

VENANGO COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION, INC.

November 30, 1995

Dear Naomi,

Recently, hundreds of our association members had a memorable experience. Our guest artist was organ recitalist, ARAM BASMADJIAN, and what an evening of entertainment he provided! The selections on his program were pretty much what we expected for an organ concert; lots of Bach, a little Handel and a touch of tradition; all, of course, flawlessly delivered. We were not prepared for the humorous anecdotes on composers, the gentle, unexpected one-liners sprinkled through his dialogue, the dry sense of humor that took us from chuckles to unrestrained laughter.

In a pre-concert conversation, I mentioned that because our association avoids scheduling during December (potential weather problems), we don't get to enjoy the holiday specials offered by Community Concerts. What a delight when he tossed in a medley of familiar, sacred Christmas pieces after intermission! He doubled our pleasure when, following a standing ovation, he chose to play "THE GIRL FROM IPANEMA". His encore selection so pleased the audience, they broke into applause as soon as they recognized it.

A portion of Aram's program was devoted to explaining the workings of his instrument. It was easy for us to follow since he used words we could understand, i.e. gas pedals, trailer hitches and answering machine. His youthful energy was contagious. It was a very funny and enjoyable learning experience.

Aram's humor extended off-stage, too. He thoroughly captivated everyone he talked to, from me and my family and the stage crew to every audience member who took the time to say hello to him. His warmth shone when he visited, having real conversations with people--this was not just an autograph session.

Since the concert, the comment most often made to me has been, "How wonderful that he is such an accomplished musician AND is so personable". He wowed us with his ability, he warmed us with himself. Thank you for making ARAM BASMADJIAN available to us.

Sincerely,



Susan D. Piel, President
Venango Community Concert Assc.