

Mark Taper Forum

Dear Laura:

The disappointing and unsatisfactory resolution of our short but strongly felt "collusion" has left me wanting to add a few personal thoughts to our last conversation- if they don't or cannot speak to you now, perhaps they will at some future time.

Withdrawing from this production has cost me a great deal. Not only the loss of the opportunity to work on such a wonderful piece, a professional loss, but the loss of getting closer to you as a collaborator and friend.

I fault myself for the jeopardy I am now putting the piece in ..and the ~~angst~~ I am causing you.

Had I been "in it" for anything more than the love of the work, we probably would not have come as far down the line together and it would have been easier for you to make it happen than it now is going to be.

I have not been leading you down the garden path - in any conscious way...I have come as far as you have.. with already a great deal of research time spent on the piece as you well know. It's just that my comprehension of how one allots for fudge-factor time in dealing with an organization like the Taper, and how one starts all over again on a major piece and how one orchestrates a free-lance existence, is something I have had no experience with until these last 5 months.

These past 5 months have been very difficult ones for me and I have done, like yourself, nothing else but work. It was not until this week, when I finally got a chance to talk about a meaningful long range projection for my new piece, that it became clear that taking a hiatus from the writing until we opened the Greeks, would put me in a situation where the "nurturing of Inanna" would get lost in the shuffle for another year- and possibly a totally unsubsidized one.

I am sorry to have learned this at your expense...and at mine. I have great respect for what you do and will continue to champion your work.

Please accept this check as a "gesture"--for that alone, giving me a piano, I am indebted to you more than you know. I will

arrange to have it returned and pay for the shipment back whenever you need it.

And again, if there is any kind of compromise possible or any way I can be of service please don't eliminate it from your thoughts.

As disappointing and difficult as this step has been I have to trust that it is the appropriate one.

Barbara

P.S. I have spoken with Bruce Saran about what happened. And he will be sympathetic to your time problem with the option time and very favorably disposed to help you out. So feel free to call him.