

Copy of written message to Menahem Pressler on the occasion of his 80th birthday

December 16, 2003

Dear Mr. Pressler,

It is with profound gratitude that we congratulate you on this milestone. Your influence on our lives is felt daily.

Your playing is a model of eloquent, exquisite beauty. You are incapable of playing a meaningless note, and you make every passage come alive with sparkle and charm. Your vision of what music is, and the spiritual depth behind every note, reaches deeply into one's soul, and becomes a permanent part of everyone fortunate enough to experience it.

Your ability to articulate that vision in words is unique. Those precious hours of association with you transform one's musicianship, and form the basis for a lifetime of playing and teaching.

Your selfless attitude and example of serving the music with all your heart furnishes still another model. Your perpetual search for the ultimate musical Truth never flags. "Immer strebend" and "Mehr Licht" seem to guide your life.

But this intensity is combined with a special warmth, tenderness and humanity. Who cannot be touched by your gentleness and sincerity, uplifted by your ever-present youthful enthusiasm, and encouraged by your parental love? You turn the role of a pianist/teacher into one of an emissary of goodness.

We thank you for a lifetime of complete dedication and sacrifice, indefatigable endurance, and inexhaustible patience. We thank Mrs. Pressler for her wisdom, constant supportiveness of you, and her nurturing love for us.

We students have a privilege and responsibility to carry on your work. That is occurring daily in all parts of the world. You furnish an example of how the wisdom, inspiration and goodness of just one person can expand in ever-widening circles and touch, directly and indirectly, thousands of people. We are thankful to be among those so blessed.

Affectionately,

George and Susan Fee