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Utah Symphony Orchestra
123 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Dear Huck:

I am writing this letter to officially acknowledge an incident that occurred during the Nutcracker performance involving Patrick Zwick. During an afternoon performance there was a pizzicato played at the end of the overture by a string bass where none was written in the score. This was a serious matter to me because I had made clear to the orchestra that I would not tolerate musical jokes or alterations in Tchaikovsky's score from any player during the Nutcracker run and that I would personally take action against anyone whom I caught doing such things. At the evening performance the event was repeated and I verified that it was Mr. Zwick who had persisted in his joke. During the intermission I saw John Clark, the section leader, in the hall and I asked him in a casual manner to "...tell Pat to can it or I will can him." After intermission Mr. Zwick was sullen. Although he went through the motions of playing, when it came to the passages of bass soli marked FF he continued to barely move the bow over the strings. When I tried to catch his eye, he ignored me. So there would be no excuse for his not seeing me, I stepped down from the podium during the Mother Buffoon solo and looked directly at him so that the entire orchestra saw that I was trying to get his attention. He continued to ignore me.

Before the next performance (December 26 matinee) I asked him to come to my room where I confronted him on the above matters in the presence of Shelley Hyde and Tom Baron. At the conclusion of the interview he neither acknowledged nor denied what had happened. I warned him at the time that if any further provocation was witnessed by me, I would ask that he never be permitted to play another ballet performance. During the evening performance he came to me and acknowledged responsibility for the incident and apologized.

There have been many such incidents in the past involving Pat when I have not confronted him and he has not apologized. I cannot afford to treat such matters lightly in the future as they tend to be repeated by the same parties and imitated by others.

Sincerely yours,

Ardean Watts, Musical Director
Ballet West

cc: Patrick Zwick
Shelley Hyde
Loel Hepworth