

April 9, 1973

1. How would you like the format of the lecture-demonstration to be?

Shrimati T. Balasarasvati set it up in two parts? The first to consist of an
16 Ramanathan Chetti St. of Bharata Natyam; the second part to consist of a
Kilpauk, Madras 10 oration involving techniques? Would you say the ideal length
India ch lecture-demonstration to be 2 hours in length?

Dear Bala & Lakshmi, s would you consider ideal for a master-class?

I cannot believe that three months have already transpired since Bob, John and I were assigned responsibilities for co-directorship of the Society, with Bob serving as Executive Director over all. As you can imagine, it was a formidable task in the beginning, and much conflict and headaches ensued. We have all survived this first quarter rather well however, and look forward to a really strong ASEA with the good of all in mind. Bob has added another co-director to the staff - a young man by the name of David Rumsey, who used to teach Art at Yale University, and who is known to have talent in raising funds for the Society. With this addition of new blood - totally unrelated to the close ties we all have with one another - I hope that some objective, constructive direction can be created - a breath of fresh air!

Luise, as always, has throughout all this turbulence, been most concerned and protective of your interests, and I only fervently hope that I can look after your interests with equal devotion and clarity. I will be candid however, and admit that it has been difficult at times. Sometimes, I have felt caught in the midst of a storm which I had difficulty understanding because we are all such close friends in a way, and yet so many divergent opinions on how things should be done, what priorities ASEA should give to specific projects, etc., were expressed. If I can survive this period with integrity and skill, I will become a very strong person. Sometimes I have my doubts, but in the main, I am confident that I can do so. Please pray for me, for my ability to help you and ASEA in the best way I can.

I sincerely hope that your health has been good and strong Bala, and that you and Lakshmi are both ready once again to leave your beloved India to come and spend time with us Barbarians, to shed your bountiful light on our dark and meagre lives. We do so need your presence.

I hope to be able to send you your contract as soon as I can have authorization from Bob to do so. I've got it all written out - it just needs his okay. I shall also be sending Ramaiah and Ramadass' contracts at the same time. Shall I be sending their contracts to your address also?

Since there have been some interest in residency programs for the fall tour (i.e. a series of lecture-demonstrations or master-classes, combined with pure dance concert and pure music concert) - of varying periods (i.e. a period of 3 days with one lecture-dem., one music concert and one dance concert; 1 week of 2 lec.-dem. or master-class in dance, 1 l.d. or 1 m.c. in music, 1 dance concert and 1 music concert; and so on.... I would like to hear from you about your ideas on the details involved such as:

1. How would you like the format of the lecture-demonstration to be?

i.e. Would you like to set it up in two parts? The first to consist of an explanation and history of Bharata Natyam; the second part to consist of a practical demonstration involving techniques? Would you say the ideal length of each lecture-demonstration to be 2 hours in length?

2. How many students would you consider ideal for a master-class?

i.e. a ceiling of 10 students? 20? 30? (the more students there are the better the local sponsors like it since they must think about income). Or, would you like to take one or two students only and concentrate the entire master class on them and have others in the class simply observe the entire master-class situation? I have been advising people that it would basically be an encounter with the teaching methods based on practical experience gained by either (a) one or two students; or (b) by everyone in the class participating in the training together. Which do you prefer? Or, do you have other ways in which you'd like to approach a master-class?

3. Which order of sequence would you advise in the concert presentation for the same location - Dance concert first, or Music Concert first? Perhaps a concert by Viswa and Ranga first, to be followed by a finale with your concert might be a better sequence. But of course, either way is really fine. It's up to you, or would you like to leave it up to the way each university requests?

I'm sure you must have questions you'd like to ask of us also. Please don't hesitate to ask them. John Badanes will be working on the visa request as soon as he is able. Did you get the summer school contract Bob sent you? We look forward to your reply.

As always, with love,

Yoko Tahara
Associate Director