

April 24, 1922

Dear Ma and Pa,

It is needless for me to tell you how very deeply moved I was to hear of Grandma's death. I well remember the time I went to the Bronx to say goodbye to her, and something seemed to tell me then that I was seeing her for the last time. I was sorry that the card I sent Uncle Sam¹ from Italy must have arrived at such an inopportune time.

A few days ago I received a card from Harold² from Berlin. He will be back with me at the end of the week. Of course, I miss him very much, as you can easily understand that living together for so long has made us inseparable friends. But his trip to Berlin will help me a great deal in the way of practical knowledge of the city such as where to stay, where the good restaurants, bookshops, etc. are, and all about the theatres and concerts.

During his absence from Paris, I have been leading a very secluded life, given up entirely to music and books. I wonder if you ever realize what a large part the reading of books on all imaginable subjects plays in my existence. I read, not to learn anything, but from the pure love of it. Had I gone to college, I should be graduating this year, but I never regret not having done so. Of course, there are plenty of people, who must see you with a college diploma to make them believe you are educated, but I feel my extensive reading has done a great deal to make up for any geometry or chemistry they teach one there. I often think, in planning ahead, that rather than teach or concertize to make a living, I should greatly prefer to write on musical subjects. I intend to make an attempt at writing some short articles this summer and sending them to musical papers at home and see what happens.

Tomorrow I recommence work with Mademoiselle Boulanger and still have about five lessons before the finish. I am not bothering to begin again with my piano teacher for so short a time. He was, in many ways, a very satisfactory teacher, but not, I am sorry to say, an entire success, at least, not a success in the sense that Nadia Boulanger is.

Already I am wondering what to do with all the books and music I have, and which will weigh down my trunks so badly. Then, I must leave lots of room to get more in, in Germany (particularly music) where things will be so cheap. There are two solutions: either I shall make a package and send it to you, or I shall put it in care of some reliable person in Paris, to keep for me.

I am still waiting as patiently as can be expected to hear of your decision about the European trip. Why must there be so many miles and miles of unnecessary water between us? Hope you are all in good health. My love to everybody.

Aaron

P.S. I received Jenny's Easter card and thank her for me.

¹ The United States.

² Harold Clurman (1901-1980).