

Dear Grand father & Aline,

I'm sorry that it's taken me
so long to write - I've been
very busy until a few weeks
ago, & then I was in the process
of moving. Besides playing the bass,
I'm teaching strings (violin, viola,
cello & bass) in Fall River, and
still, unfortunately, bartending, although
only one night a week.

I'm auditioning now for several
summer festivals: Tanglewood, Spoleto,
Blossom, L.A. Philharmonic Institute, Lake

George, & a few others. I'm studying with Henry Portnoi, who used to be principal bass in the Boston Symphony, and who is very rigorous, where my last teacher was the opposite. I'm trying save up for a better fiddle, but I've got a long way to go. To get a good orchestra job, I need a good bass, no matter how well I play. A good bass costs around 10 thousand dollars, too. Every time I save some money, something seems to happen, and I have to spend money, for instance, the clutch went out on my car last week on the way to Fall River, and cost me \$400 to get it fixed.

I moved in with my girl friend, which should save some money, but still...

Bella & I went to New York ^{week before} ~~last week~~
last because I had an audition (for Spoleto).
We stayed at Stan & Maggie's for a night. I
wish I could have stayed longer, but I had
to get back to work.

I talked to Dad last night. He went
to Louisville to do a story on the artificial
heart transplant there. He sounded
disappointed that one of his coworkers
just had a grandchild, and encouraged
me to "get to work" and give him
one too.

Christmas this year was a little
sad, without Annie and Dad. I
think everyone missed Annie, &
were sorry Dad wasn't there.

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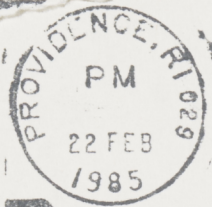
Thank you very much for the
check. It was very generous,
and useful to me as well.

I hope you both are
well. I hope that I'll see
at the Island.

Love,

E.F.

Porter
254 Transit St.
Providence RI 02906



Eliot & Aline Porter
Route 4 Box 33
Santa Fe NM
87501