

An Aerogram from Nadia Boulanger to Russell Bennett

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Nadia Boulanger was the most famous music teacher of the twentieth century. She served as a professor, and later the Director, at the French Music School for Americans in Fontainebleau where she taught harmony, music history, counterpoint, and composition. In this position, she taught many American students who went to study specifically with her.

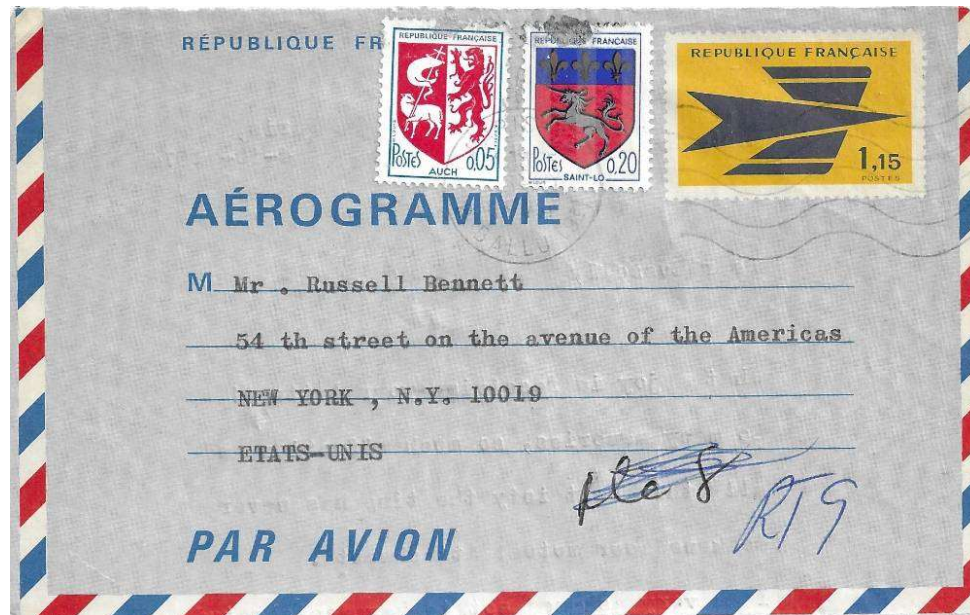
Among her most famous students were Aaron Copland, Elliott Carter, Philip Glass, John Eliot Gardiner, Astor Piazzolla, Quincy Jones, Burt Bacharach, Virgil Thomson, and many others. One of these American students was the Missourian Robert Russell Bennett.

Russell Bennett went to Paris in 1926 at the age of 30 to study with Boulanger. He spent three years there before moving to New York where he became an arranger on Broadway. Bennett worked with George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, and Kurt Weill.

This 1974 Aerogram includes a short note from Boulanger saying she regrets not having been with Russell on June 15th (his 80th birthday). Poignantly, acknowledging both of their advancing age, she closes by saying that she dreams they will meet again.



Monaco, 1985
Scott # MC 1473



Left:
Front of an
Aerogram
addressed to
Russell Bennett

Right:
Letter by
Nadia
Boulanger to
Russell
Bennett.
Including her
signature
Nadia B.

