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Louisville Philharmonic Society

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Copies to: Mayor Farnsley
Mrs. Beck
Dwight Anderson
Barry Bingham
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MEN MEN

Dear John:

The Louisville project seems to me extradordinarily well thought out. In practice, of course, neither the program nor the project will follow quite so neat a plan. This is of no importance, since a certain flexibility is a part of any project's intelligent execution. This project seems to me most intelligently conceived, and certainly Mayor Farnsley is capable of making it work. I can find no flaw in it. It seems to me designed to strengthen the weakest element in the contemporary musical scene, which is contemporary repertory, and also to strengthen the symphony orchestra at its weakest point, which is its dependence on "name" soloists for attracting the public. Louisville's present patronage of contemporary composers has proved the feasibility of doing without name soloists. The new project, which is the extension of an already successful policy, cannot fail to provide a model of policy for other orchestras, if it is at all successful. Under the administration of Mayor Farnsley and his close associates, I cannot imagine it not being successful. My recommendation for its adoption is therefore one hunder per cent favorable and with all flags flying.

Ever yours,

Virgil Thomson

O gen. x-ref.

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