

February 19, 1995.

Dear Robert and Barbara,

Music surely is a large part of your family life. Your mother and grandfather Leonard would have been delighted. I remember as a kid the Leonard family's musical soirees with Mother playing one of several violins. There were a couple of cellos and I can't remember who played the piano. She loved music and Saturday afternoons were inviolately set aside for the metropolitan opera on the CBC. She had her pile of small books which she had ordered to accompany each opera, and I well remember her sitting motionless beside the radio turning pages as the opera progressed. It was her time alone and we all knew it and respected her space.

Thanks so much for the book. I am enjoying it a lot, really savouring it in that I read it in bits. For me it has a kind of warm familiarity and truth which I suppose is common to all good art. Charlie finds the historic aspects interesting too being something of a history buff.

We had our usual busy Xmas with lots of kids and family and several dinners which seem to be the product of these blended families. I'm always glad when the whole thing is over though, and I can get back to my rather selfish life of skiing, hobbies and grandchildren. As you can see, I've adjusted to retirement rather well and seem to have overcome our accomplishment-centred upbringing with alarming alacrity.

I hope that you Robert are planning to accompany Barbara to Rome. I long to go to Rome. They say they pinch bottoms there. Take notes Barbara. Charlie will be retiring this summer so maybe we can start some serious travelling then. I guess I miss jaunts from my working days.

We are again going west to ski and play golf in March, first to Wyoming then Utah then further south to Canyon country. We will be meeting friends from Vancouver who have not yet seen the Grand Canyon or any of the other canyons. We may or may not see Evelyn depending on how our plans fit. I talked to her last night and she seems in a better frame of mind now that she can look forward to a cruise to Hawaii towards the end of March and respite from her constant caregiving duties. Erkki will be going into a special care home while she is gone.

Yes the family reunion is scheduled for the summer of 1996 and we hope to host it in this part of the country if everyone is agreeable. Canadian dollars should still be a good buy for American money then. We have this place and Linda's 150 acre farm with trout stream and horses which is half an hour away and we also have our Nova Scotia cottage which is three hours away. It has swimming hiking golf, tennis, fishing, clam digging, live theatre etc. In any case we'll start sending information around this time next year. Around the end of July is probably the best time weather-wise in this part of the country.

Best regards to everyone, keep in touch.

Love

*Betty &  
Charlie Too*