

16, Augustus Road,

Edgbaston. Birmingham

10 December 1887.

England

Dear Sir,

I received your letter from Leipzig dated 24 Nov and post card of the next day, but have been unable to reply earlier as I had to wait for a meeting of our Committee. The Birmingham Festival is looked upon as so important a musical event in England, that it is hoped you will be able to compose a Symphony specially for the one in August 1888 to be performed there for the first time, such a work would be a worthy introduction to an English audience; but if on consideration you feel you shall be unable to do this, our Committee will accept the two works you mention, namely, "An Orchestral Fantasy, Autumn Songs" occupying 15 minutes, and

Suite in old style for "Strong Orchestra"
(by which I presume you mean, full
Orchestra.)

Whether you produce the Symphony
or the two pieces named, the Committee
would consider your coming over
to conduct as part of the arrangement,
and although composers usually
consider that the opportunity of a
first performance at a Birmingham
Festival is so advantageous, from
the large audience & excellent
performance, and adds so much
to the value or sale of the work,
that they are anxious for such
~~opportunities~~ first performance
without stipulating for any
money payment, still I am
authorized to say that if you

are present and conduct your
works they will give you in
addition to any reasonable
cost you may incur in copying
the Grand parts, Fifty guineas
as an honorarium and in full
for all your expenses.

May I ask you to inform me as
as soon as convenient whether
you assent to the suggestion of
the Committee, and if so, whether
you decide that you can or cannot
compose a new Symphony, or
prefer to give the two smaller works,
also do you intend to score the
First for orchestra (as I gather it
is at present for two pianos) -
also please say if either of the

works has been performed in
public. as if they have not,
then they must not be given
before our Festival. would you reply
to each of these questions. I hope
our correspondence may lead
to your giving a work at our
Festival as so many other great
composers have done

Believe me Dear Sir.

Yours truly

Charles Harding

Herrn Dr. Siegel.

@. F. Peters

Bureau de Musique

Thalwasse 10

Leipzig.