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JUL 15 1966

NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HOWARD MITCHELL, *Music Director*

M. ROBERT ROGERS, *Manager*

2101 16TH ST., N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009 • PHONE: CODE 202 : 483-4111

July 13, 1966

cc JWH ✓
WH
JRW
Great!
7/14/66

Mr. William Finley
The Rouse Company
The Village of Cross Keys
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Dear Bill:

I enclose a copy of my letter to Marjorie Post based on our recent conversations. On Saturday, Mrs. Post called me to express gratified approval of the proposal. At an appropriate time there should be tangible developments.

We believe that announcement of the name should be made when the final design plans are released.

Speaking of plans, the music tent people (who operate Washington and Baltimore among many others) report that average canvas life is two or three years. Under ideal conditions, sometimes four. Rarely five. And, to paraphrase Poe, never more. Let's get under wood as fast as we can.

All of the best.

Sincerely,

M. Robert Rogers

Enclosure

July 8, 1966

Mrs. Merriweather Post
4155 Linnean Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Marjorie:

The definitive confirmation of the Ford Foundation grant to our Orchestra has made it possible for us to proceed with our plans for the summer festival at Columbia, Maryland. Land is now being cleared and construction of the amphitheater should soon start. As you will learn, from my correspondence with Leon in Paris, we plan the first concert for July 14 next year.

If all goes well, and operations there are as successful as I think they can be, then the National Symphony Orchestra Association eventually will own this facility and the 10 acres of ground associated with it. It will be the only concert facility that we are likely to own, since the DAR ownership of Constitution Hall and the Federal ownership of the forthcoming Kennedy Center exclude such opportunities in our home city.

James W. Rouse, the man behind the creation of Columbia, attended the Board meeting at which the project was first explained. You met him at that time. Like so many others, he has been greatly impressed by the magnitude and effectiveness of your creative support of the Washington National Symphony. He believes, as do we, that it would be most appropriate to recognize what you have done and are continuing to do by naming the amphitheater the Merriweather Post Pavilion of Music.

Mrs. Merriweather Post

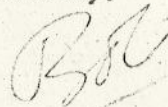
- 2 -

July 8, 1966

I believe that it is the sort of tangible expression of appreciation that is long overdue, but not practically available to the Association until now. I hope that you agree and that the proposal is acceptable to you.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,



M. Robert Rogers

Enclosure

BC: O.L. Heir
D. Ginsburg