

April 16, 1956

Mr. Arthur Fiedler
The Boston Pops
Symphony Hall
Boston - 15 - Mass.

Dear Mr. Fiedler:

Before attempting to answer your letter of April 9th, about the Star Spangled Banner, I thought it best to try to get some type of authoritative information, so wrote some of my acquaintances in the U. S. Marine Corps Band.

I am now in receipt of their reply, which indicates that your "a" version is the official one.

Apparently the enclosed version, which is used by the Navy and Marine Corps bands, has not been changed since its issue in June, 1949.

I am awfully sorry not to have been able to see you when you played in Baltimore last month. Mrs. Levy and I had been invited to a wedding in Cleveland, and the conflict of dates forced us, reluctantly, to give up the concert. As a matter of fact, I had purchased tickets for the concert some weeks prior to it and was looking forward to seeing you conduct.

I hope for another opportunity one of these days.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Fiedler, in which Mrs. Levy joins, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Lester S. Levy

LSL...LRS

THE
BOSTON

POPS

ARTHUR FIEDLER
CONDUCTOR

256 personal

Boston 15, Massachusetts

April 20, 1956

Mr. Lester S. Levy

Dear Mr. Levy:

I appreciate your promptness in settling the STAR-SPANGLED
BANNER matter. At last we have an official version.

I am sorry that we did not meet in Baltimore, but do hope
to see you again somewhere, preferably on the beach of Waikiki.

Best regards to you and Mrs. Levy in which Mrs. Fiedler
joins,

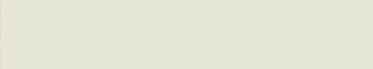
Sincerely,

Arthur Fiedler

THE
BOSTON**POPS**ARTHUR FIEDLER
CONDUCTOR

Boston 15, Massachusetts

December 14, 1955

Mr. Lester S. Levy


Dear Mr. Levy:

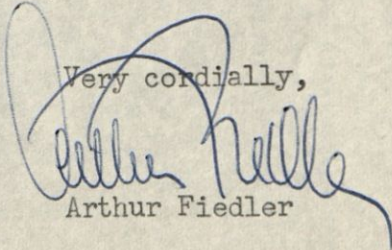
It was awfully nice to receive your kind letter of December 7, and I am delighted to know that you had a pleasant trip home. Ellen and I left Hawaii with great reluctance to come back to the grind of running the house for her and the hard work for me.

You were so kind also to remember to send the Strauss music. I am delighted to have these, although some of them have been reprinted in the Oliver Ditson album. As a matter of fact, I think some of them are spurious, and when I have a little more time I am going to look them up, each and every one, as they probably are by Johann Senior and I have a complete thematic list of all his waltzes. Should you come across any other music of this sort, also by Offenbach, I would appreciate your tipping me off so that I might be able to purchase them should I not have them and should the price not be exorbitant.

As I promised you, I am sending you a version of the STAR-SPANGLED BANNER as harmonized by Stravinsky. I believe this was finally banned as there is some kind of law forbidding tampering with the harmonies of the National Anthem.

For Ellen and myself it was a great pleasure to meet you, Mrs. Levy and Mrs. Wyman, and I do hope that we can have a reunion some time. In the meantime, please accept our very best wishes for the forthcoming holidays to all of you.

Very cordially,


Arthur Fiedler

Enclosure