

Music Department
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305
April 16, 1980

Mr. Yasunori Mochida
Managing Director
Nippon Gakki Co., Ltd.
10-1, Nakazawa-Cho, P.O. Box 1
Hamamatsu, Japan

Dear Mr. Mochida:

In regard to the article in the "San Jose Mercury," I must assume full responsibility for its publication, even though I and everyone at Stanford concerned with our project were shocked, indeed, by its content. Please let me explain the context so that you may understand that there was no expectation that the article would be published.

Mr. Hertelendy, the author of the article, is an independently wealthy man, who has given Stanford University a fair amount of money over the years. In view of our current needs for support, I was asked by the Development Office to speak to Mr. Hertelendy regarding possible support for the computer music project. (He and other possible donors had been invited to Paris for the premier of my work "STRIA" in 1977; his wife went on his behalf.) In explaining CCRMA's funding situation, I pointed out the contributions to our support from the University, NSF, and future potential from foundations and NGK. He was very interested in the NGK relationship and asked for more detail. I indicated both the potential and possible pitfalls (e.g., patent invalidated), but in strict confidentiality. The point I was trying to make was that because of these other possible sources for support, if he were to help us now, we might not need to ask him again in the future.

When the article appeared, I called Hertelendy immediately and told him that he had broken a confidence and that we were deeply distressed. His explanation was that his editor had asked for more "newsworthy information," and he had therefore included it. You can imagine my response. Following my conversation, one of the Development Office people also spoke with him. As far as I know, none of the following articles about CCRMA was ever published, even though he had indicated that the article in question was to be the first in a series.

I made an error, but I assure you that it was not intended; and, I have also learned a lesson in regard to journalists. I am sorry if this has caused NGK any difficulties.

To end on a happy note, I am glad that you are in good health, and our sound system is marvelous. We all thank you and your colleagues for helping us acquire such excellent equipment.

I look forward to seeing you in Japan.

Sincerely,

John Chowning

cc: Niels Reimers