

Vincent BEER-DEMANDER, mars 2017

« Dear Lalo,

I have just discovered your Mandolin Concerto with the disc and the score.

I got tears in my eyes... It is an absolute masterpiece. There is inventiveness, rhythm, melody, humor, lyricism ... all the emotions!

The balance between the mandolin and the orchestra is perfect! Mozart would not have done better! The shape is remarkable and the duration of 30 minutes is superb! The mandolin part is diabolically virtuoso. I like it. And the copy is very clear!

This is the « chef d'oeuvre » that the mandoline was waiting for !!!!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Vincent »

Lalo SCHIFRIN : réponse

« Dear Maestro,

Cher Vincent,

Your letter was like a wonderful injection of positivity that was very necessary for my soul and my body. Needless to say, I was also very touched by our meeting. You are not only a great performer, but also your feelings for music in general and, in particular my composition.

There is a line of dialog that Clint Eastwood says in "Dirty Harry": "Go Ahead Make My Day". With your letter, not only did you make my day, but you made my week, my month, and my whole life. When a virtuoso like you has that impression of a composers work, there are no words to express the satisfaction and the feeling of complete achievement.

I want you to know that your enthusiasm when I met you in Paris was contagious. You gave me the inspiration to write a piece for an instrument with which I was not familiar. Since the two of us are in this together, I can tell you that you gave me the best birthday gift - tomorrow I will be 85.

The short meeting we had in Paris opened my senses to a long relationship between us. Not only our short contact there, but also by listening to your recordings, confirmed my impression that we had known each other for a long, long time.

You are not only a great virtuoso, but also a fantastic human being. I appreciate that enormously!

As per your desires, I used some jazz language. As you can verify, the orchestration is not too heavy, it's rather a chamber orchestra. The use of harp and harpsichord makes the coloring very light in order to balance the importance of the solo instrument. Besides the jazz idiom you will notice shadows of baroque music. After all, both expressions have something in common: they sound like improvisations.

With all my admiration and respect, Lalo »