

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
CCRMA

Mr. William R. Hewlett
Hewlett-Packard Company
1501 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304

November 5, 1984

Dear Bill:

I haven't seen you in a very long time. and you may not know that I moved to Stanford last year and am working at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). I regard this as the best place in the world in electronic and computer music, and in musical acoustics. That's why I came here.

I'm glad to see from the attached news note that Hewlett Packard has launched a recording program in cooperation with Erato Records, dedicated to the memory of Ernest Ansermet. This shows an appreciation of music. I hope that it also proves of value to HP.

One of the composers to be recorded is Iannis Xenakis, who is certainly talented. I've read, or tried to read, his seemingly mathematical book, Formalized Music. I think that it doesn't make much sense.

The technical and musical work at CCRMA does make sense, and we have good composers here, including John Chowning, the director. We have a lot of good graduate students, too, from E.E. and Hearing and Speech in the Medical School as well as from the Department of Music. Currently, one of the graduate students is Bob Shannon, a son of Claude Shannon and very bright.

I think that the chief value of CCRMA is that it is producing a generation of musicians who are not afraid of computers (some work as part-time programmers), or of electronic equipment, or of thought as engineers conceive it. And, the engineering and hearing students among us find CCRMA stimulating and inspiring.

We're not broke, and are reasonably well equipped. But we can't do many things we would like to do for lack of money. We need new computers. Above all, we need to find a source of some \$400,000 for a first-rate digital recording studio, to be named after whoever supplies the funds. The studio will be located in the Knoll, where CCRMA is moving early next year.

The studio has been designed and will be built with money advanced from the University. But, that money must be repaid.

Among other things, John Chowning plans to use the studio to make digital recordings of all the prominent singers who come to the San Francisco Opera. Such recordings will be valuable both as an archive, and for computer analysis in understanding the singing voice.

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John Chowning and I hope that you will take some interest in CCRMA. I feel that it is worthy of your interest. We'd be glad to give you a tour. If you or HP saw fit to give some support to work at CCRMA, that would be swell. But, we would like you to know of one more good thing that is going on at Stanford.

With all best wishes,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John".

John R. Pierce
Visiting Professor
of Music, Emeritus

JRP/hk