COLIN MURDOCH

Dear Bobby,

I so well remember the first time I 'met' you. It wasn't in person. It was through one of your early recordings. As a young person, I listened in awe, over and over, to the Bartók Solo Sonata and *Contrasts*. Then, of course, I met you, over and over, through recordings of the Bartók and Beethoven string quartets. Little did I know or expect at the time that I would become a part of your life.

We met in first person for the first time over coffee in the Bashful Bull on Noriega Street in San Francisco. We whiled away much of that morning in discussion about music, life, and more music. We discovered that each of us—at different ages and for different reasons—had known the very young and truly amazing Jaime Laredo.

At the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, we have become friends, and here I have heard you perform and teach the spectrum of our art form. At the Juilliard Theater, I attended the 50th anniversary performance of the Juilliard String Quartet. In the Herbst Theatre, I was privileged to confer upon the Quartet the degree of Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*—you delivered the Commencement Address at the Conservatory later that year, before immediately flying off to Indianapolis for a performance of the Quartet that very evening.

Most of all, for me it has been a feeling of utter and complete privilege. To have been part of your life, however small, has been a privilege that I will cherish always. Sam and I send out love and best wishes to you and Lucy on your grand most deserving day of December 15, 2009. Thank you, Bob Sirota, and the Manhattan School of Music!

As ever,

