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Boston Symphony Orchestra
Berkshire Music Center

JEROME D. GREENE
54-A GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

President Cherster I. Barnard
The Rockefeller Foundation

Dear Mr. Barnard,

FEB 24 1950

Thank you for your kind letter of the 8th. I am very glad to know that you have no regrets for that "out-of-program" appropriation for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Berkshire Music Center. Your use of that magic phrase takes me back to my years on your Board, when I was rather disposed to quarrel with too strict adherence to "program." Of course I saw the importance of having well-defined programs, without which, as Fred T. Gates used to say, even the vast income of the Foundation would be frittered away without accomplishing much that was worthwhile. On the other hand, I always attached importance to an occasional opportunity to do something unrelated to program if it offered a chance to support a new and sound enterprise at a moment of great strategic significance. Clearly this was true of Dr. Koussevitzky's plan, the success of which has surpassed everything I claimed for it at the start. Adaptation to newly discovered needs, with the money to meet them, if they were important enough, was always claimed as one of the advantages of a great and sufficiently fluid fund.

As a matter of fact, we had recognized the humanities as a legitimate field of philanthropy, while also recognizing the great difficulty of finding worthy objects the support of which would be consistent with fundamental Foundation policy. The potential contribution to music of the Berkshire Music Center was certainly, if realized, one of those objects; and my purpose in writing to you on February 2d was to impress that fact on past and present Trustees.

Sincerely yours,

Jerome D. Greene