

La Monte Young Marian Zazeela  
275 Church Street New York, N.Y. 10013  
T: 212-925-8270 F: 212-226-7802  
yz@melafoundation.org www.melafoundation.org

August 8, 2011

Suzanne Ryan  
Oxford University Press  
198 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016

Dear Suzanne Ryan,

As the subject of Jeremy Grimshaw's biography of my life and work, scheduled for September 2011 publication by Oxford University Press, I feel compelled to bring several problems to your attention about the book in its present form.

As you know, I have given Mr. Grimshaw unprecedented access to our archives and spent a considerable amount of time reading and trying to correct his manuscript. However, it contains numerous serious errors that should prevent its publication until they are corrected.

I am not here referring to his over-emphasis on my Mormon upbringing, which, in my opinion, would be sufficient to delay publication on its own, but rather I am referring to over 200 serious errors, such as mistakes in date allocations, misspelled proper names, misattribution of my work to another author, incorrect musical notation of some of my scores, and misstatement of certain subtitles from *The Well-Tuned Piano*.

I would be willing to devote some amount of time to review and attempt to correct these major errors but I would need to be provided with a copy of the current revision so I can see whatever new material and possible new errors Mr. Grimshaw may have added. I only have his version of June 2009. He asserted that he had made many corrections and changes since then but he has only provided me with his revision of the Introduction of December 21, 2009. In my email to Mr. Grimshaw of July 5, 2011 I wrote:

"Having had a miraculous remission from my osteoarthritis, recovered from my prostate surgery and finished my most recent concert series, I could possibly take a look at your final manuscript and see if I can offer any help. The fact that you claimed to have made "additions, corrections and revisions" is meaningless based on the considerable factual and contextual inaccuracies of your previous writing and unless I see the final manuscript that you are submitting to Oxford, I will have to base my statement on what I know. I presume I will be addressing my letter to Suzanne Ryan, Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Avenue, NY NY 10016, or do you have a better address for her?"

Mr. Grimshaw responded on July 8, 2011:

“I did receive your email. I'm aware, and sincerely sorry, that you're not pleased with the book going forward without your blessing. However, we are proceeding with production.”

Furthermore, I note that according to the Oxford University Press announcement, the book is reported to include 6 musical examples and 9 photographs. I have not signed any of the 22 requests for permissions that I had received from Mr. Grimshaw in October 2009, including the request for “Draw A Straight Line and Follow It,” which is the complete score to my *Composition 1960 # 10*; it is not a “fair use” excerpt. Also, all of the *Compositions 1960* and *1961* are complete scores and cannot be considered “fair use” excerpts. I am not sure if these requests from October 2009 are still current. Please send me the musical examples and photographs Oxford actually intends to publish in this book so that my attorney and I can determine whether or not my permission is required for their use. I do not intend to sign any release forms for this book until I have made a satisfactory arrangement with Oxford and Mr. Grimshaw for correcting all of the errors.

If it is not possible for you to delay publication until I could review the present revision and submit my corrections, I would request, without prejudice to any of my rights, that you publish the attached statement in the book so that readers and scholars can be made aware of my concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

La Monte Young

cc: Robert W. Clarida, Esq., Cowan, Liebowitz & Latman, P.C.

Copyright © La Monte Young 2011