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Dear Harold:

I was so glad to receive the Chavez music. I am at work on it and I think it can be very interesting if I can get into it. I mean that as a stage work it can be interesting. The music is in parts very beautiful. The part I feel the least is the string quartet which times to about 15 minutes. It will be a problem to use it so that it seems inevitable as to treatment and so that it will be to all appearances planned as an art device. So it is on that I am working now. Because of course it has little or nothing to do with the script. But that does not bother me as I have no real love for any of my literary efforts.

You have been wonderfully patient with me through this and I feel it should be secretly dedicated to you if it turns out to be any good at all. I cannot tell you exactly how I will change it as I do not yet know fully. I will just have to let it grow. But I have spent a great deal of time preparing myself in mind and heart to do it. But before I go too far I wanted to ask your advice as to the best way to approach Chavez so that there will be no hitch at the last minute after the work is done. I have not written to him but am enclosing this letter for your advice. Do you think it should be handled this way or should it be done through the Library? As it concerns the royalties I thought it might be part of my responsibility so for that reason I am sending this letter to you.

I am in the process of negotiating with Mr. Hurok to be manager. He presented me with a contract which has to have some revising before it can be accepted. But then that is inevitable. I hope it goes through and that he will accept my revisions. If he does not then it may fall through. I do not want to be unreasonable and I certainly want the opportunities that his organization could give me to dance more often but on the other hand it can also be very dangerous. So it has to be done carefully. If it should come through then it means more activity. Not so much this first season as it is so late for booking, but much more next year. I am anxious to get the matters clearly defined with Chavez on that account. I would like to be able to present the work here in New York late in November or early in December as part of a season. I suppose it will be forever before he answers but at least I will have done what I could. Is there anything as far as the policy of the Library is concerned that I have overlooked?

I do not know whether you have heard that Columbia University, the Alice Ditson Fund, offered me a commission to do a work for them in May of this year as part of the Festival. I suggested several names for composers with Samuel Barbers name first and they chose him. So he accepted and I am to see him this week. I think that is wonderful and I have definitely have the Library to thank as a light on the way. They have asked that on the program I present the new work and "Appalachian Spring" only. It will be an invited audience I think. Then if all goes well I should like to present it here in New York to the public in the following week. I think the Festival date is around May 10th.

I am just back from Bennington where I taught and then had a

extra month there in which to assemble material for the Chavez. I hated to come back to the city but this business with Hurok made it necessary. There has been so much to consider. I performed the Spring and the Herodiade there for the students and the faculty community. We had to use piano only as it was too impossible to get the musicians there. Thank you for permission to do it there. There were many discussions about it. I was very thrilled when I saw that John Martin had given the Herodiade the prize as the best work of the year with Spring a close second. I still want to do some little things to Spring. It has gaps and lapses, I feel .

I was glad to have some freedom from schedule and I did not know how tired I was emotionally until I stopped working. Then I simply felt that I was going to shake to pieces. It was that cursed teaching which I had to begin at 9 O'clock the morning after I closed my week here. I held together all right while I had to and then when I had no need to keep hitting it struck and I knew I had gone a little too far. So I hope it will be a lesson to me. I have not pushed too far as yet. This was a tremendous year, the most exciting and wonderful as far as the work and the public was concerned of my life so far. And sometimes success will make one ill when adversity can be sustained. But I am really well now. Not really that I was sick but I was very strung up and highly pitched in tension.

There were some plans which I knew very little about concerning a trip to Europe with France first. It came about through Bethsabée de Rothschild, the daughter of the Baron Edouard de Rothschild. She is so anxious for us to be there. She even took an option on a theatre from December 16th to January 22nd. That news arrived by cable and I was startled to say the least. Then there was a man here, Mr. John Maktos, who made some tentative plans in Washington with the State Department. Whether they could be called plans I do not know but they seemed to progress quite far. I think they are still in thought. I could do nothing until the matter with Hurok came to some conclusion. So we have waited. It happened with such speed and before I knew of it and I was overwhelmed. It would be quite wonderful to go although I feel quite strongly that Paris will not like me. Or most of Europe for that matter.

I hope you had some time when you could have a vacation and that it was nice. This time last year we were all in a great state. It was nice, at least I loved it. I wish I had done some things better, however. But I am ever deeply grateful to you for your understanding and encouragement and real help.

I still think of how nice and more than that you all were there. I loved you for the gallant way you took some things that were my fault in judgement.

Best wishes to Mrs. Spivacke and I hope the son, Joe (?) is well.

I hope it will be an interesting season for you.

Best Wishes,



Wanted a
if you think the enclosed letter to Charley is
all right will you please mail? if not will you
return it to me I will re-write. Thank you -