

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF MUSIC
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

DEAN - DOUGLAS CLARKE, M.A., MUS. BAC. (CANTAB)

677 W. SHERBROOKE STREET

MONTREAL

February 8th, 1932.

The Principal,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal,

You will be glad to know that on Sunday afternoon next, the Montreal Orchestra will play an orchestral work which has just been written by one of my students, Frank Hanson. He took his Mus. B. Degree last October and I gave him a scholarship in Composition this year.

I think it rather a feat that this boy, who, until the formation of the Montreal Orchestra, knew practically nothing of orchestral sounds and writing, should have produced such an unusual piece of work. In this we can see the direct influence and importance of the Orchestra in its bearing upon the musical education of serious-minded students. Without this Orchestra and attendance at its rehearsals, (which has been an education in itself), I think it very unlikely that this student could have produced such fresh and spontaneous work. So many people write for orchestra who have no orchestral feeling because they have been unable to hear an orchestra, and so are unfamiliar with the sounds of the instruments and the technique of the combinations of them.

The performance on Sunday will be unique, I think, in the history of our musical department certainly, as being the first occasion on which a student's work has been given public performance. I feel that we may be proud of this student's work, (which is only one of many), and that the musical standing of McGill will be enhanced thereby.

I beg to remain, Mr. Principal,

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Clarke

DEAN.