



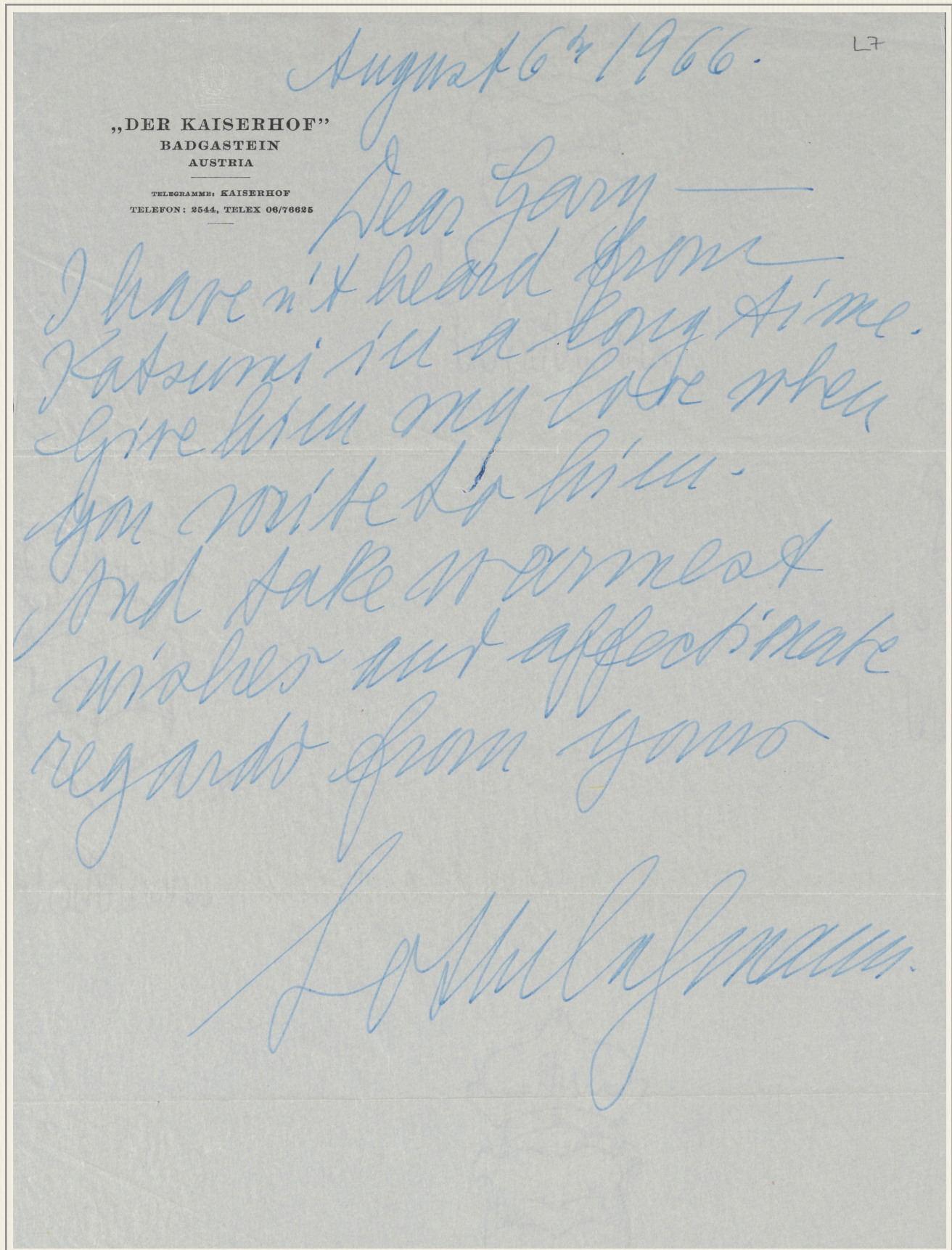
Letters to Fans

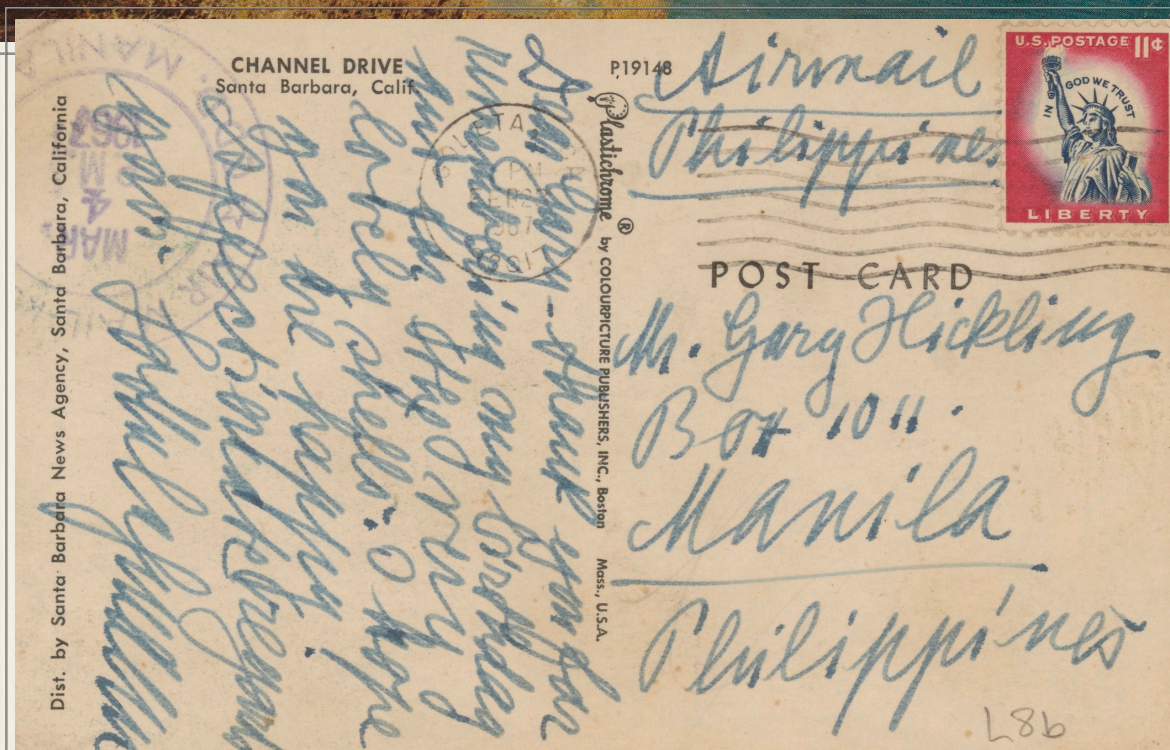


Lehmann was generous in replying to fan mail. It seems that no letter went unanswered; often a signed postcard-sized photo was included. I was also the recipient of such kindness and it has always amazed me that she had enough time to handle this world-wide correspondence and still keep up her writing, teaching, artistic hobbies, and social engagements.

The letters found on the next pages are ones Lehmann wrote to me, often in reply to my birthday wishes. I first met her when I drove my baritone pal from Los Angeles to Lehmann's home in Santa Barbara. In the first letter she refers to

Katsuumi, the baritone, who has returned to Japan. In spite of me not being a singer or pianist, but a double bassist, she sends best wishes.





I taught double bass in Manila and sent Lehmann a beautiful shell from the area for her birthday. In this post card, she thanks me for the gift and uses a beautiful cliff view of one of Santa Barbara's beaches near the Music Academy of the West, where she taught and I also studied. This thoughtfulness overwhelmed me.

Lehmann wrote to me while I was in New York. I had learned that she was to teach master classes in Vienna. She mentions Katsuumi's marriage and is going to teach master classes again at the MAW, to which she invites me.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93105

May 15, 1969

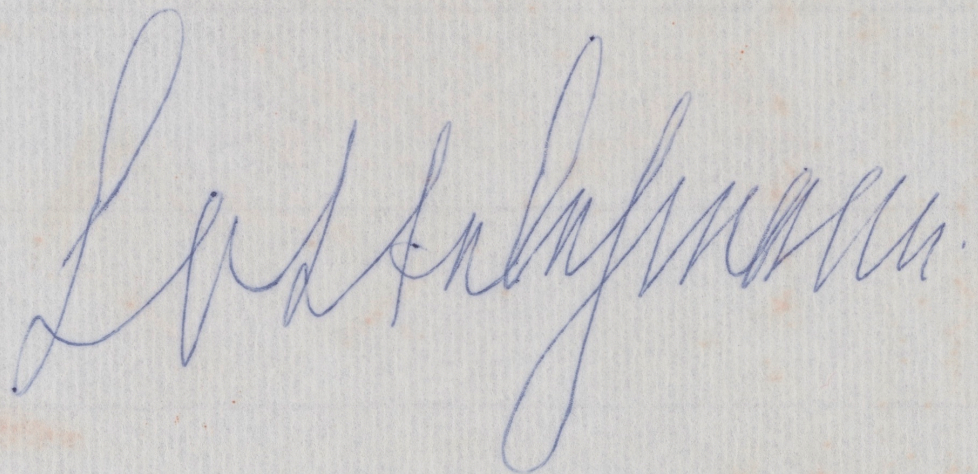
Dear Gary:

You were a little bit too fast with my trip to Vienna: I am leaving on the 21. of this month.

I heard that Katsuumi has married- I was very amazed about it!. I hope he will be happy!

I also hope to see you in the summer- i.e. in August, at the Music Academy, and am sending you warmest wishes and regards

Yours



I knew that Lehmann loved nature, so I bought her the Audubon Society membership, which she returned. When I called the Society, the woman who answered was thrilled that it had been returned from Lotte Lehmann, whom she'd heard about because she was born in Austria.

L9

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

July 27, 1972

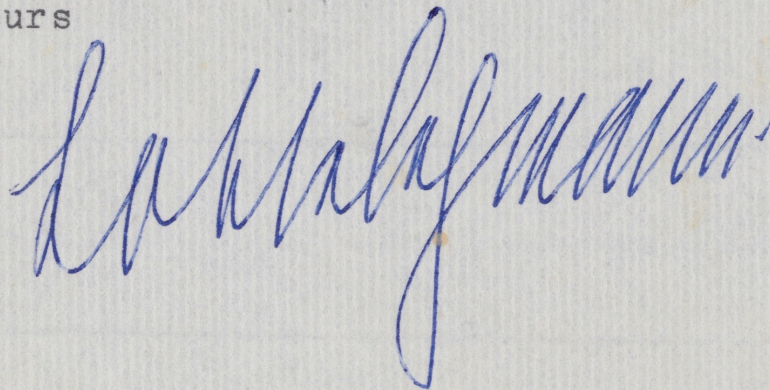
Dear Gary: [Hickling]

Thank you very much for your kind thought of sending me the membership for the Audubon Society; however, since Frances Holden has for many years been subscribing and we receive the beautiful magazine, it would be really a waste to get it twice. So please change the subscription for somebody else.

I just returned from Europe and am too tired to write more just now.

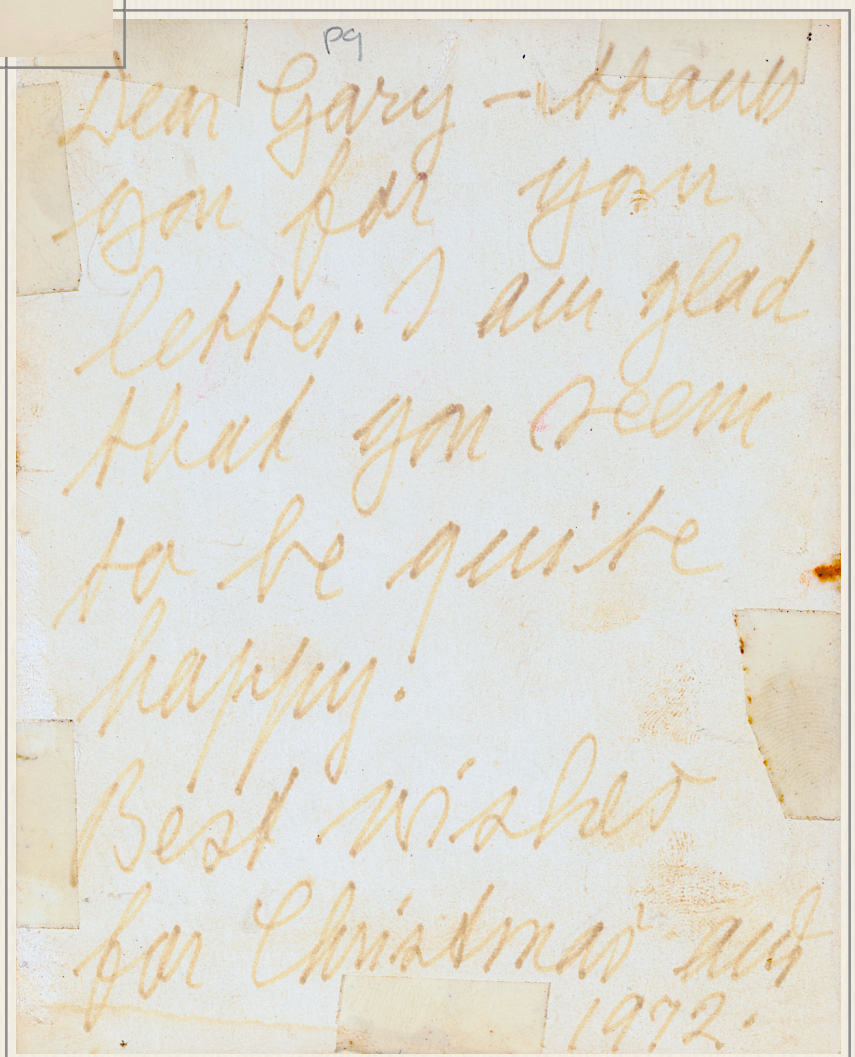
I am glad to know that you are happy and am sending you my best wishes and regards

Yours





The post card photo and her kind note reached me in December of 1971.



While free-lancing in NYC, I volunteered at WBAI, a public radio station that played a lot of classical music. I proposed to the administration that I interview Lehmann for her 85th birthday and play her recordings. The idea was accepted and this is Lehmann's reply. Note that she doesn't like her Mozart recordings.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

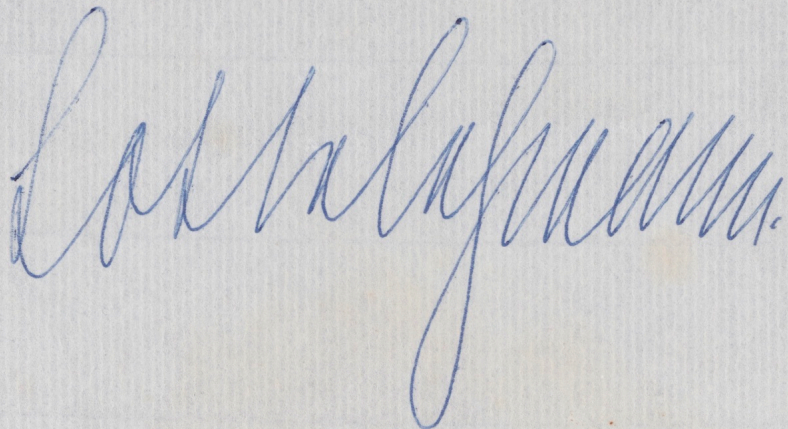
October 21, 1972

Dear Gary:

I think it is terribly sweet of you to want to celebrate my 85th birthday in such an impressive way! Eightyfive is such an "in between" age, that I do not think one will pay any attention to it. The one person who could help you and give you a lot of good advice, is Mr. John Coveney, of Angel Records, 1290, Avenue of the Americas; there exists also a new German Record, "Da Capo", (Electrola) which contains a lot of arias; but I beg of you, not to take the Mozart arias which I consider not good.

Let me know please what you will accomplish.
I hope you are well and happy, and successful!

I send you my affectionate regards
Yours



A continuation of the arrangements for the interview.

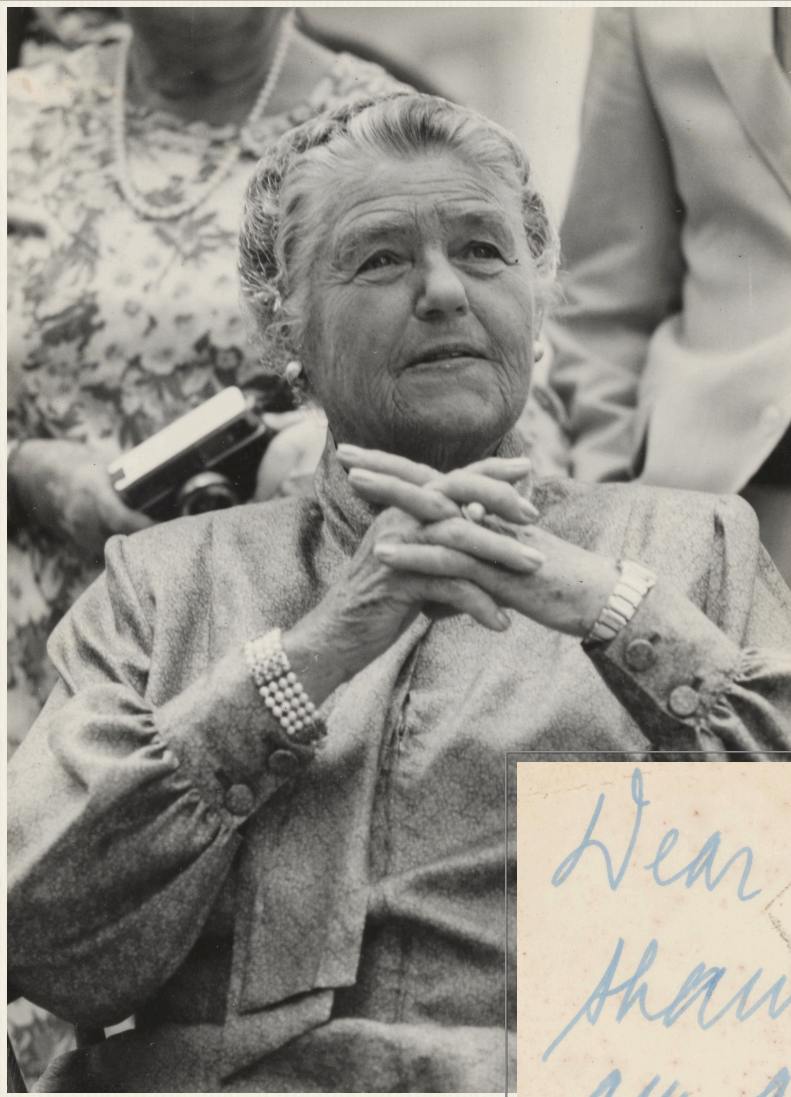
November 7th 1972. L4

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

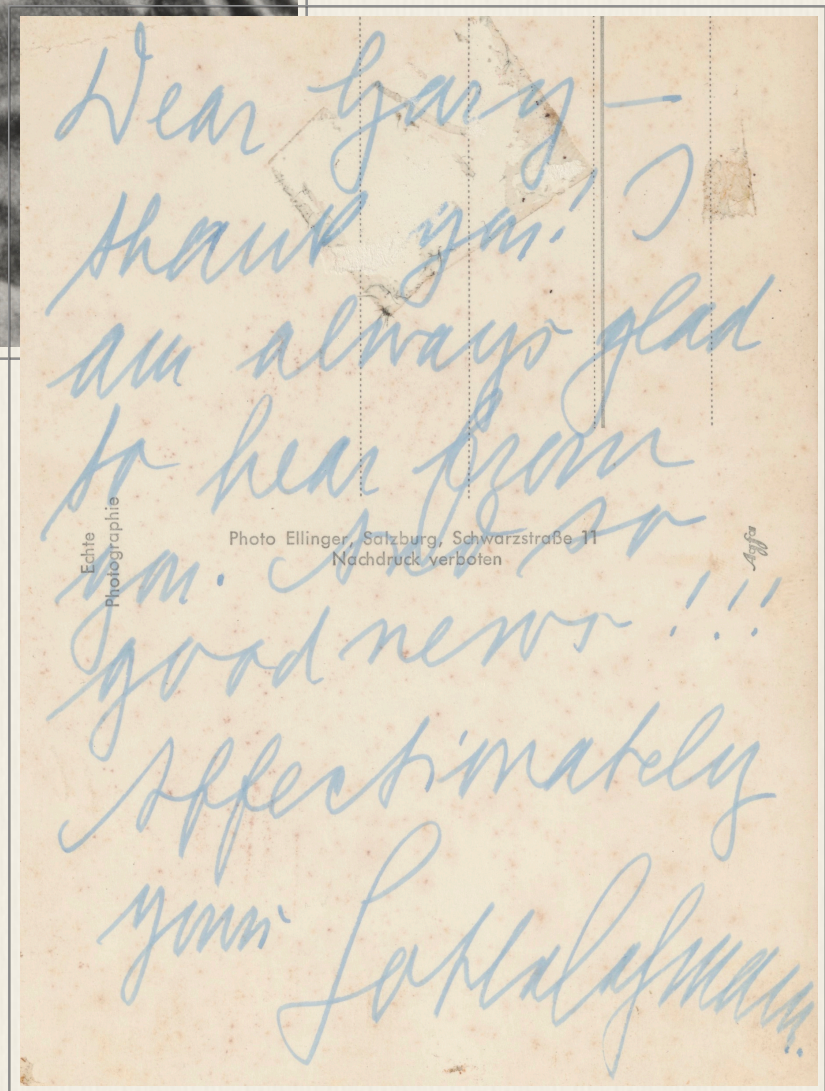
Dear Gary- it is very
sounding of you that
you take so much trouble
to celebrate my 85th birth-
day! of course I agree
to the Telephone Interview.
I don't like the mention
of "Big City" but also
not the last question.
But I want to know
beforehand what I will

he asked...
Affectionate regards -
yours
Lassalefmann.

In spite of going on 85, Lehmann was keenly aware of the importance of an interview. You can listen to her in English Interviews (including the one in consideration here) in Volume VI of this series. The German Interviews can be found in Volume VII. After Melchior died in 1973 she consented to a memorial tribute interview with me. Once again, we had a rapid exchange of letters that sadly seem to have been lost.



Lehmann writes three exclamation points after her acknowledgement of my good news. Since this is undated, I can't place which news she refers to. Her thank you is probably for a birthday gift I regularly sent.



In this letter, Lehmann continues to write about the forthcoming 85th birthday tribute interview and program. She adds a question: "Are there any arias or Lieder which have not been published yet." Lehmann means unpublished recordings of her singing. At that time there were some Columbia and RCA recordings that hadn't been released. Now, all her commercial recordings are available. We needed to record before her b'day in order to produce such a long program.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

December 11, 1972

Dear Gary:

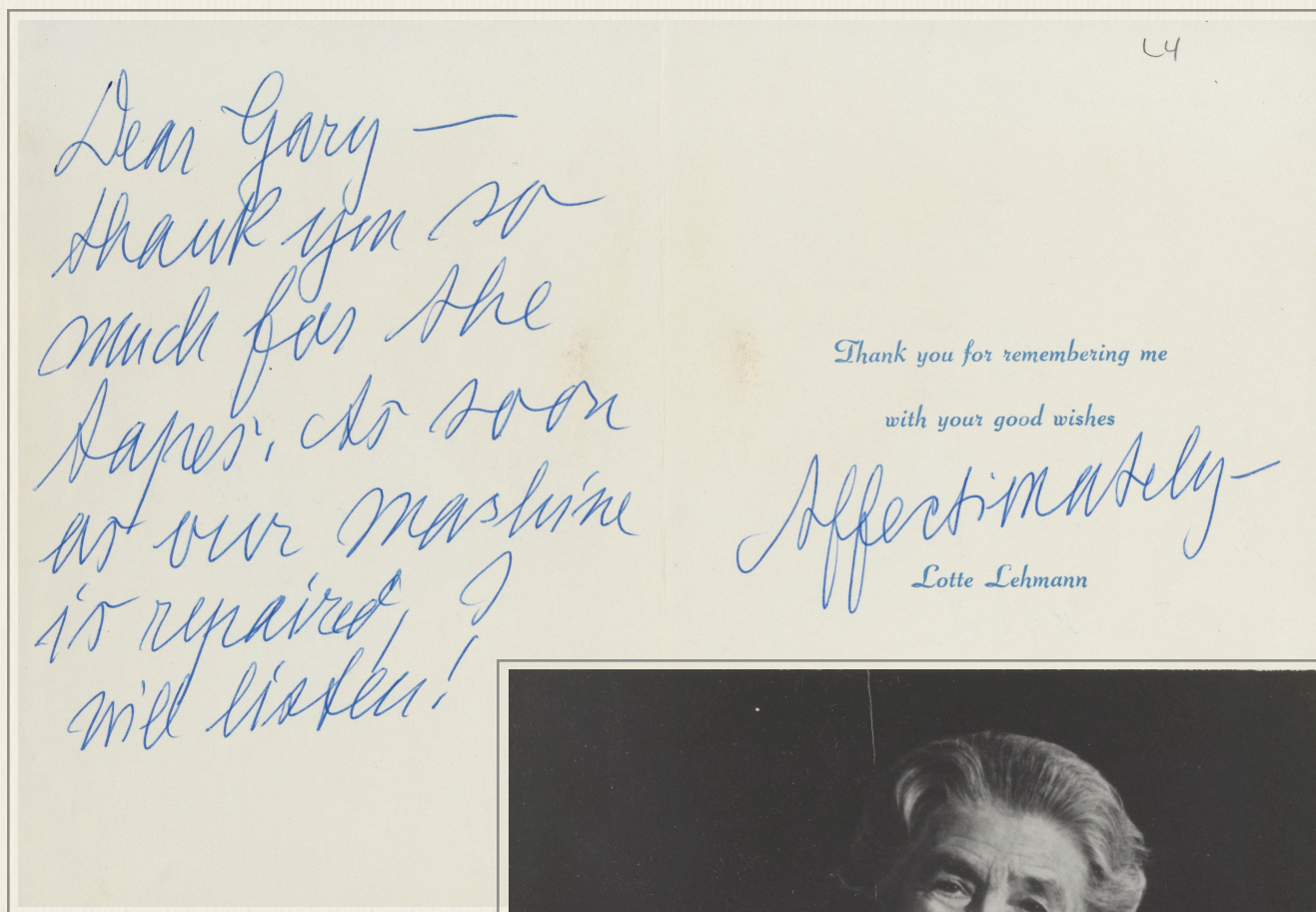
Unfortunately I cannot find your letter-so I have to ask you to write down your questions once more. You are of course right, that these interviews should be very spontaneous but nevertheless I would like to know what you would ask me. And please: Add the following question: "Are there any arias or Lieder which have not been published yet?"

I am very touched that you take so much trouble for this interview, and send you, as always, my love.

Yours

Lotte Lehmann.
Is the December 16th right?
2 o'clock.

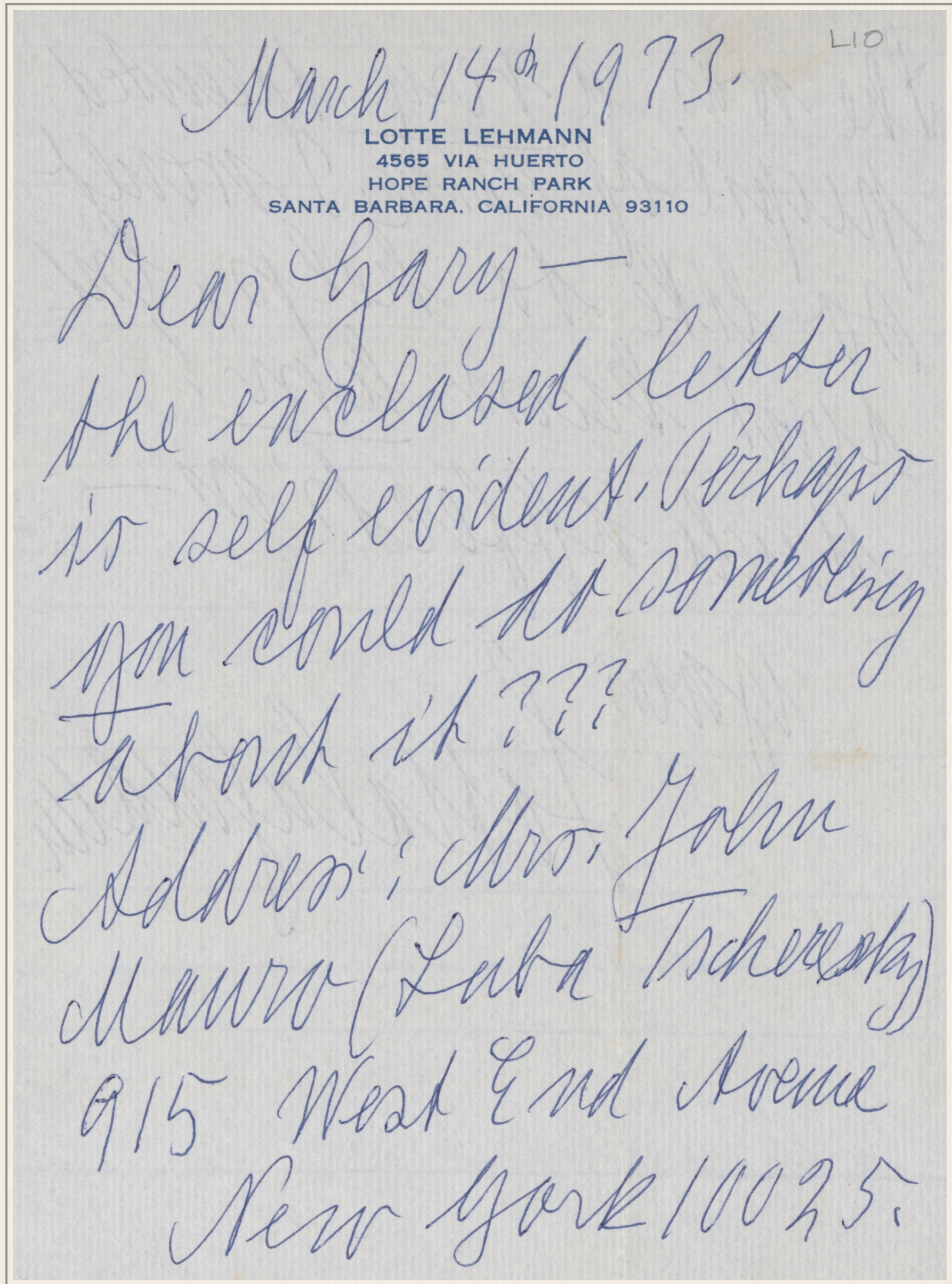
Lehmann is acknowledging the receipt of the reel-to-reel tapes of the 85th birthday tribute and the Melchior memorial radio programs.



One can barely read the faded signature on this postcard that contains the last studio portrait of Mme Lehmann. The words she wrote on the other side have been lost. I remember feeling sad upon receiving this card, to see her age. Her look had somehow been frozen for me in earlier photos.



The "enclosed letter" that Lehmann references is no longer to be found. She was very fond of her former student Luba Tcheresky.



She was a very talented
pupil of mine. I would
so like to help, but
don't know how!

Much affection—

Yours

Lopkalyuk

At this point in time I was playing in an orchestra in Munich. I'd just seen a production of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* for which Lehmann had sung the premier in 1919 as the Dyer's Wife (Färberin). Lehmann's thoughts on that role are important to read, demonstrating her subtle interpretation of the role.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
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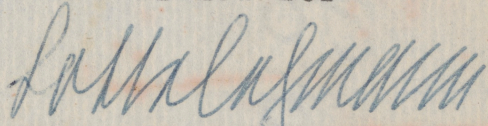
January 19, 1974

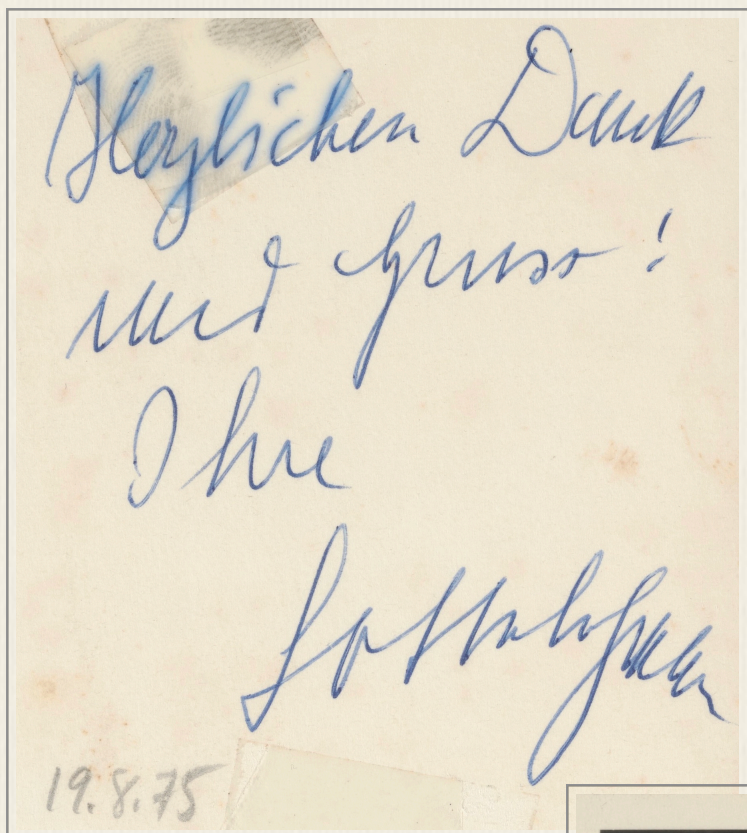
Dear Gary: [Hickling]

I do not go to Europe at all this summer - and I am therefore afraid that I won't see you! I am very happy that you are in München - as far as I know München is now the center of music, and takes the place which Vienna held in my time.

You see, the "Färberin" is not a shrew - she is frustrated and only mean on the surface; but her heart belongs always to her husband, even when she does not know it herself. I think it is quite right that she is "in rags"; she is very poor, and one is nowadays so much more realistic than at the time when I sang that part.

Much love to you, and best wishes for
a big success Yours





On both sides of this card one can see that Lehmann's handwriting is deteriorating in her last years. She wrote:
 "Herzlichen Dank und Gruss! Ihre Lotte Lehmann" or Heartfelt thanks and greetings!
 Your Lotte Lehmann





Lehmann signed the card across her feet, but the ink has faded. From the quality of her penmanship, this card seems to be from the early 1970s.

P8
 Dear Gary —
 Thank you for
 your letter. I am
 glad that you
 feel progress —
 and are happy
 and I send
 you warmest
 regards.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

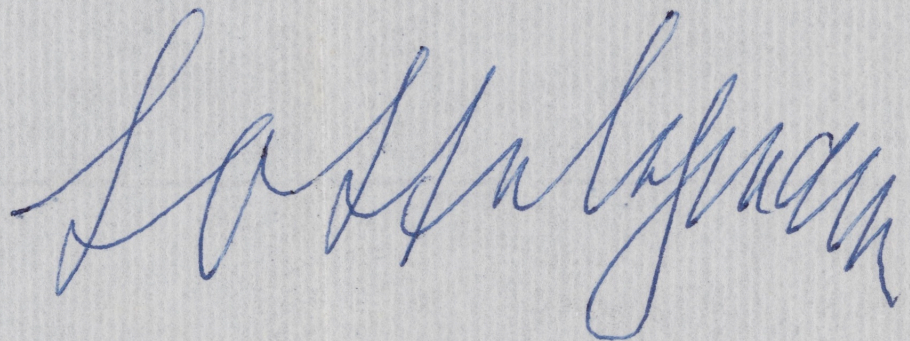
August 6, 1974

Dear Gary:

Thank you for your letter. I am very glad that you are so happy in Munchen. And I hope that very soon you will have a permanent job ! Please write to me in German- even if you make mistakes it does not matter. That it was my influence which brought you to Germany makes me very happy! Especially since I hope that you will find your happiness in music, and personally there.

With warmest regards I am

Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lotte Lehmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large, connected letters.



This post card photo is one of the rare times that we have a live glimpse into the first act of *Der Rosenkavalier*, the levée scene. Her servants bustle about her while the Marschallin turns to sing (supposedly to herself) about her lack of happiness, in spite of her recent affair.

Dear Gary:

Thank you for your good wishes for my birthday. I am very happy that you work so diligently in Munchen, and I wish you the very best for the future.

With affection and regards
Yours

Lotta Lehmann

This letter from Lehmann requires some background information. I'd told her that although I was playing bass free-lance in Munich, there was always the hope that I could find a permanent position. That would only occur after an audition. But German orchestras weren't keen on inviting Americans to audition because we were seen as too wild and undependable. I probably mentioned this dilemma to Mme Lehmann, so she responded with this letter as well as a wonderful letter of recommendation in German. In that she attested to my playing and character. After sending that letter along with others, I immediately received invitations to many auditions. So finally, with Lehmann's help, I wound up playing a full-time contract with the Symphonisches Orchester Berlin.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

January 24, 1975

Dear Gary:

I hope that the enclosed letter of recommendation will have some effect and help you in your search for a permanent position.

With best wishes and warmest regards I am

Yours

L. Lehmann

This is the final letter I have from Mme Lehmann. It pleased me that she recognized the study I'd put in to learning German. In an earlier letter she'd encouraged me to write to her in German, even if she continued to respond in English! Her often repeated wishes for my happiness was also appreciated. In August of this year I received letters from friends and acquaintances from around the world offering their condolences on the passing of Lotte Lehmann, whom so many new had deeply influenced me for so many years. I hope that I'm repaying her positive influence in my life with this series of *Lotte Lehmann & Her Legacy*.

LOTTE LEHMANN
4565 VIA HUERTO
HOPE RANCH PARK
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

March 16, 1976

Dear Gary:

Your German is really very impressive! —

I thank you for your letter and for your
good wishes, and I hope very much that you will
find a job and a place where you will be
very happy!

With warmest reagrds

Yours

Lotte Lehmann