

3-8-64

Dear Nell,

How I should have liked to be there on July 18th to share with you, a whole day long, that wonderful bath of music in your "serene, home."

The performance which attracted me most of all is the one which took place in the afternoon. The Elisabethans (Byrd, Gibbons, Morley, Dowland...) belong with their great contemporaries, the Flemish and Dutch musicians Orlandus Lassus, Sweelinck, Isaac and forerunners De Fay, van Ockeghem and the divine Josquin des Prés to my favorite composers. And it is not necessary to add Palestrina, contemporary of Lassus?

There are two records which you should add to your collection if they are not already there.

1. Elisabethan and Jacobian music. Vanguard B.G. 539 - performed by the Bach guild.
2. Music of the French Renaissance (conducted by Nadia Boulanger!) with music of the Flemish composers Josquin des Prés and Lassus (Arch. A.P. 14. 14055). Although Josquin and Lassus belonged to the low countries, the French hope them in as they are doing now with Chagall, Picasso and so many others.



(Paris)
Nadia Boulanger's house, where I had one day
the privilege to be the guest of our young friend
the Flemish composer and outstanding pianist
Harry Cox, about whom I will write to you
later, is with that of Pablo Casals and
over Queen Elisabeth's home, one of the
sanctuaries of Art in Europe — all Villa Serena's,
Boulanger,

There is another record of Nadia Boulanger,
which for me has been a revelation of the
ineffable beauty of Montecarlo's music
(V. S. M. 2 x LA 37 1/7 2).

I will try to find somewhere, in an
antiquarian's shop a copy of Old
Flemish Songs which, I am sure, will
appeal to you and your young composer,

We all will always remember the
happy days spent together and I
don't need to look at the climates
which are, once again since then, in
full bloom, to do so.

With many thanks for your kind
letters, I remain,

for ever your affectionate friend,

Hermann