

Tuesday

Dear Stu.

Excuse my long silence but as usual there was nothing worth writing about and instead of boring you with all the reasons I hate this place I decided not to write at all.

I've been giving a lot of thought about whether I should come home for Thanksgiving or not and I think that I probably won't. As I wrote you before, our orchestra is giving a performance on Dec 4th and guess who is playing the solos in a Vivaldi Concerto? — me. I'd hate to let them down at this late date and besides I'd want to play.

I still haven't made up ^{my} mind though and perhaps if I can get out of it gracefully, without hurting my chances of remaining with this group I might do it. Going south isn't really that important anyway and besides I don't feel like painting at all right now.

Last week I bought a stereo tape recorder on sale and it's a beauty. Also I bought two tapes. One of ~~some~~ Corelli's Christmas Concerto — a symphony by Leopold Mozart 3 Bach Chorales and the other one is. Handel's Water music — and his Royal Fireworks music by Stowbushy. I'm

sure it's the one you heard and it's got fireworks and people screaming in the last movement it's truly glorious. The wonderful thing about hearing stereo tapes is that there is no interference at all and you can never get scratches on them. The stereo separation is superb and its sound reproduction is perfect. Already I've recorded some harpsichord + violin.

This weekend I'm going to record our orchestra so you'll get to hear what they're like.

The main reason I got it though was to record the examples from my harmony and counterpoint books and thereby learn them from their sound. Also I can record my improvisations and what's more work out the accompaniments on a pure sound relationships instead of theory.

I ~~re~~ recorded a theme I wrote and when I improvised an accompaniment with it it sound ~~glorious~~ glorious - like Corelli. And already I'm well into writing a slow movement for Baroque Orchestra - 3 violins and cello. What I have so far sounds quite good and I'm working hard to finish it by this weekend so I can record our orchestra playing it. It's damn hard work but work that fills many dull hours.

Don't worry I haven't given myself up to music; I still put it in its proper perspective. It's just a satisfying hobby that I'm determined to master - but only as a Sunday musician. You don't know ~~to~~ how empty I feel with out music.

and there is no one in Fort Worth who could accompany me ~~or~~ or even talk to me about it. — not even you. So I try to get in all I can while I'm here and see — it's great comfort and pleasure to find others who not only talk about it but do something about it.

My painting of the negro that I'm working on at school is a flop because he never comes in to pose. Finally I got so mad that I ripped it up. I'm not ever going to be the pawn of my sitters. It's hard enough to work when they are co-operative. So I've started a picture here at the house of Elvie's Chain hanging from the apple tree in Morning light casting shadows on bright ^{yellow} maple leaves. The leaves will probably fall off the tree before I'm finished but I don't really care that much even though the subject is a good one. I'm just going to be blasé about it and do my best. I'm never pleased with anything I do up here anyway. Write soon.

Scott

P.S. I liked your duck hunting outfit. The pictures were good.

P.S.S. If I had a good subject I'd do an itching