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Piacentini Transcription

[Letterhead: Department of Music]

Opera Theater

4 January 1955

Mr. Vincent Piacentini
9005 Sherland
St. Louis, MO

Dear Mr. Piacentini:

I was delighted to meet you at our talk of two weeks ago. I thought it would be wise to repeat the terms of our offer here in black and white, and do hope you will be able to work on our staff.

The productions which come into question are:
MAGIC FLUTE: 25 and 27 March, Brown Hall. PAGLIACCI and HELLO OUT
THERE: middle may, 2 showings, Brown Hall.

We offered two alternative plans, the first of which would involve you as scenic designer, and would stipulate that you would supervise the painting of the settings as well. For this we could offer \$125.00.

A plan which I have come to regard as highly preferable would establish you as both designer and technical director for the Opera Theater. It would entail your designing and completely executing the settings, making limited use of paid personnel, when necessary, at the rate of 75¢ per hour. For these service I can offer you \$ 275.00. Of this sum, \$125.00 would be paid after the first production and 150.00 after the second.

You will be happy to know that Brown Hall is being completely redesigned from the inside, and supplied with a new curtain and a large backstage door for the bringing in of scenery direct to stage. The work is progressing at a quick rate, and

judging from what I saw yesterday, much of the work on the actual interior false walls is complete already.

I have been asked to direct a summer opera affair in Pittsburgh, Pa. I shall undoubtedly accept, and wanted to let you know that in all probability I will want to engage a St. Louisan to be scenic and technical director for the enterprise. This would involve two or three weeks in late June, and would be unusually well paid. If our season works out well, I will want to pursue this further with you, if you should then be available.

Sincerely,

Harold Blumenfeld [signature]