

Letter by Natalie Curtis to Ferruccio Busoni ([New York], 2 March 1911)

Thursday
morning
March 2nd
1911.

Dear Mr Busoni,

I am sending you a few Indian songs – I want to send you more, but as yet I have had not much time to write them out. We have been very busy with our preparations for *Briséis* (MacDowell chorus.) This afternoon we hold our Generalprobe. I wish you could be there! But since you are playing tonight I suppose that is im possible. I hope to hear you; we have had our tickets a long time in anticipation.

In the few songs that I have sent you, those that interest me most, especially from the stand-point of tonality, are the three Hopi Indian Songs which seem more remote from European conceptions than the others. Of course, the Warrior and Victory Songs admit of more stirring, and perhaps of more popular treatment – I mean, they would be more easily understood. And the little Blue- Bird song has quite a perfect form, I think, and also much grace and charm. But there is a strange character in the Hopi music that has always held for me a peculiar charm. It has been a great pleasure to me to have the privilege of writing these off for you. If you will permit me I will mail some more to you.

I shall see you only from a respectful distance this evening, and so I send herewith my best wishes for a pleasant trip, and the greetings of the whole Curtis household who hope to see you here, once, on your return.

May I thank you very heartily for so kindly sending me your Fugue which I shall prize very highly, as a gift, and which as a study will be always of increasing interest. With deep ap preciation, Sincerly yours

Natalie Curtis