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Letter, 1976 September 5, from Edith Borroff to Eva Jessye

Edith Borroff

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Edith Borroff
900 Lehigh Avenue
Binghamton, New York 13903

September 5, 1976

Dear Miss Jessye,

I have just written a long letter to my East Lansing friend with a good solid pitch in it for the Eva Jessye Collection. The reason I am not sending you his name is that he is so intensely SHY that the soft-sell is the only hope, and your energy would scare him away.

You are right about the warm spot, and I do want to be included in the Ann Arbor Friends, which is where I belong. Congratulations on your recent achievement. I wish you well at the Luncheon and on your lecture tour - I hope I can get to hear you.

My job here, like all jobs, has its pros and cons, ups and downs. But this year will have the special joy of the production of my one-act opera in late April. It is likely that I shall conduct, and that in a special thrill in itself.

It might be of interest to you that I came here after 22 years of University teaching, and for the FIRST TIME got a salary that a man might get -- the lowest, to be sure, but still, in Michigan I was paid \$4000. = less than the published minimum for my rank. Having long borne this single discrimination, I much respect the courage and energy with your distinguished accomplishments in the face of a double discrimination.

There is still some problem with my being a woman composer; an official protest to production of the opera has been made. Incredible? I will need some of your courage and energy in the months ahead.

Affectionate greetings,

Edith Bonehoff

I am still using the scarf you sent to me and enjoying it - - -