

Shrimati T. Balasarasvati

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January 31, 1966

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As our file reminds us, the following are your most recent requests as to what you would like to be included in the contract:

Shrimati T. Balasarasvati
16 Ramanathan Chettiar, Alagappanagar
Madras 10, India

Dear Shrimati Balasarasvati:

The American Society for Eastern Arts takes great pleasure in being able to extend to you and to Miss Lakshmi an invitation to return to the United States this Summer and to teach in our School for the Performing Arts once again. You will find enclosed an official invitation, which has been approved by the Consul General of India in San Francisco.

We are extremely happy, and also very fortunate, to have found sufficient room in our 1966 budget to make this invitation possible. At the same time we are sorry not to be able to include all members of your troupe of musicians, thus precluding any possibility of a tour. We have had many requests from prospective students inquiring after your return, and in addition many inquiries concerning possible future performances. We are delighted to be able to hold out a hope of the former, although of course it pains us to have to reply in the negative to the latter query. In addition, we will greatly miss having the other members of your troupe here with us because of the personal affection we have developed for them. Please convey to each of them our warmest regards and our sincere regret that we cannot invite them to accompany you here this summer.

We very much hope that you and Miss Lakshmi will find it possible to avail yourselves of this opportunity to continue with former students and to extend your exquisite art to others in these United States, and that we may share in the honor of bringing you and having you here.

We do not send you a contract already made out at this time, but will include instead in this letter a number of questions on the terms and conditions of your hoped-for stay here, which terms may be included in the contract when we determine your pleasure, both as to content and as

to the language involved. Please feel free to answer these questions just exactly as you would like to have the clauses phrased, and we will try to put your wishes into the legal language which may be necessary in order to meet the recommendations of our lawyer.

As our file reminds us, the following are your most recent requests as to what should be included in the contract:

1. Teaching duration for 2 calendar months for which Bala and Lakshmi alone shall come.
2. First Class fare for Bala and economy for Lakshmi to and fro met by the Society. (Later amended to "long flights.")
3. Boarding, travelling and lodgings during the entire 2 months teaching period to be met by the Society.
4. The Society after meeting Artists' Income Tax assessments in the USA should pay the Artists a net income of \$1500 per month.
5. Any tape recordings or television records should be deemed outside the Contract for which the Artist should be paid separately.

Let us talk about each of these five points, suggesting how we understand we may meet them, and asking you if our suggestions are satisfactory with you:

1. The Society will state that it invites you for a period of 2 months of resident teaching only. We will propose that these 2 months be August and September, 1966, since we are inviting Ali Akbar and his 2 musicians for that period, and we feel it would be advantageous for your students to be able to take Music or Tabla with his group. If these months are not satisfactory with you, we would, of course, consider alternatives, but we would have to know this right away, since a change in the time would make quite a difference to our prospective students.

The contract will further include a paragraph, if you wish, stating the limit on time for classes to be held. We feel that, since there are to be no lecture-demonstrations, it would not be unreasonable

to ask that classes be held five days a week. Mindful of your wish to teach in the mornings only, we wonder if it would be possible that the dance classes be held between the hours of 9:30 and 12:30, thus giving an opportunity for a class in Indian Music, North or South, to be held one hour prior to the beginning of the dance. We may not have to put class schedules into the contract, but we need very much to know just what classes you would like to teach, just what offerings or practice sessions would be available under Miss Lakshmi's direction, and whether or not there might be any possibility of an offering in South Indian Music.

Though no one can guess what the total enrollment would be by summer, there have been, so far, many inquiries from prospective students which would indicate the possibility of an enrollment double the one of last summer. Could you please make clear to us the manner in which you hope to handle the teaching methods, since we do not wish to tax your strength?

2. As we have previously undertaken, the Society will pay first class passage for yourself on long overseas flights and economy passage for Lakshmi. We will agree to having the airline chosen by you and round-the-world travel arrangements made at your discretion. However (and this question refers back to #1, too) it will be necessary for the contract to state somewhere the reasons that Lakshmi must accompany you on the trip so that the Society will have no difficulty in explaining to the US government our reasons for paying her passage. Could you make clear for us, therefore, what role she would be playing during the trip.

The contract will also state that the Society will assume the cost of your 2 fares from any place designated, within a reasonable time, in order to help you reach your residence in comfortable time before the teaching period begins; and it will also do the same upon your return to India or any other designated place, of your own choosing.

The contract will state that the Society will pay you and Lakshmi three days salary on each end of your teaching time here as paid travel time. The Society will also pay up to \$40 for you and up to \$30 for Lakshmi toward expenses for any break in traveling that you both may make on the way here or on the way back to India. We hope that you will consider these offers to be fair.

3. We have spelled out the travel arrangements as closely as we can in #2 above, so this item relates to board and lodging. The Society will rent a house for all of the Indian Artists, near the site at which classes will be held. The Society will pay the rent and utilities of these lodgings, which will include facilities where the Artists may prepare their own meals. The only limitation on utilities will be on the telephone, where the Society will provide a semi-public phone, so that the artists, students and guests will pay for their own calls.

In addition to providing the facilities for boarding and lodging, the Society will pay to you and Lakshmi a food allowance of \$3 per day during the period of the School. We would be happy to receive your comment on these offers, also.

4. We do not know exactly what the tax liability will be, but we will estimate it as closely as possible, and then state that the Society will pay you an additional amount not to exceed the estimated figure in order to cover this liability. If we could divide the total free and clear amount exactly in half between you and Lakshmi, this would minimize the tax for which we would be liable, and we would appreciate your allowing us to do this if it would be comfortable for you. At any rate, we will propose separate contracts for you and Lakshmi, in order to reduce our tax liability, and ask that you give us the division that will be satisfactory to you. The contracts will read so that the two amounts of salary add to \$1500 plus the estimated monthly allowance for Federal Income Tax. The contract will also include statements concerning the day of payment, the freedom of the artist to request advances, additional withholdings, etc.
5. We shall omit any references to appearances or tours since we are unable to provide the necessary funds needed to bring accompanists for this purpose, unfortunately. In fact, we are most grateful that you would consider the prospect of making such a trip under these conditions. We find it painful to face the reality of not having the opportunity of seeing performances while you are here. Since you would be without musicians, we would like your advice as to how you would like to arrange provisions as to tapes and the exact terms you wish to be included in the contract relating to this subject.

However, the Society would like to have sole rights for any activities relating to your artistic activities while under the auspices of ASEA, which is a protective measure for the Society as well as for the Artist. This includes recordings, appearances, and publications.

In addition to these matters you have mentioned, the Society would like to include the following items:

1. All receipts of money for your services would go to the Society, since your income is assured during your term here by the Society. (This is a matter of clarification for the papers since there has never been any question of this in the past.)
2. The Society will obtain any necessary permits from the State or Federal Government of the United States to assist you in preparation for the term. Of course, the Society cannot help in obtaining any documents or permits, beyond our official invitation enclosed, from your government in this matter.
3. The Society wishes to include mention of "reasonable activities" for publicity purposes. This would include press releases, photographs, posters, receptions and interviews.
4. The Society intends to include provisions for any necessary medical care, legal assistance (including liability, accident and disability) in the form of insurance for your benefit in case of need while you are under contract with ASEA.
5. Although you always include this item normally, the Society would be including a statement that you would be furnishing your own clothing, musical instruments (if needed), costumes, incidental personal equipment, etc. In other words, everything but your daily meals and lodging, for which we have provided, above. The allowance for meals is more than any of us spend on meals cooked in the home, so we believe it will be adequate.
6. We would also like to include an item that would state that you would have complete freedom as to manner of teaching your students and be free to determine whether or not a student were qualified for your

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classes. The Society will undertake all responsibility for financial arrangements with students, and will determine the place and time allowed for teaching considering only the facilities available for this purpose and the hours which will be determined by you, as in #1 above on page 2.

Srinimati Balasarasvati:

If there are any items of concern to you that have not been mentioned, we would appreciate your suggestions now so that we can reach an agreement at the earliest possible date. As we have mentioned, there have already been many inquiries from prospective students and we would like to be able to let them know as soon as we can so that they can make arrangements for the summer. We also wish to make the best possible arrangements for you and Lakshmi and therefore need some time to do our best.

We are in hopes that you are still agreeable to come for us and hope that this invitation reaches you before you have made other commitments. If it is not possible for you to accept our invitation at all, please let us know-- although we will be sorely disappointed, as will many of your admirers here. You may be interested to know that one of the smallest (and greatest!) of your admirers here, one Karla Schutz, was recently thrown into a perfect tizzy of Indian dancing all over the house for days by the gift of a beautiful half-sari from Luise for Christmas.

We extend to you with this letter our warmest affection and good wishes for a healthy and prosperous year in 1966 and our hopes that you may be with us this summer.

Sincerely yours,

We do not send you a contract already made out at this time, but will include instead in this letter a number of questions on the terms and conditions of your hoped-for stay here, which terms may be included in the contract when we determine your pleasure, both as to the language involved. Please feel free to answer just exactly as you would like to have the clauses phrased, and we will try to put your wishes into the legal language which may be necessary in order to meet the recommendations of our lawyer.

Robert R. Schutz
Executive Director

As our file reminds us, the following are your most recent requests as included in the file:

Samuel H. Scripps
President

Luise E. Scripps
Vice President and Treasurer

Enclosure

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