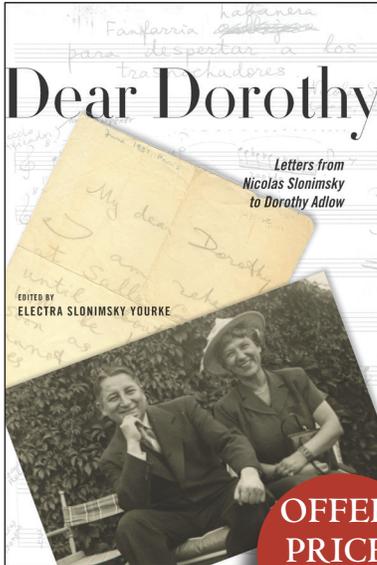


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DEAR DOROTHY

Letters from Nicolas Slonimsky to Dorothy Adlow

Edited by ELECTRA SLONIMSKY YOURKE

Among the many achievements of a long life, Nicolas Slonimsky introduced modern music, and American music in particular, to foreign and domestic audiences through conducting, writing, lecturing, and interacting with composers and musicians of all nationalities. From his travels as musical ambassador, he wrote letters to his wife, the art critic Dorothy Adlow, vividly and humorously describing his adventures.

Though personal, these letters document his adventures as a traveler from the new musical world to the often resistant older musical cultures in many nations. His extended trips to South and Central America and to the Soviet Union brought him in contact with the musical leaders of each country - and with its dissidents as well. Artistic and political doors were opened for him, and he stepped through to tell of what was in the air outside. He carried out this mission by writing, talking, conducting, performing-always energetic, persuasive, eager to be heard. His ability to translate and interpret, speaking several languages and traversing different musical styles, rested upon his exceptional musical talents, his profound musical education, and his lapidary writing skills. In a sense, he was also a time traveler, an ambassador from the future to the present.

Slonimsky's letters provide vivid, informal descriptions of his adventures as a musical ambassador, an observer, and a participant. They offer important information about individuals and the singular musical environment of each land that will interest cultural historians as well as music-lovers, scholars and students. Written in a lively, humorous style, the letters describe places, people, the vagaries of travel, and the anxieties of stretching limited funds to cover ever-expanding itineraries.

ELECTRA SLONIMSKY YOURKE is the daughter of Nicolas Slonimsky and Dorothy Adlow. She has edited several collections of her father's writings, including *The Listener's Companion* and the four-volume *Writings on Music*.

NICOLAS SLONIMSKY (1894-1995) was a Renaissance man in the modern-music twentieth century world. Conductor, critic, composer, and lexicographer, his many books include *Lexicon of Musical Invective: Critical Assaults on Composers since Beethoven's Time*, *Music Since 1900*, and an autobiography, *Perfect Pitch*. He was editor of *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*.

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