

by way of explanation: letter October 8th, 1959

I am sure Father Louis would have taken the proper channels in getting permission to have lunch with me - the reason for the lunch was to talk over a collaboration of his poems and my music. Also, I am certain that he would have secured permission from the proper channels to meet Eileen Farrell as it is my understanding ( and I may be wrong in this) that women are not allowed in the monastery. Doubtless he would have secured permission to meet her with me in the Our Lady of Gethsemani book store or perhaps on the grounds outside.

*Cliff Shaw*

jhs

Gethsemani

Oct 8, 1959

Dear Cliff:

I have received and played Eileen Farrell's record and I find the Blake song completely charming. It is certainly the best and most substantial thing on that side of the record, with a real spirit and substance which none of the other pieces have. I am very much taken with it, and it certainly makes me hope that you will indeed set some poem of mine to music-- it would make me very happy. I am sure whatever poem you might pick would benefit by it greatly. Two come to my mind-- early ones, not so explicitly religious but more lyrical, and I do like them: Song, from Crossportion's Pastoral, which is a bit mysterious, and Ariadne. Calypso's Island, too. These are poems which I mention because of the lyric mood in them, which might react with some melody and some rather simple, yet at the same time, mysterious harmonies and surprises. They are some which I myself would be tempted to put in music if I could.



All these three will be in the selected poems which I will send you (but not yet for a month or two)-- and meanwhile if you have A Man in the Divided Sea, or can get it in the library, you will find the poems there. The book is practically out of print by now as far as I know.

Yes I shall gladly take you up on that lunch offer one of these days when I am in the library. I never know when I am likely to be in town.

Eileen Farrell certainly has a pure and lovely voice. I should be delighted to meet her, if she ever drives you out here.

Cod bless you, Cliff. With best wishes,

Faithfully in Christ

*J. M. Lewis*

OUR LADY OF GETHSEMANI  
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