



WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL + MOUNT SAINT ALBAN + WASHINGTON, D. C., 20016 + TEL. 966-3500

15 May 1972

Dear Nick:

Congratulations for all you have contributed to the choir in skill and spirit and in friendship with our family. I have had every opportunity to know you and to increase in respect for what you have to offer. As you develop in life, the discipline of the daily worship of God through music will become more and more important. There will be many tough times ahead as you learn that only coming to hard, real grips with a demanding master, or a difficult problem, or a personal weakness will produce a true and rewarding result. The training you have been through will help.

Have a nice summer and we shall see much more of you in the St. Albans years ahead.

Best wishes, and  
Faithfully yours,

Richard W. Dirksen  
Precentor

Master Nicholas Peake  
4110 49th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

15 May 1972

Dear Sergei:

It has sometimes been a trial for you and for me as, together, we grew and developed in our work here the past three years. I know we both learned a good bit about our respective jobs during those years, and became better in dealing with the people who shared our work. Now, as a "treble" your part of our ministry comes to an end, while mine, as Precentor will continue, God willing.

Sergei, know that I was several times on the verge of kicking you out, thereby solving an immediate problem. That I didn't was to see if I could trust an instinct about you, and thereby learn more about my "hunches". You taught me that it is possible for me to trust them, to deal honestly but firmly, and to let time and more mature understanding of responsibility produce a better choir boy and a good prefect. I am grateful.

You have a lot of growing yet to do, and problems to solve. I feel that the experience of the choir years will prove helpful to you, and personally believe that your very good mind and talents, when tempered by constructive experience and patience with others not so quick, will make you a successful, whole person. Call it another "hunch" if you will.

The best,  
Faithfully and in friendship,

Richard W. Dirksen  
Precentor

Master Sergei Pacht  
1615 Myrtle Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012