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My dear Sylvia,

I was rather concerned that you did not receive my letter, which I posted to you in Santiago just before my return to England at the end of December. Again I apologise for having to write that way, but I needed to clarify the situation regarding my design fee for the costumes and scenery for "Dafne".

I know that the situations are as difficult in Chile our sponsorship for the arts, as indeed they are here in England - but I would be glad to hear of some kind of settlement for the remainder of the design fee, as soon as possible. Originally you stated that I would receive this in January when the sponsorship for the project would be forthcoming. I sincerely hope this will be the case. This would certainly place our financial transactions on a proper footing, and make our continued collaboration much easier to deal with. Perhaps you could write to me and let me know how things stand, I would be most grateful.

Some good news for you, unfortunately bad for me. My Moscow production for July has been put back to the year 2,000!! This effectively releases me from my commitments in Europe during July and opens up the way for my return to Chile to continue work on "Dafne". All I need to know now are the dates for the premiere and exactly how long you would need me in Santiago to continue working on the project?

I will be directing the Cavalli opera "Ercole Amante" in Boston (U.S.A) from May 17th until June 22nd

and after that date will be free to travel. Does this fit in with your plans?

I hope rehearsals are progressing well for the Caldara? I can't wait to hear the news in that department!

We have just finished our calling for Boston, and for the next 3 months I will be working here in England - marking up the vocal musical score and doing all the 'blocking'. A tedious business but it has to be done! We open in Boston on June 8th and also give performances in Tanglewood. You'll probably be up to your eyes in Caldara by then, but it would be wonderful if you could make it to one of the performances in the U.S.A. Just let me know.

Incidentally, I very much enjoyed the C.D. of the Villancicos which you gave me. Very many thanks for the chance to listen to such splendid stuff.

Do keep in touch with you, if you like you can send me a cheque for the remainder of the design fee, in U.S. \$ - possibly.

Many good wishes for Caldara. I hope things go well in Chile in these difficult days.

Very Sincerely

ack

Edward