

IRA GERSHWIN
1021 NORTH ROXBURY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

November 27, 1957

Mr. Lester S. Levy

Dear Mr. Levy:

Thank you very much for the Pumpkin Cap, a charming bit of headgear indeed.

However, and alas: Ever since you have seen fit to include me in your list of acquaintances - even though we have never met personally - I have considered it an honor. So much so, thanks to you, that I'm afraid I've acquired a swelled head. Which means that 7 1/8 no longer covers my pate and that my wife has for herself latched on to the latest example of your artistic output. If you are going to continue to be that generous, I imagine my noggin will remain at 7 3/8. And if you think this is a plea for a 7 3/8 Pumpkin Cap, you're right.

With every good wish,

Ira Gershwin

P.S. I have been badgered by a sheet music aficionado who claims that the very first edition of "Swanee" was one whose cover does not have Jolson's picture but credits the earlier Capitol Theatre production of the number instead. I have no copy or recollection of such an edition. Since you are the great expert in the field, would you know anything about this matter?

g.g.

December 4, 1957.

Mr. Ira Gershwin
1021 N. Roxbury Drive
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Mr. Gershwin:

It is going to be difficult, in fact impossible, to figure out how I might ever expected a 7 1/8 cap to fit on a 7 3/8 head.

A 7 3/8 Pumpkin Cap goes forward to you by today's mail, and to use a time honored expression, I hope you will wear it "in good health".

I am not surprised that you don't remember having met me, though actually you gave me great pleasure in the spring of 1954 by entertaining me in your delightful home for an hour, where Mrs. Gershwin served cocktails and where you showed me the art of your brother which covered the walls.

In fact, you gave me at that time an inscribed copy of "Sascha, Jascha," etc.

Now, regarding the first edition of "Swanee", it's true that that edition does not have Al Jolson's picture on it. There is only a drawing of a couple in Green, Black and White, but no photograph. The song "Yearning" is advertised on the back cover.

Unfortunately, my copies of "Swanee" are all later editions. I have never been able to pick up a copy of the "first". If I ever do, I'd be glad to let you know.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Lester S. Levy

LSL:m

IRA GERSHWIN
1021 NORTH ROXBURY DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

90210

Dec. 12, '57.

Dear Mr. Levy:

Many thanks for the on-coming of Pumpkin Cap. I cannot, alas, return the $7\frac{1}{8}$ one. My agent "Swiftly" Lazar saw it, tried it on, grew enamored of it, and said, "This'll look great in Switzerland" (where he's off for the holidays). What could I do but say, "O.K., but compliments of Mr. Levy - don't forget." So - one cap unreturned - but, who knows? maybe it'll be a big hit over there and orders will rush in from Closters and Zurich.

Of course I remember now that we've met. And the next time you're out this way we'll be most happy to see you again.

Thanks too for the bother on the 1st edition of "Swanee."

All the best,

Ira Gershwin.