BONNIE HAMPTON

Dear Bobby,

As I think of the many ways in which you have been meaningful in my life, the memories glow with a richness and wealth of experience.

The earliest, of course, are of you with the Juilliard String Quartet in California in the '50s, playing Bartók quartets and "blowing our minds" with the life and quality of those performances. And then, so many concerts through the years, when you opened the doors of Schoenberg, Carter and, of course, the masterworks of the quartet literature to us. There you were, leading your quartets with that vitality and sureness of hand, but also with sensitivity and depth of musical understanding.

Then came my Francesco Trio's luck in winning the Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the opportunities and personal association that followed with you and Lucy, who worked with us in such thoughtful and exciting ways.

Perhaps our summers in Baca in the early '80s with you, Lucy and Nicholas and our Baca Ensemble hold the most vivid memories. For me there were many firsts—playing so many quartets and other chamber works with you; your own imaginative and evocative works with Lucy narrating. Also, those week-end hikes, climbing higher than I ever thought I could. They were perhaps the metaphor of those summers. You took us on so many musical highs of experience as well. Maybe the performance which stands out in my mind above even the others was your performance of Haydn's Seven Last Words with Lucy narrating the Words between. It was absolutely transcendent and I shall never forget it.

After that, there were concerts with the Baca Ensemble in New York, California, Colorado and other places, which were always great fun. Two performances which stand out for me were ones in which you carried Nathan to a real high in his performance, the Brahms Piano Quartet in G Minor and the Franck Piano Quintet, which was the last concert Nathan played with you. I so appreciated the gentle kindness you would show him in helping him off the stage in those last weeks of his illness.

This tribute would not be complete without my appreciation for your remarkable life partnership with Lucy. The two of you have given all of us so much, just in yourselves, and enriched all our lives immeasurably. I value our friendship above all and love and cherish both of you for just being You.

With deep love and appreciation,

