

I AM SENDING BY OVERNIGHT MAIL SEVERAL 5" X 7" PHOTOS OF A STUDY FOR THE BASS HALL CEILING THAT I RECENTLY DID IN ACRYLIC ON CANVAS - FREELY EXECUTED - BUT TAKING CARE WITH THE BIRD OUTLINES. THE STUDY IS LIFE-SIZE. I WILL BRING 4 September 1999 IT TO N.Y. WHEN I COME NEXT WEEK. STUART

Jeff Greene
Evergreene Productions
New York, New York

Dear Jeff and Evergreene people,

I have reviewed your renderings of my designs for the Grand Lobby ceiling of the Bass Performance Hall, and I have the following suggestions. (By the way, I have observed your paintings both at close range and later attached to the lobby ceiling.)

First of all, your treatment of the two birds is too freely done; so much so that they are not as accurate as they should be and will inevitably displease the many anal-retentive bird persons who will undoubtedly observe the ceiling through their opera glasses. You will have no problems if you simply adhere closely to my original drawings. The bill of the robin is not correct, and its feet ought to be more sensitively rendered. The other bird, the small warbler, is simply too roughly painted. Its outlines - and especially the silhouette of the wings - are not accurate. Again, please be as sensitive as possible to my original bird studies and you won't get into trouble. It will eventually be more difficult to correct the birds when I come to New York than to do the birds correctly in the first place.

As far as the various leaves are concerned, you need to look closely at the samples of actual oak, elm, pecan and cottonwood leaves that are being sent to you for your reference. It was pointless for me to try to capture the nuances of leaf outlines in my original watercolor study. Although they will not be very clearly visible from the ground floor, the leaves can be seen well enough from the balconies and therefore some sensitivity to leaf outlines and the thickness of leaf stems should be shown. The stems in your studies were much too thick.

As far as color is concerned - and tonality - your painting of the leaves looks good, and has a nice effect when viewed from a distance. Your lighter than natural tone of the birds looks good too and works wells with the lighter than natural tonality of the leaves.

Remember, Jeff, as we discussed, that we are not dealing here with local or natural color but are aiming for an effect that will not depart too much from the color and tonality of the Corner Dome leaf designs.

I was asked to do a ceiling study to be photographed for the Bass Performance Hall newsletter. I made the colors of the leaves somewhat different from my master study which you have, but you can get some ideas from the painting which I will bring to New York. You can get a good idea of the more delicate, lacy effect achieved by making the branches and leaf stems thinner and rendering to outlines of the leaves more accurately.

If you have any questions please give me a call at any time (817) 738 - 4427. My Fax is (817) 732 5448 but I'm having trouble on that telephone line at the moment.

Stuart