

(Wolfgang Graessai's letter)



Berlin - Nikolassee, 27th October 1927.

To the Chief Burgomaster of Dusseldorf.

My dear Chief Burgomaster,

It is for me a heart-felt duty to express to you and the City of Dusseldorf my deepest thanks for the touchingly magnificent first performance of "Art of the Fugue" in Western Germany.

This performance, the best as yet, of the incomprehensibly great final work of Sebastian Bach, will always be a page of glory in the musical history of your flourishing city, and I deem myself happy that it was granted to me to introduce and assist the performance of your General Musik-Direktor Weisbach by an address.

I believe that I am only voicing the innermost wish of those 3,000 hearers when I propose to you, my esteemed Chief Burgomaster, to have this first performance followed at an early date by a second, especially in order that the tremendous mental and technical effort which was involved in preparing the Bach Festival, may not be expended in one short evening. Mr. Weisbach and I are agreed that, with a number of fresh rehearsals, the work can crystallise into far more perfect form only as time goes on and with constantly renewed experience. It would be desirable in every way that too much time should not elapse between the first and second performance, and I therefore take the liberty, in conjunction with Mr. Weisbach, of proposing Friday the 16th September as the date.

At the same time, I have approached the Directors of the West German Radio-Transmitter with the proposal to broadcast the performance to enable those who cannot come

to Dusseldorf or who cannot secure admission to the Hall,
to hear "The Art of the Fugue" and my Address.

I remain with the expression of greatest respect,

Yours very sincerely,

Wolfgang Graeser.

Letter from Wolfgang Graeser to the Chief Burgomaster
of Dusseldorf after the 1st. performance of "Art of the
Fugue".

