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Title: Letter from Allen Tanner to Janet Figler

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6/13/'76

Dear Mrs. Figler: (Liz Hamill's mother)

Mrs. Hamill has shown me your letter and I have read the articles in the papers which you also included. It would seem to me that your daughters' efforts and accomplishments are going along quite well, and that under the present tutelage, they are in no actual need to go to anyone else for lessons, or advice. First of all, since my eye operations a few years ago, I have had to renounce any teaching activities, even any concert appearances. Nothing but some recordings which Mrs. Hamill may have told you, have been featured for the last five years over Sta. WNCN in New York City on the occasion of my birthdays. I am now at a very advanced age, with serious health problems, can ^{still} do only a fairly moderate amount of practice, which I must maintain if possible this summer—in order to restore the great Bach-Taussig "Tocata and Fugue in D Mi." so that I can record it along with some other compositions not yet quite ready. The great summer heat devitalizes me terribly, and I must, upon Doctor's orders, go to a Gym thrice weekly. For all these reasons, it is absolutely impossible for me to make any social engagements whatsoever with anyone. It was kind of you to suggest that you "look after me" in the event I am here alone, but I shall be most busy, so much so that I'll not ^{even} notice that

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I am, in fact, "alone". Thank you anyway for your kind concern.

About lessons, even if I were still teaching, I would never try to do anything with a pupil in one, two or ~~three~~ ^{even} several lessons. A teacher has to have many months of continuous regular work with a pupil, no matter how gifted, in order to discover and evaluate his or her capabilities, mental emotional and physical. In any event a lesson "here and there" ^{at any time} with teachers other than one's own, are definitely not advisable, but on the contrary can be often quite disruptive both to the pupil and to his or her regular Teacher, to whom it is actually ^{also} not quite fair! The best (and only) way to succeed is to have a good teacher with the best credentials, and to have faith and persistence in working along with him ^{or her} (Teacher) until results justify a public appearance, which, if praised sufficiently by a ^{scapable} notable Critic, would ^{then} be reason enough to go to a Master, for "Approbation" of accomplishments—and possible "Coaching"—from that Master. I knew Rudolph Ganz well, throughout many years, saw much of both him and his ^{charming} first wife Mary, and was fond of them both. He, of course was—in all respects—a superb Musician. Consequently, all his ideas of piano playing must be of the very best, and coming ^{directly} to Elizabeth from a pupil of his, I would believe that she has every reason to have all confidence in her guidance! The rest is, as I say, talent, faith—and ^{steady} hard work. I send her, of course, my very best wishes for all this. Very truly yours, Allen Tanner

and sprained my R.H. thumb and Index fingers.
And do excuse mistakes in typeing—due to eyes!

P.S. Please forgive my use of typewriter, I have had to write this way ever since years ago, I fell on icy steps in Paris



MRS. JANET B. FIGLER

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