

Camp Winnetonk, Merrill - N. D.

August 19th
1918.

Comrades:

To you, with whom I have worked these many years in Spain, for my and mutual confidence, it is unnecessary that I should protest my devotion to his country, which I originally sought not only as a place in which to make a living, but as a home in whose air of freedom, buoyancy and generosity, my spirit could breathe and my art could develop and mature. It came of you it is true that as a youth while still living in Germany, the hour of my birth, I disappointed of the autocracy of old government and embarked the growing spirit of militarism.

Was the grandeur of a country I have lived in Chicago, my dearest hopes have been fulfilled. I have come to see the United States as my native land, to cherish her institutions, to identify myself with her cause and to regard myself as one of her faithful and grateful sons.

My devotion to and love for his country I must among the first assets of my inner self. From the beginning of this awful war, and long before his country became a belligerent, I felt and said freely that Germany was in the wrong and should be defeated, and as one who knows me has seen manifested the sincerity of my true mind, which, since April 6th, 1914, have become with me, as with all true Americans,

The next profound considerations of my soul. I do not hesitate to classify myself as Unitarian, because all other Bounts are one name that of heart, in thought and in spirit, as well as in action and intellect, I am Unitarian, just as willing as any patriot to give my last drop of blood and my last penny for the land of my adoption and of my affections.

While all this has been written to you, it unhappily is true that because my primary interest has been artistic and not political, I omitted the step which would have given legal effect to what was a spiritual accomplishment and did not take out my second papers and become before the last an American citizen, and so that when most of all I wish to feel myself a part of this great republic in its struggle to make the world free from the menace of recurring wars, I find myself technically - almost, I would say, ironically - - obliged, "other Enemy". For this, I know, I have not one to blame but myself, and it is I who must atone. However deeply I may feel my heart throbs with love of his country, however ardently I may long to serve her, however one may be given confidence in me - - and it has been too often expressed to admit of question - - it remains true that many of the music-loving public to whom our Orchestra must appeal, are unable or unwilling to honor the obligations of my heart on it

choosing between those what are other Sumner from me, within and choice and one whose greatest grief is to be as classed.

There has never been a moment when I have cordially put my interests or ambitions above the welfare of the nation to whose service I have given twenty-three years of my life, and now, after careful self-searching, I have come to the painful conclusion that the best interests of the nation and of your association demand that I withdraw from my position as conductor until the day comes, for which I earnestly hope, when papers of full citizenship can be issued to me and make me before the laws, as I am in spirit, an American citizen. I firmly believe that my withdrawal will afford a solution of the problems now confronting you and will tend to achieve a delicate and seeing situation. I have, therefore, respectfully requested that you will relieve me of the duties of conductor until that happier day shall dawn. Let me say in conclusion that it is impossible for me to express adequately my gratitude for the support and encouragement given me through all these years by the Travelers and members of our Association and the more loving public in general, and to express the hope that



The same consideration will be bestowed upon my
wishes.

Respectfully

Frederick St. Dr. M.



August 17,
~~September 20,~~ 1918.

*Camp Government, Morris
City.*

Gentlemen:

To you, with whom I have worked these many years in sympathy and mutual confidence, it is unnecessary that I should protest my devotion to this country, which I originally sought not only as a place in which to make a living but as a home in whose air of freedom, buoyancy and generosity, my spirit could breathe and my art could develop and flower. To some of you it is known that as a youth while still living in Germany, the land of my birth, I disapproved of the autocracy of its government and combated the growing spirit of militarism. In the quarter of a century I have lived in Chicago, my dearest hopes have been fulfilled. I have come to love the United States as my native land, to cherish her institutions, to identify myself with her cause and to regard myself as one of her dutiful and grateful sons. My devotion to and love for this country I count among the finest assets of my inner self. From the beginning of this awful war, and long before this country became a belligerent, I felt and said freely that Germany was in the wrong and should be defeated and no one who knows me has ever questioned the sincerity of my then views, which, since April 6, 1917, have become with me, as with all Americans, the most profound convictions of my soul. I do not hesitate to classify myself as American, because all who know me are aware that at heart, in thought and in spirit, as well as in action and in deed, I am American, just as willing as any patriot to give my last drop of blood and my last penny for the land of my adoption and of my affections.

While all this has been known to you, it unhappily is true that because my primary interest has been artistic and not political, I omitted the step which would have given legal effect to what was a spiritual accomplishment and did not take out my second papers and become before the law an American citizen.

and so now when most of all I wish to feel myself a part of this great republic in its struggle to make the world free from the menace of recurring wars, I find myself technically--almost, I would say, ironically--styled, "Alien Enemy". For this, I know, I have no one to blame but myself, and it is I who must atone. However deeply I may feel my heart throb with love of this country, however ardently I may long to serve her, however sure may be your confidence in me--and it has been too often expressed to admit of question--it remains true that many of the music-loving public to whom our orchestra must appeal ~~and upon whose support~~ its usefulness and perhaps its existence must depend, are unable or unwilling to know the sentiments of my heart or to distinguish between those who are Alien Enemies from conviction and choice and one whose Greatest Grief it is to be so class^{ed}ified.

There has never been a moment when I have consciously put my own ^{ambitions or} ~~own~~ welfare of the orchestra to whose service I have given twenty-^{four} ~~five~~ years of my life and now, after careful self-searching, I have come to the painful conclusion that the best interests of that orchestra and of your association demand that I withdraw from my position as conductor until the day comes, for which I earnestly hope, when papers of full citizenship can be issued to me and make me before the law, as I am in spirit, an American Citizen. I firmly believe that my withdrawal will afford a solution of the problems now confronting you and will tend to relieve a delicate and vexing situation.

I have, therefore, respectfully to request that you will relieve me of the duties of conductor until that happier day shall dawn.

Let me say in conclusion that it is impossible for me to express adequately my gratitude for the support and encouragement given me through all these years by the Trustees and members of our Association and the music-loving public in general, and to express the hope that the same consideration will be bestowed

upon my successor.

To the Trustees of The Orchestral Association,
Orchestra Hall,

Chicago, Illinois.