingly, Sam & Ann



Me of the time I happened to Philadelphia in Detroit.
Do let me hear from you soon -

With so much love, always -
H.M.
I'll never mother (that little precious);

I did my heart such good
to talk with you the other day and also
to get your wonderful letter. To have you and
Daddy want me home filled my heart
with such joy and happiness that it
made a new person out of me.
I am still hoping to get home on the
fifteenth if I don't become too involved
with the apartment situation. Barbara
writes that she is arriving on the 15th.
So I may have to be here when she
gets here. On that case I would be home
a week later.

My life has certainly become in-
volved of late. I got back from Wellesley
 Tues. evening - Thursday morning I had
my voice lesson, and Helma was delighted
that I had returned so much - On Friday,
I had my organ lesson which wasn't too
good, as the doctor had told me to
lay off for a while. That day, when I
got back to the hotel, Mr. Abbott phoned to
say that Ruth had broken her voice owing to
a hemorrhage of the vocal chords and they
were pretty sure the opera "The Stranger"
was to open ~~but~~ to say, and could I take
her out of town for two or three days, and
they could postpone the "opening" until Thurs.
Arner doctor thought she might be able to sing
by then. The lady she stays with was out
of town, and there was no one else for them to

turn to. Well, even tho' Ruth is one of my
 best friends, I didn't much want that respon-
 sibility, but it was an emergency, so I called
 Mr. Wood at Good Hampton, and luckily we
 could have a room for three days and two nights,
 leaving on Sunday. Well, we got down
 here after a very hot dirty ride which
 rather upset us both, but the hotel had
 a very nice room for us and where
 we'd been - very quiet even at times un-
 communicative for Ruth has to say her
 piece all the time. I was somewhat tired
 of the imposition and another trip so
 soon after my spleen did vacation with
 Jim & Mary. Ruth feels much better for
 this jaunt and much more relaxed.
 With the exception of a very bad wind &
 rain storm I stayed out of the Florida Sheri-
 Lane, the radio said, the weather has been
 ideal. We have to credit for N.Y. Ruth
 is much better - than rather reminds



SPRING SONG

by Henry B. Kane

SCARLET TANAGER
 TEKNIQUE

Air Mail
4



*Mrs. R. D. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota*

From The Hotel Dorset #204
30 West 54th
New York city, N. Y.

is now quite prominently connected with U.N.
Mr. Delaney was there too. Dr. Young, Pres. of
Monticello showed movies of College life - nostalgic
and beautiful photography but not terribly interesting.
On the evening took Ruth Robert to see "A
Streetcar named Desire."

On account of the treatment, I won't be
able to attend the wedding, so shall have to wire
Marianne my regrets - Oh well we've never been close friends
and she won't miss me! I hope you included me in the
wedding gift - will pay you for me. paid when I get home.

Do you think you could please send my
laundry box as I have some things to ship home.

Glad you are, Christine, April 6 1949
to sing the role of the "Toreador" in "Carmen", and does it very well, I think?
Please write me very soon -



With so much love to you &
Mother Darling; Daddy, Laurie, Jane.

You've written me two such
precious letters as has Daddy, and how happy
they made me feel.

I have started treatment with the doctor -
even to having the injection done. The reaction
wasn't too bad, but I still don't think it's the best
way in the world to take vitamins. The other
treatment though isn't unpleasant, and that really
seems to be helping me.

I had a card from Helma, and was
glad to hear from her, but I can never feel
as trusting of her friendship as I was before.
Mr. Barth, though, has been so kind and
thoughtful to me and is so sincere about
wanting me to continue with the best he can
give me. Sometimes, I wish I could find some
one as dear as he for a "life time" partner! I
wonder if it will ever happen. This winter,
on the whole, has been such a happy one,
and I have made such good friends here -

Yesterday was the Alumni
Luncheon (Monticello) held at the Barclay
Hotel. I was fun, and I saw two or three
people I knew - Ruth Jones Rauschen, who
is living in Tucker, with hubby & 3 children -
Samuel Wood who is married now & living in N.Y.
Miss McMillin & Cousin were there, and another
classmate of mine, Helen Sarayan, who is living
in Bromville. Ruth Bryan Rhode was the
Chairman of the meeting, and I sat at her table,
and had a nice visit with her - She used to
be U.S. Ambassador to Denmark, I think, and

Jan. 28, 1949

Mother Darling;

This is my second letter for this week (there to you one) - Shame on you! However I know how busy you are - I just got back from practicing on the organ. This I do an hour each day from 11-12 AM - My legs are so sore from the pedal manipulation that I can't work for long at a time at it. This Sunday, Mr. Kroth is having me work

at the church organ - for these Hammond practice organs are quite limited in their set up. It is rather fascinating, and I mean to work real hard at it! The pedal and hand coordination is difficult. One has to think of one's two feet as a "third hand," and the pedal action is centered in the ankle flexibility which, in my case, is pretty weak! The knowledge of organ is what I want more than the actual manipulation of it.

Wed. eve. I had dinner with

Mrs. Gunning and Mr. Pickett and
then took them to see "The Madwoman
of Chillon" - one of the most beautifully
acted dramas I have ever seen - written by
a Frenchman, it has all the subtlety &
delicacy possible in a composition of this
kind. The main actress is Maitie Hunt,
and what a magnificent magnetic personality
she has. Such charm, grace of manner, style,
poise and ^{beautiful} speaking voice ^{as she has} makes the others
suffer terribly from comparison. Not since
the days of Bernhardt have we had in America
anyone like this. You & daddy must see it when
you come on. Take care of your dear selves, and
please write your loving & devoted Laura Jane -



do write soon, darling, I miss
you so — Shucks! eeks! etc.

With much love always from your
devoted Laura Jane —

Jan. 26, 1949

Darling mother and daddy

What a busy life your daughter
is leading since she arrived a week ago —
I loved your darling letter, mother, and
you touched my heart with all your
protestations of love for your daughter — I
do miss you both so much, and am looking
forward to your visit here in February —
Yesterday, I took my courage in both hands,
and went to see Mr. Roth about possible organ
lessons. He was most pleasant about them, and
will start me to day on "first essentials" — The
pedal manipulation scares me, and the
coordination of hands & feet will be a problem —
I want to do the very best I can — for I think
he will be a fine understanding person to work
with. As for the lessons with Dulma — she's to

Call me some time today - And Mr. G. is starting me next week - I hope to really be able to accomplish something this time -

Monday night the Crowthers took me to see "Aida". It was a fine performance with the exception of Aida played by Stella Roman. She couldn't sing nor act at all - Blanche Thebom was stunning as "Amneris". Kurt Baum outshone his previous roles as Radames, and the baritone who will sing in Little Nellie in April was Frank Guerrero who did splendidly as Amonasro. Love the Aida music any how so all in all it was a most successful evening. The Crowthers took me back stage afterwards to meet Miss Thebom who was most gracious & charming. She's a tall, statuesque, youngish looking woman, and was first "discovered" by Marian Anderson's first accompanist, Kosti Velonen - Miss Thebom is under contract to Durak, too!

Last night, took Ruth Hobart of the Simonade opera Co. to hear "La Bohème". We both enjoyed it very much. She's a most interesting

person to talk to, and we had a long confab on Simonade opera and its future. Her opera season begins June 7th. She came originally from Los Minis, Iowa, and has a brother living in Naples. She has now much. I liked her rendition of the "Aida" and the "Aida"; for these comedy roles are simply out of this world. She said that from now on she's going to do more serious dramatic roles; tho' comedies I can't see her doing them so well. I'd love to have her meet you too.

This evening I'm going to see a play with Mrs. Hamilton called "The Red Women of Chaillet" - one of the best things on Broadway -

Just got back from my organ lesson with Pa. Well, and he certainly is wonderful at explaining things, and I think I'm going to like my work very much. As you want to help me play for them I'll go to a lesson -

I talked to Mary Anne Simon yesterday the other day and she and her husband are coming to New York on Sat. to attend the opera, "Die Walküre" with me. They're most for them here.

Some time, I wish a doctor March 23, 1949
would invent something to numb my feelings,
and then, I would never be hurt, but then I
suppose I would never know what joy, love or
Dear Mother's sorrow was, would I? ^{Oh, is loving you pain-}

Your daughter has been a
pretty sick person this last week,
for although the cold itself, was
not bad, my whole system was upset,
and oh, how I needed yours & daddy's
loving arms around me, but then I
was in the hotel room all alone,
and nobody calling - except Paul -
and that was to bowl me out.
Then on top of it all came the
upset with Hulma. Perhaps,
if I had felt better, I wouldn't

have taken it so much to heart,
but I have tried in every way to
show her my friendship for her,
but this time I've done it all, and
she's done nothing - except to take
me to dinner, whenever I would take
her & Mr. G. to the theater, but she
never phones me or anything -
Before, ^{she} I had come to look upon
her as a sort of big sister, talking
things over with her etc, and
she did help me in many ways,
but just within the last two weeks
she changed, and became so cold
that she froze me whenever I came
near - then what really hurt me, was

when she began talking about her
friends and the money and influence
they had, and how ^{some of} the voice students
were daughters of famous opera stars
and then when I said it might be
fun to meet some of them, she
said that the professionals were a
class by themselves, and considered them-
selves a "closed shop", to outsiders! Then
when I mentioned that it might be fun
to go as a "super" one time when they
have those big crowd scenes the
way they do in "Aida," she said,
"It would be dangerous for you, because
you have to be right within call, and
Johnny On The Spot." Then she told

GIBSON CINTI., U. S. A.
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me how one time she had taken the Rockefeller's, and what a grand time they had as "supers". Maybe this isn't important to some one like yourself who has lived longer than I have and know the "ways of the world" so much better than I do, but to me, it seemed definitely like a "snub" - Ask Alice & daddy about this. Ask them if this would hurt their feelings. Only, know that if it had been Jane, Pearl, or anyone else who had said this to me, I wouldn't have taken it so much to heart, but ^{coming} from Thelma whom I loved so very, very much, and have tried to show her how much I loved her by doing things for her, it was quite a shock! I just don't know how to act in situations of this kind, and I realize now I made a great mistake - phoning you when I did - feeling as sick & helpless as I did - Of course, I couldn't know you were sick too, - so please forgive me. My impulse was to come to you like a child wanting its mother! Despite my 32 years, I am so much a child, and so unused to the ways of the world, that I still think of you as a protecting angel - ready to comfort me when I'm sick & blue! You see, Mary has Roger & her children to comfort her. I have only you & daddy, and when you fail me, it's like all the light & hope goes out of my life -

As for June - she hasn't phoned me before or since you came - with the exception of once when she asked me to lunch before your visit. She shocked me, too, when she spoke so rudely to me over the phone that day you & dad were here. That's when I said she was being nasty, and if you could have heard what she said to me, I am sure you would have thought so, too, so when times like these occur when I'm all alone, I need you & daddy so badly. I try so hard to love people, and wouldn't for the world do any thing to hurt them, and yet they treat me like this.

Jane & Billy haven't called me since
you left. Imagine Billy leaves very soon
for the West!

Do write me soon, darling, and
now that you are home, you'll hear from
me twice a week. Your telephone call yesterday
made me so happy —

Truly,

Laura Jane

3/7/49



Mother darling;

How wonderful it was
to have you and daddy that little while.
I was glad to do things together, and
have you enjoy them so much. Every
one was so disappointed not to have you
stay longer, but much as I would have loved
it, and needed you, I realized that it was
most essential not to overdo! This way we
all enjoyed things the more.

Imagine you & Mary & Sammy
are having a wonderful time together. Are
they going to spend any time with Mrs. King?
I hope Sam finds some little playmates to have
a good time with. Isn't it cute the way he
wants Oscar all the time?

This week has been more or less of
a let down for me - Wed. I took T. & Mr. G.
to see "Death of a Salesman" - very fine
acting - but very sad and depressing! It
stressed the great need for universal understanding
and spirituality, because when people live
for themselves alone - civilization is doomed!
Sat. P.M. I went alone to "Carmen," and sat in
a box - next to a charming family from
Pennsylvania. T. was in the opera - yesterday
after church - Took Vilda to lunch, and then
had a fine organ lesson. Mr. G. is very pleased
with me. The "Voice" lessons are coming along -
tho' I'm still not sure whether I am getting
as much out of them as I should. Also I am
not sure whether T. is doing it for money or not.
You know I like to be told the truth & I
hate to have people nice to me because of
money that in the long run isn't my own
well, I guess one has to live & learn!

from The Hotel Buckingham #1206
101 W. 57th St.
N.Y.C.



Air Mail

Mr. & Mrs. R. D. Musser
Linden Hill
Little Falls
Minnesota

Giuliano School. They were beautifully done. It was good seeing the
Crowthers again. They asked after you. Kate is having dinner with me
tonight, and so once more I am leading a busy life.

Much love and millions of thanks -

- Laura Jane -

Dearest mother & daddy.

How can I ever thank you for the
simply wonderful time I had at home with you.
Never have I enjoyed a visit more, nor felt so keenly
the warmth and love in our family circle. Each day
was like a lovely pearl on a golden chain, and
equally enjoyable! When I left I left with the
feeling of you all wanting me back again - just as
my N. Y. friends wanted me to return. My heart
is so full of joy, warmth, and love! I don't believe
anyone could be as fortunate and blessed as I.
I hope that all my life I can give as much
pleasure and love to my fellow men, as I have
received - especially this year!

I had a joyful trip back. Saw Mrs.
Ellenkin in Chicago. She took me to dinner at the Hervey
Restaurant, and saw me off on the 3:30 train. The Red
Caps are just so nice to me at the Union Station, so I
always feel well taken care of there.

Mrs. Ruth took me to dinner in China town.
Her mother, Aunt, and some of their friends were along. We ate
a delicious Chinese dinner which must have had a curative
effect on my liver for I haven't been bothered with them so far.
Ruth's mother reminds me of Mrs. Muscogoff. - She is quite a source
of humor. Thursday ex. Mrs. Crowther & Dorothy took Barb and me to see
some one act opera put on by members of the Metropolitan Opera Co. at the

Feb. 3, 1949

Mother Darling;

How fast the week does go! The
it's time for your second letter, and by
the way, I've only received two from you!
I'm busy, too, you know, but I purposely
give me time so that I can get on my two
letters a week to you. You notice, I don't
write long ones - just short little notes, but
each one whether new or otherwise, shows
the extent of my love for you. I have found
out that we can always find time for the
things we really want to do! So I'm sure

if you really wanted to write to me twice
a week, you could do so!

Tuesday I had my second voice
lesson. It went much better than the
first for I had made up my mind
that if I couldn't conquer my fear and
self-consciousness and tension, I'd be
wasting Helma's time and my time and
that I had better stop altogether. So I
made myself relax by forgetting the
idea of whom I was taking from, and
knowing that all of us have had to begin
over, from a time, and most important of
all, put my particular problem com-

pletely in her hands - Well, it worked like
 a charm, and I got a lot accomplished!
 And she is helping me - Bless her heart! For,
 even if I have a fine, a good speaking voice
 is so essential to one's well-being! One learns
 how to breathe correctly, stand correctly, relax cor-
 rectly. And gain poise & self confidence! She
 never forces anything, and is so patient and
 understanding. Mrs. Ulrich could turn pointers
 from her on how to teach speech!

Last night I took the Bookers, Grotts,
 and Ruth Robert to see "The Midwomen of Chiddlet".
 It is such a wonderful play. I want you and dad
 to see it when you come on. Mrs. Booker said she
 knew Mary Sumner as well. & devoted daughter Laura Jane

54. 102

BROWNE

Please write. You bring



Feb. 7 1949

Mother & Daddy darling—

Altho' I have not heard from you as often as you have from me, I am writing anyway. Despite a very busy life. For with my lessons having started, I have a schedule to keep. Yesterday, I had my organ lesson, and the study keeps getting harder and harder. At times I feel discouraged with the technical problems that I have to face. I am beginning to play now. The "Voice" lessons continue, too! and I

must say that whether singing or no, they are most beneficial in other ways—teaching one how to relax correctly is I think, so important. There are some exercises I do with the neck & shoulder muscles that should do you a great deal of good. The breathing exercises are helpful, too—being concentrated in the diaphragm instead of the upper respiratory regions! It's a good thing you weren't sleeping with me last night for I dreamed I was having a voice lesson, and woke myself up two or three times—scooping—la, la, la—etc. I am so anxious to do the

thing right, and not cause
Tippy to feel she's wasting her time
with me! She is so dear and
patient, and so understanding &
and is so good at explaining things -
with teachers like her, one wants
to do one's best, and one feels miserable
if one can't.

Friday night, I went to the
"Met." to see "Gianni Schicchi" and
"Salome" - both excellently done!
Ljuba Nellitch made her debut
as "Salome," and got a 20 min. ovation.
She was the best "Salome" I've
seen - both as actress and singer.

WILLIAM MCNEIL
HUST CRAFT, BOSTON, U. S. A.



This Jugoslavian, and quite fat! but I guess one has to be big and heavy to sing Strauss' music. The opera was a glamorous occasion in other ways - for ~~with~~ in the audience sat many a noted singer - such as Francesco Alda etc. I had a front seat in Box 1, and there was a nice little group of us, and we had a most friendly chat between operas.

I have seen quite a bit of Pearl (I'm teaching her chess) but hardly anything of Jane - She's a most busy person at her age, and is out almost every evening. I also see quite a bit of Gerda Klein. She's a dear - albeit a little flighty at times. Everyone is so anxious to see you when you come on. I have engaged you a room for the 20th.

I do hope you are both well, and that the visit here will be one of the most satisfying we've ever had!

I have to go now - and so many thanks for the phone call - I get so lonesome for you & wish we were all together to enjoy these pleasures -

- Your loving daughter, Laura Jane -

April 26, 1942

Ever since I got back from Boston,
have been busy every minute -
even tho' I had a cold!

Dearestaddy-

I want to tell you how
much I enjoyed your lovely
letters to me, and oh, how I
wish we didn't have to be so far
away.

But by a week from
Friday, I ought to be home -
that is, if I can get all
my things packed
together!

Sat. afternoon, took a
bunch of people to see "The Lemon-
ade" and performance of "Mussel
and Gittel"! Everyone enjoyed it
heaps, and Ruth Robert made a
splendid witch! Like her as a
witch better than Helma who
isn't quite as expert in her
acting tho' she has a better voice.
Afterwards took pictures of some
of the members. Sunday evening,

Marian Anderson gave her final performance at Carnegie Hall before going to Europe. I was one of the best concerts I've heard her in. I took Ruth K., Mr. Groth, Joe Williams, and a Mrs. Abbott to hear it. They all enjoyed it, and the meeting with her afterwards! She asked after you and mother as did Mr. Fisher and the Pupps!

Yesterday, Joe took me over to Brookline to meet some friends of his. We had dinner with them. The couple are very interesting. The man, Mr. Dimetrios (?) is a

CRESTWICK

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Greek, and his wife is Italian!

Wasn't it terrible about the murder of John
Lupis? The truth about why he was murdered is even more
horrible and sordid - It seems so pathetic that society can't
help (or doesn't wish to help) those poor unfortunates.

Had a card from Norma yesterday - She's
in Los Angeles today. She is looking forward to seeing us in
Minnesota -

Well it's time for me to go to the studio!
so good-bye darling until later

Your loving,
Laura Jane -

Nov. 13, 1949



Dearest Daddy,

How good it was to talk to you and mother today. I'm not feeling too good owing to an infection for my allergy I had yesterday. My hip became very sore, and it makes me fidgety and irritable, so you call made me very happy - Every day, that I am away from home I miss you & mother more than I can say -

My friends have all been very nice to me especially the Groths and Ruth & her mother. Today, because of my hip

Letter - ettes

A Gibson Card
GIBSON CINTI., U. S. A.
1479-7

Had to forgo the organ lesson which
upset Mr. Groth very much. Any how,
I didn't have the organ music, and so
it was just as well. Ruth called, and
wanted me to attend services at the
Greenwich Village Presbyterian Church -
It was a service to commemorate Armistice
Day. The service was given jointly by
Dr. Stitt, Presbyterian Minister, and Rabbi
Fleg of the adjoining synagogue. It was one
of the most interesting inter-faith
meetings I have ever attended. Part of the
prayer service was in Hebrew (with the
English translation). Some of the Hebrew
prayers are beautifully poetic! The
service was well attended, and I recog-
nized members of the Lemnade Opera Co.

Theresa Muddell sang in the choir. Oh, how lovely -

Ever impressed that there were so many young people
at the church, and the St. A. still is so charming, and
yet such a pure blood minded man. I am thinking
seriously of attending, whereas thus write. All
like to become an active member in their social group -

Don't I'm looking the meeting of
Christian Endeavor, and will have steps to my talk on
the book "Only Jesus Died" - an exceedingly interesting account
of the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. It is quite new -
tongue in throat.

Please write me soon, and all my love to Joe
Beth & Alice - Yours Grace -