

Harvard Club – Box 126
27 West 44th Street
New York, NY 10036
September 29, 2003

Diva Renée Fleming
Metropolitan Opera
Lincoln Center
New York, NY 10023

Dear Renée:

What a treat it will be to hear your Violetta again this evening!!! I can't begin to tell you how much I have been looking forward to this all summer!!!

But please don't feel any pressure!!! After all, you have more musicality in your little finger than is contained in the whole audience!!! Especially on Opening Night when the house is filled with socialites, many of whom don't really know anything about opera other than that THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS SOPRANO IS RENÉE FLEMING AND SHE IS SINGING!!! You could probably do no more than hiccup and you would get a standing ovation!!! So don't have any qualms -- this will be a "piece of cake!!!"

Incidentally, I was very pleased that you are serving as the Guest of Honor for Eve Queler's Musicale later this fall. It just goes to show what a wonderful person you are!!! And how important you think it is to help support the Young Artists such as those Eve sponsors!!!

Good Luck this evening!!! And with the remainder of your Traviatas!!!

Your Adoring Fan,

John S. Karls

PS -- I hope you won't mind if I invade your privacy at Eve's Musicale by coming over during the post-performance reception to "pay my respects." After all, you are due an incredible amount of "respect" for quite a few things, and my "payments" have been quite delinquent!!!

File Note: I had already met Renée on several occasions –

- the first long before at her request to come back stage after one of her performances because she wanted to meet me (What could I have done??? A gentleman always honors a request from a Lady!!!).
- on several occasions thereafter unintentionally when dropping off the traditional Magnums of Dom Perignon before Premiere curtains to provide, for the sake of safety, a schedule of which performances “to keep an eye out” for bouquet tosses (that has never happened with any other Diva!!!).