

11/11/75

Dear Parents,

Perhaps Mer and Pop have already told you that I did finally receive the gloves. The package that you sent arrived about 4 days ago, but Anna hasn't picked it up yet.

Miss Tazaki arrived on the 2nd from a tour in Japan and played on the evening of the 3rd. It was amazing how well she played, especially considering the 12 hour time difference which she didn't have time to adjust to before the performance. My first lesson was last Saturday at her home. I will have 4 this month! She was very pleased with the progress I had made. I'm gradually learning how to practice without making note mistakes. That probably sounds very basic, but for many years I did not understand the importance of such accurate practicing. It makes practicing extremely tedious, but the results are always positive.

In my spare time, I'm composing a set of variations for piano which I hope to finish by Christmas to present to Mr. Mikalio as a gift. The variation form is an extremely complex form to master. I will explain it to you when I arrive home. The rest of my time I have spent reading some classics. There is so much to be learned from the ancients. Socrates and Plato are my two favorites. They had so much common sense. Socrates thought that nothing was more perverse or more obstructive to true

Knowledge than to believe that you know what you do not know. It took me so long to realize the truth of this. The most sure-fire way of learning anything is to realize your ignorance.

I'm going to work harder this month than the first 2. Just knowing that I will be home soon will enable me to do so. Give my regards to the Taylors and Shinnis.

Take care
Love,
Robert