

CHILDHOOD, HOPKINS, AND YALE
(1881–1903)

From his earliest letters Ives comes across as a strong personality, active in play, sports, music, and occasional mischief. The surviving letters from his childhood are addressed to his grandmother Sarah Ives, his aunt Amelia Brewster, and his father, George. Many of them were mailed from the beach house that the extended Ives clan occupied every summer in Westbrook, Connecticut. There life was a whirl of swimming, tennis, sailing, rowing, baseball, and croquet with his brother, Moss, his cousins, and his uncle Lyman Brewster. He also mentioned going to concerts and rehearsals and described traveling by himself, by train, to try out a particularly fine pipe organ. The professional side of his musical life also intrudes in these letters, as we see the young organist begging his father to help him find a substitute so that he can stay at the beach over the weekend rather than going home to play the Sunday service.

1. Ca. 10 September 1881, to Sarah H. Ives, Danbury, Connecticut¹

DEAR GRAMA:

COME HOME AND SEE US. GIVE LOVE TO SARANE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE
COUSIN GEORGE'S PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW

GOOD BYE FROM CHARLIE.

[*Note in bottom margin.*] Received in Westbrook Sept 10 1881 by his grandmother Sarah H. Ives

2. 18 July 1886, to George Ives

Dear Papa

Mamma received your letter last night. I am very sorry you could not come Saturday and stay Sunday. I am having a nice time down here. Us boys have got an engine fixed up on the beach near the bath house, Mossie is the Conductor and brak man [brakeman], Joe

1. All of Ives's letters before 1893 were mailed from Westbrook, Connecticut, unless otherwise noted. Letter citations are in the following format: date, person(s) sending the letter to or receiving the letter from Ives, place of origination. See the appendix for a full list of the letters and their archival information.

-est at Patterson was a success. We expect to come home this
 I go in bathing every day. week George Miner is here
 Friday the waves were very high and Mossie got all undressed
 (The weather was very damp) and Moss's bathing suit was wet, when he found that it was
 wet he got all dressed again. Moss & I are going to cha[n]ge are [our] firm Instead of
 Abbotts Bros we are going to have it Ives Bros. Will you please take the sign down
 and letter it on the other side Ives Bros 165 & 167 (like this) *[includes drawing of the sign]*.
 We expect to come home this week. George Miner is here over Sunday. Leronzo is sick &
 I have to go after milk. Mama is going to write you ~~this morning~~ to morrow. Pleas anser
 my letter when you get time. Come down some day this week. I must close now
 Yours Truly
 Charlie

18 July 1886, to George Ives, pp. 2 and 3.

King is the fireman & I am the engineer. I am glad the concert at Patterson was a success.
 I go in bathing every day. Friday the waves were very high and Mossie got all undressed
 (The weather was very damp) and Moss's bathing suit was wet, when he found that it was
 wet he got all dressed again. Moss & I are going to cha[n]ge are [our] firm Instead of
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 my letter when you get time. Come down some day this week. I must close now

Yours Truly
Charlie

-Charlie Figure 2 near here

3. 14 August 1889, to George Ives

Dear Papa,

I have just received your letter I went to the mail in the rain this morning, and I had 30
 letters and papers for the beach. We are all talking about the fires in Danbury. Mossie's
 hands are poisoned again but they are good deal better to day. We have just been rowing
 over to Monongutueseuske point in Mr. Cheney's new row & row boat. Uncle Lyman and
 I rowed and Moss and Mr. Theron B. stirred [steered?] We went 1 mi. in 16 min. Saturday
 the Westbrook base ball nine played the Essexes. The Essex asked me to play with them
 and I did, but the Essex got beat, 18 to 10. The Stannards Beach ball club asked me to pitch
 for them against the Clintons next Sat. Mamma wants to have you give \$1 to the Parmelees

to give to milkman Elwell to whom she owes. Please send last wks Youths Com. and this weeks, and the St. Nick. if it comes before we go. I can't write very well because I have to hold my sore arm up. I am going to play tennis now.

Yours etc.

C. E. Ives

P.S. I am going to the concert to night.

4. 20 August 1889, to George Ives

The blots were on this paper before I wrote but I took it because it was the best up here.

Dear Papa

We received your letter and the picture last night. Mossie just came home from Saybrook he went over on the cars and came back with the ponies. I play tennis most of the time down here. We played a set yesterday in which Lloyd and Sarane beat Uncle Lyman and myself. We play played [*sic*] croquet this morning. Mamma wants to go home Friday, but Aunt Milly wants her to stay because she is not very well but she wants to go home where she will have more to do. Why don't you catch the bug² Uncle Lyman and myself were going to have a boat race yesterday, to Salt Island and back but we didn't may be we will race Thursday or Friday. Uncle Lyman will try and get Mr. Cheny's new boat and I will take the old white round bottom boat that Cousin Howard had to row with when he went to ~~lake~~ school at Lake Mohegan. I don't know whether that is the right way to spell it and there is nobody here to ask as most of the folks have to sleep. Maybe it is spelled "Mon-heeghane." Capt. Brewster brought a pair of oars around this morning. The folks don't want to have me play ball much but yesterday morning Uncle Lyman, Miss Grout and Sarane, Lloyd, Moss and I played and Mr. Stevens umpired the game. Mr. Theron Brewster officiated as the solitary spectator. To morrow as Aunt Sil and her father were going to Salisbury, Uncle Lyman thought of getting up a party and go to Hartford and see the capitol and so forth. Some of the Whites and Demmings were going and Sarane, but they have given up going to morrow and I don't know whether they will go now or not. The Demmings are going home Friday. I don't want to go home. All the folks but Mamma want to have me stay as I am studying and Miss Hollister is gone as Mr. Morrow is and probably there will be no church Sunday and if there is Miss Hollister has made arrangements with Miss Moore to play for me.³ The Seelys are going away this week and I can probably prac-

Footnote calls were color for ease of placement; now set black.
ICS/AK

2. This is the first line of the second page; similar, seemingly unrelated lines appear at the tops of the third and fourth pages of the letter. The three lines read: "Why don't you catch the bug/ Why don't you catch the fire bug/ why don't you catch the fire fly."

3. Ella Hollister was Ives's piano teacher and the choir director at Second Congregational Church, Danbury, where Ives had taken the job as organist on 10 February 1889. He continued as a regular organist in churches in Danbury, New Haven, and New York from then until 1902. Jan Swafford, *Charles Ives: A Life with Music* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1996), 48–49; James Sinclair, *Descriptive Catalogue of the Music of Charles Ives* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), 664.

tice on there piano. If I can stay over I will come home Monday. Aunt Milly has gone to Essex to get some Witch Hazel with Cousin Sarah. I am going in bathing now and perhaps Uncle Lyman wants to play tennis. I can serve overhand now.

Yours Truly,
C. E. Ives

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These two letters, mailed in the same envelope, one from Ives to his paternal grandmother and one from his brother to their Aunt Amelia Brewster, embody the idyllic childhood world reflected in Ives's songs "The Circus Band" and "Memories." Topknot was the family cat.

5. 27 August 1889, to Sarah H. Ives, Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Grandma,

We arrived here last evening about 6:30. Papa was at the train to meet us. Our trunks were left in Hartford but they came this morning at 7 o'clock. Mamma went to Grandma Parmelee's to supper. Moss Papa and I came to the house and ate crackers and cheese bread & milk etc. When we got in front of your house the first thing we saw was Topknot on the front stoop and she came out to meet us. I went to Mrs. Martin's this morning. The chicks are all right. We have got the croquet set out and will beat Uncle Lyman when he gets home.

Yours Truly,
C. E. Ives

Moss got the blots on . . .

[27 August 1889, Moss Ives to Amelia Brewster, Danbury, Connecticut]

Dear Aunt Milly,

The first thing I saw when I arrived here was Topie cumming . She was so glad to see me that she kept agoin round in a circle. The morning an Indian show band paraded the streets and scared a pair of horses that came near running over Bobie Bennet, it said in the Evening News the [that] he cried but he didn't at all, he was not scared a bite [bit]. I suppose you heard about the Avrial property being sold and Mrs. Nichols fire. It had an account in the News about the boys stealing pears in your tree and how they all ran when a dog barked, but there was no dog that barked but Papa hollered, Get out of there. I close with love Moss
Charlie got the blots on.

6. 19 August 1890, to George Ives

Dear Papa,

Yours rec'd yesterday. I have just come back from Essex where I saw Dr. Hubbard, he put some new plasters on my hand. I think, the cut is very nearly healed Dr. says in a week I can use it as well as ever. If they are not satisfied with Mr. Gordon I would try and see Miss Smith, I don't think Mr. Gordon would care, I didn't exactly engage him for next Sunday I only said that I might be away. I might possibly come home myself but it would cost nearly four dollars to go and come. There is a Miss or Mrs. Traverse in Bethel that maybe could. I went sailing yesterday with Mr. Granis we went nearly to Madison. The waves are very large here to day and [I] think it is going to rain. Moss is now in bathing with Joe King. The Westbrook Band gives a concert to-morrow I imagine they are like M. N. C. Plese write before Sat.

Yours Truly,
Charlie

[*On the same page: a letter from Ives's aunt Amelia Ives Brewster to George Ives*]

Dear George,

Charlie's hand has prevented him from going bathing or rowing & he wishes to stay another week and he can if you can get anybody to play for him Sunday. The Mrs. Smith he speaks of is the one from Bethel I wish he had got her in the first place if you cannot get any body of course he will have to come home Saturday but I hope you will be able to. Mossie & I expect to come home the last of the week.

Millie

7. 31 August 1889 [1890], to Amelia Brewster (no envelope or postmark)⁴

Dear Aunt Amelia,

I left Bridgeport at 4:30 and got here in time for supper. I found all the folks very well. The first one I saw first, of course, was the cat. As soon as I left Uncle Lyman, I went to Mrs. Baker and she gave me a letter of intro. to Mr. Spinning. I did not find him home the first time but a lady said he would be home at one o'clock, so I went down to the park & stayed there about an hour. I had a sandwich and ice-cream for dinner. I found Mr. Spinning home after dinner and we then went up to his church (Presbyterian). I tried the organ which is (he says) the largest in the state and of course a very fine one. It has 60 registers. Uncle Lyman, I suppose has told about the tennis racket. I came down from the junction with the Merritts. As soon as Nelson saw Ned Tweedy & Moss at the Depot, he began to yell and dance, and made more noise than the cabmen and expressmen. I went to Sam

4. John Kirkpatrick dates the letter to 1890 on the basis of the opening date of Sam Harris's store, 30 August 1890. Ives, however, wrote 1889.

Harris' opening last night, after rehearsal, with some of the choir he has a fine store but not as large as I thought it would be. He (Harris) has a large picture of himself in the window and the American flag wound around it. They are running one horse car on the West St. road to day. Mrs. Sanford was worse Thurs. but better today. I will send the book in a registered letter. I used 33 miles and owe you \$.66

Yours very sincerely,
C. E. Ives

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Ives moved to New Haven, Connecticut, in the spring of 1893 and in April began studying at Hopkins Grammar School, which specialized in preparing students for Yale. Although Ives went to Hopkins because of his questionable prospects for making it into the university without substantial aid and effort, his letters suggest that studying often took second or third place in his crowded schedule. In these letters Ives's musical activities come into sharper focus: he was the organist of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church and also worked to improve his knowledge of harmony and his general musical ability. Particularly through his participation in sports during his days at Hopkins, Ives also began to lay the foundations of his social success at Yale.

8. 9 May 1893, to George Ives, New Haven⁵

Dear Father,

Yours just rec'd. I am in no particular hurry for the music etc. as there is quite a lot of good organ music in the church, and with that I brought with me I will have enough for 2 or 3 Sundays more. It may be a good scheme to fix the box as you suggest as I may not be able to get it all in the closet although it is quite large. I think the things had all better be sent to the church. I wrote Uncle Lyman yesterday telling him how the service etc. went. I had the most trouble with the chants and found the best way to learn them was to commit the music and then follow the words. They sing their hymns faster than I have been accustomed to and it is rather hard to get used to it. The nine goes to Bridgeport Sat. afternoon and so I will probably see George Clark etc. I sent the B[ase].B[all]. suit Sat. I have 2 receipts for the house and others from Brien & Co for Ba. B. suit. Tell Moss I am afraid the Academy & Co. Baseball teams will have rather hard time with B[ridgeport] but they may not. I am have to hurry as it is past time for dinner and will close with love to all yours truly,

C.

P.S. I think if you sent the box by freight it would be all right, and you can put the clothes in it that I will send back in the valise at the end of the week.

5. The remaining letters in this chapter were mailed from New Haven, Connecticut, unless otherwise noted.

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Charles Bonney was the choirmaster and Ives's supervisor at St. Thomas's Church. Ives later remembered him as strict, demanding, and unpleasant, but in his letters home he kept quiet about this dimension of the relationship.⁶

-George Ives
Figure 3 near
here

9. 5 July 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Enclosed please find check which I have rec'd from Mr. Bonney, and also receipt for rent of the room. I suppose Uncle Lyman told you I was going to the boat race, and I suppose you heard that Yale won as usual, although they had hard luck in the Base Ball Season [or series?]. The Hopkins B.B. pictures are done I have one for myself and will get one to send home if you wish they cost \$1.25. Please tell me as soon as possible so I can get the order off. Garrison & Tritle have gone and so I have moved into the front room, which [is] much better in every way. I haven't seen Mrs. Porter yet as she is out of town and won't be back until tomorrow.⁷ The services at the Ch. went smoother than I thought they [would], especially at the Choral Service Sunday before last, when I only left out "Amen." Last Sunday there was not any breaks as far as I remember. You ought to hear the choir sing "Alpha and Omega" Stainer.⁸ When does mother and Moss expect to come to Westbrook?

Yours Truly
C.E.I.

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Life in New Haven exerted a strong pull on Ives, and his letters home occasionally presented his hectic schedule along with apologies for not being able to visit more often. The following letter also shows that Ives himself worried about his prospects for entering college as planned.

10. 12 July 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Yours rec'd this noon. Have just seen Mr. Bonney who says he don't know of anybody, now, who would play as and as it is the first Sunday for the choir it will be particularly hard besides he would have to have the rehearsal a week before as usual, although he may find

6. Frank Rossiter cites Harmony Ives as the source for his description of Bonney as "a martinet" in *Charles Ives and His America* (New York: Liveright, 1975), 48, 331n99.

7. Porter was Ives's first tutor in New Haven; Swafford, *Charles Ives*, 80.

8. Ives probably refers to Sir John Stainer's anthem "I Am Alpha and Omega."



Ives (left) with his Hopkins Grammar School teammate Miles, 1893. (H. Randall.)

somebody later but of course that would be too late. The ass't org.st. could not do it, as we will hardly be able to get him ready to play the hymns for August. I show him twice a week. He never had anything to do with an organ and so it is easy to show him. Mr. Bonney said I hadn't ought to take less than a dollar for the time so I get two dollars a wk from it. Even if I could go I don't see how I could get any time for the type writer, as I will have to study all the time if I get even 6 prelims off next Sept. They are marking very close this year as only 3 of my class passed and half of them flunked who were better prepared than I. I also heard that a pile of Andover fellows got left. It was lucky I didn't take mine. Any way please let me know about the plans as soon as possible.

Yours Truly
C.

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In August 1893 Ives's uncle Lyman Brewster took him along as a secretary on a trip to the World's Fair in Chicago. Only a few tantalizing pieces of evidence survive to indicate what he may have seen and done at this watershed for American culture, which featured in its official and unofficial programs architecture by Stanford White, ragtime by Scott Joplin, and demonstrations of previously unimaginable technological wizardry.⁹

11. 22 August 1893, to George Ives, Chicago

Dear Father,

As soon as we reached Chicago, we went directly to the hotel and then to the grounds. Have just returned from West Va. State building, where the West Point Cadets had a dance. Heard Thomas' Orchestra with Hrr—Bazin as director. Will write in morning with better pen etc.

Yours, Chas

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As Ives continued at Hopkins, his letters home sometimes reflect the tension between his father's desire to supervise his habits and activities and Ives's growing desire for independence. The following pair of letters sheds light on this submerged conflict and on the mundane de-

9. A letter of 1 September 1893 from Lyman to Amelia Brewster further describes Ives's visit to the fair: "Charley's task as 'Secretary of the Com. Commission' was not very onerous, about four hours in all. He is rejoicing in the prospect of hearing the famous French organist 'Guilmant' to-morrow on the Exposition grounds at 1. P.M. Charley says he is the best organist in the world & the papers seem of the same opinion. . . . You need have no apprehensions as to C's health. He has weighed at every stop & has found no deficiency in weight. If there has been any over-action it is in chewing gum—confined strictly to our room" (CIP, 33/1). Ives mentions Guilmant in a letter of 28 August 1893 to his father (ibid.).

tails of his life. In October Ives moved in with the family of his classmate Tom McIntire. Soon after, he wrote to his mother with requests for furniture and school supplies. The letter contains two indications of Ives's popularity and athletic achievement at Hopkins. First, he mentions that he has been named manager of the football team. Second, he notes that his new living arrangements should improve his opportunity for studying because the McIntire place is less convenient for his friends to visit.

Ives's postscript about his mother's handwriting is particularly interesting because of the relatively small amount we know about her. Letters to her are rare, and letters from her even rarer. In fact, she is seldom mentioned in the correspondence at all, even in the courtship letters when his fiancée, Harmony, describes meeting Ives's family.¹⁰ As Stuart Feder has noted, Ives's aunt Amelia was often the subject of the attention one would expect his mother to receive.¹¹ The few letters that survive in Mollie's hand, which predate this one, are clear and legible, so one wonders if something had happened to her by the fall of 1893 that made writing difficult for her and whether this difficulty was related to the letter of 28 September 1894, in which George Ives wrote, "Mother has another new nurse."¹² If, as Feder conjectures, she was the victim of a debilitating physical or mental illness that was never mentioned within the Ives family, this enigmatic postscript perhaps indicates some of its effects.¹³

12. 30 September 1893, to George Ives (incomplete)

Dear Father,

Your letter rec'd yesterday noon. I enclose laundry bill and Mr. Bonney's check. I asked Mr. Bonney about trying voice last Tuesday evening after the rehearsal but he said wait until some time when we weren't both so tired. I think you asked in one of your letters how much time etc. I had for studies music and exercise. The studies take the most of the time. I have one now at every period in school and so it gives no time in school to study. Some days especially . . .

13. 4 October 1893, to Mollie Ives

Dear Mother,

Your letter just rec'd. I think the desk would be best with a plain wooden top but it don't make much difference if you have decided on the other. I would like a book case very much if you could possibly get one as the drawers would have to be filled with lots of other different things, besides books, which I have quite a number of. But if you don't think it would be worth while, why all right. Any way I wish whatever you do send you would send immediately. I haven't paid for the ch [illegible word] yet, as I only have about

10. See Letters 121–22.

11. Stuart Feder, *Charles Ives: "My Father's Song"* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992), 223.

12. See Letter 31.

13. Feder, *Charles Ives*, 227.

\$4. left. I have bought 4 new books 2 of them 2nd hand, and some underclothes, etc. besides paying for the room rent at Crown St. and to Mr. Thompson but haven't paid for the board, which is \$10.25. I will get the bill this afternoon, when I mail this letter. Tell Uncle Lyman I am studying Homer, which is not much harder than Xenophon, but takes more time. I also have German and I find what I studied with Father helps me a good deal. I can do very much more studying here than I could at the other, as it is not quite so handy for the boys, and Tom has to study a good deal himself. We both play foot ball in the later part of the afternoon, and so then all the rest of the time for practice and study. Tell Moss I was elected manager of the foot ball team, to-day. Why don't the D.H.S play the Betts Academy Stamford. I think they are a light team. I will send washing this Sat. as I didn't have enough to pay for sending last week. I wish you would send a Latin Grammar (Allen & Greenough) and also that ankle supporter if you can find it. I think it was in the beareau draw in Moss's room or in the closet. It is a white elastic bandage to go over the ankle. Please send this etc. as soon as possible.

Yours Truly
C.

P.S. I wish you would please get somebody else to write your letters as I can hardly make them out.

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Football in the 1890s was not yet the domain of today's three-hundred-pound giants but it had its own ferocious violence, and players wore soft helmets and few pads. In the following letter to his father, Ives plays down the broken nose he suffered in one particularly rough game. George apparently didn't buy Charles's version of the story, however, as he seems to have forbidden his son to try out for the Yale football team the following year.¹⁴ Ives's mention of the accounts of the game in the New York papers presages the exaggerated newspaper coverage of the famous 1894 game between Yale and Harvard, which featured the debut of the infamous, and later banned, flying wedge play, and in which a player was falsely rumored to have been killed.

14. 30 October 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

We rec'd your telegrams last evening and answered both. I suppose you thought I was nearly killed, as all the papers here had accounts of horrible accident and how we had to be carried off the field etc. etc. They say that there were acct. of it in N.Y. papers. Cheney got the worst of it as he broke his collar bone, but I just bruised the cartilage of the lower part of the nose. It pains quite a good deal, but Doct. Cheney says it will be all right in a

14. See Letter 32.

week or so & will not leave any scar of deformity. The worst thing about [it] is that I have to go to him every day to have it dressed and so I am afraid his bill will be quite heavy but still it may not. I have to [go] around with a big plaster on so I try to stay in the house as much as possible. The McIntires are very kind, they won't let me go out for meals but have me eat with them. She says that she would always let you know if anything serious should occur even if I should not. I wrote to unc. Lyman yesterday and ask him to ask you to send the checks for my room rent and board. It will be 2 weeks to-morrow (Teus.) You can make them payable to me, or to Mr. R. McIntire and Mrs. — Miller. I don't know the initials but I can find them out and fill them in. It is \$35 in all or \$15 of room and \$20 of board. Please tell mother that the clothes all fit well. I send papers in wash. With love to all

Yours very truly

C

There was a choral service yesterday and they said that it went better than any service ever went before. Please excuse bad writing as I have to hurry to get to school in time.

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George Ives's concern about his son manifested itself in a fairly regular stream of questions about his activities and well-being. George was particularly interested, as one would imagine, in his son's musical life but also in his level of physical fitness.

15. 19 November 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Rec'd your letter yesterday and the washing Friday. The only questions that you asked that I haven't answered perhaps, was about the assistant organist, and what I did for regular exercises. The assistant is a young man about 20, he doesn't play much except hymns etc. I haven't had much to do with him yet. Since foot ball has stopped, I have been playing tennis pretty regularly. We use the Indian clubs nearly every night. I think I will be able to catch the 12:10 train Thanksgiving, I will have to leave Friday at 4:28. Tell Moss to get up a game for Friday. I would like to see the team play. Do you think you could get me a hat, and have it sent so I could get [it] in time to wear next Sat.¹⁵ I would like a black one with a big brim and curl, like everybody wears here size 6 7/8. If you don't think that you could get it, can I get one here? I think I can get one that would do well, and and [not] not very expensive. You might get them to send one on trial if they do it. Four of us went hunting yesterday morning but didn't get anything. Uncle Lyman spoke when he was here about lending me some books for the bookcase. Will you please ask him if he has "The Reconstruction of Europe" or "Poole's Index" and if he has if he would send them so I could get them before the week is out. I have to hand in a composition on "United Italy"

15. By asking for a hat from Danbury, Ives was exploiting a hometown specialty. The town was a leading center of hat manufacture; Rossiter, *Charles Ives and His America*, 4–5.

by Mon. the 27th. Tell Grandmother I will write to her some time during this week. Ask Moss to write.

With love to all
yours very truly
C. E. Ives

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The following letter shows Ives's desire to improve his ability and build his reputation as an organist. Dudley Buck (1839–1909) and his student Harry Rowe Shelley (1858–1947) were among the most important organ composers and players in the country in the 1890s. Though Ives did not intend to major in music when he went to Yale, his plans to play recitals and study with such nationally known teachers make clear his resolve not to foreclose on his future as a performing musician.¹⁶

16. 3 December 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I reached here at twenty minutes of before seven instead of after, so had plenty of time. It snowed here last night and is raining to day, and as it was very bad walking, very few were out at church. Don't you think that after I have the pieces, that I could play at recitals, worked up sufficiently, it would be a good scheme to write Mr. Shelley, and see what arrangements I could make with him for a few lessons, in which I could play them over to him, and I also at the same time might finish up the harmony book. I might see him some time if he comes to New Haven, but I doubt if he comes up often. Do you think it would be best to get him or Dudley Buck. I think I can pay for the lessons myself, as the asst. org. [h]as spoken to me about my helping him, and said he wanted to start soon. He doesn't play much beside hymns etc. and knows nothing about an organ so I probably won't have much trouble in showing him. I think I can get along without a new over coat, if I get the buttons set over. And if you decide to get a dress suit, why wouldn't it be best to get a whole suit that either Moss or I could wear, as Moss if [he] should get one just for himself would get it a little large, as he will want [it] for several years, & if we should want it at the same time, I could used get along with the other pant and vest, and could borrow a coat. Please tell mother I bought my shoes and found my other glove have paid both bills, and will send receipt. Is Grandmother better Give my love to all.

Yours Very Truly
C

My cold is better.

16. See Letter 35 for further mention of study with Buck. No additional concrete evidence of Ives's study with Buck or Shelley survives.

17. 10 December 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Your letter and wash recd yesterday, and the skates and knife earlier in the week. I told the express Co. to send for the wash yesterday afternoon, but they didn't come around so I will try to get it off early Monday morning. I send the library books with it. I saw Mr. Butler yesterday and he said he thought that he would go to Thomaston sometime this week, and would go over from there to Danbury. He said he would write you and let you [know] about the day, trains etc. I haven't written to either Buck or Shelly as yet will talk it over with Mr. Bonney first. I don't seem to be able to find my "Variations on America," I wish [you] would please look for it, and send it if you can find it. Enclosed please find check and receipt. Hope mother's cold is better.

Yours Truly,
CEI

18. 17 December 1893, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I won't have time [to] write much of a letter to day, as we begin our examinations tomorrow. I rec'd the two piano pieces and the America you sent. I went skating one day on lake Whitney, but the snow has spoiled it now. We have 3 weeks of vacation I am not sure of the time I can come, probably some Wednesday morning and go back Friday evening. I think Mac will come up with me, so please ask Moss to find out what is going on to entertain him with, any dances, etc. Did Mr. Butler get to Danbury? I haven't [heard.] Enclosed please find receipt of 2 bills which I paid. Will write again as soon as I find out when we will come.

Yours very truly,
C E Ives

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New Haven, with its university and proximity to New York City, offered a much more diverse and exciting season of concerts and musical productions than Ives had known in Danbury. Here he mentions his interest in taking voice lessons and the prospect of attending a concert by the famed Italian soprano Adelina Patti.

19. 11 February 1894, to George Ives

Enclosed please find Check from Mr. B. \$16.00

Dear Father,

Rec'd your postal asking for Library Book, which I sent with the washing yesterday. I sent them in two pieces, one a bundle and other the valise, which needs to be fixed before used

again. I have not asked Mr. Bonney about voice yet, as he has been busy after the Tues. evening rehearsal, the time I thought would be best. I can't do anything more about recitals until after Lent. My clothes are in good condition, if they were not I would get them fixed. I haven't seen Howard Starr since. "Patti" doesn't appear here until the 16th I will try and hear her if I can. I think our vacation begins the week after Easter. We have a week. Send the "Music Leader" I think G. [probably Ives's friend Elisha Garrison] would like to see them. But didn't think Conn's papers were good for much. Please ask mother if she has any pair of black pants that I could wear for the rest of the winter as these are so shiny. If she sends any, ask her to put a big crease in them. Wrote to Uncle Lyman. Hope all folks are well.

Yours Very Truly,

C

• • •

With his duties as an organist and his active social life at school, Ives found it increasingly difficult to make time for visits home, a fact that aggravated the latent friction between father and son. The following letter presents a suspiciously long list of reasons he couldn't make it home during a short school break.

20. 20 February 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Yours just rec'd. I suppose I can come home Wed. evening, but there is a card party which I would rather like to go and then Thurs the asst. organist wanted to have me play at the 4:00 Lenten service, which they have on every day in the week at which he plays, they have no choir, and use just hymns etc., and I could get out of it I suppose Then I have a debate Friday which I expected to work on almost all day Thurs. There is nothing in particular that I've to bring home except the music and bag, my clothes are not ready yet. And then if I come Easter, which is only about 3 weeks after. Of course if you think it best I will come. Of course I would like to see you all, but it is such a short time to Easter. Please let me know if you still think I had better come.

Yours truly

C.

21. 24 February 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Have just written to Unc. Lyman. Received the "Eagle" to day. There is a choral service at the church to morrow. During Lent all the chants that are sung are founded on the Gregorian tones. The choir sing them in unison, and so I have to change the harmonies.

It is rather awkward to do as the air has to be kept on the top. The best way I have found to do is to use diminished chords in the same key, or go to the 1st ♭ or # remove[d].¹⁷ I knew that Mr. Bonney went to Bridgeport to give lessons. What is Mann Allen going to have for the musicale? This term ends the Thurs. before Easter and I will have 8 days. It is very cold here to day—the coldest this year. I hope all the folks are well with love to you all

Yours very truly

C

• • •

The following letter illustrates several themes that play through this section of the correspondence. Ives's application to be the organist at the New Haven Baptist church was rejected, and the letter begins with an attempt to explain the situation to his father; Ives also seems to have been trying to convince himself that things would work out for the best musically. One of his hopes, that he might be able to get the position at Center Congregational Church, was realized the following fall. More interesting is what this letter implies about the uncertain state of Ives's future plans for music and for college. It is clear that as late as the spring of 1894, he knew very little about the fledgling Yale music department, and he was still unsure about his prospects for getting into the college class for the following term. He had spoken to Mr. Fox, the rector at Hopkins, about the possibility of returning and seems to be trying to pacify his father so that he will allow him to continue with sports even in the face of uncertain academic progress. He was also trying to escape, at least in part, from his father's insistence that he take a tutor for his exams as soon as possible.

22. 29 March 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Rec'd Uncle Lyman's telegram last evening and your letter this noon. I have finally managed to find Dr. Walker the chairman of the Baptist Ch[urch]. committee and he says that the committee have decided on a Mr. Hogson, I don't know how the name is spelled nor have I ever heard of him before, except that he was the one that offered to do it for nothing and was the one that Mr. Wheeler, the former organist criticized the most. Dr. Walker told me himself that this one knew some of the committee personally, and that may have had something to do with it. There are five on the committee and some of them weren't there at all at the trial. He said that he was very much pleased with my playing, etc. but that 3 were better than two. And from the way he said it, I didn't know but he meant that I had 2 & the other's 3. At any rate, I am satisfied that it was not just as Mr. Wheeler said, decided

¹⁷ Gayle Sherwood links this procedure for playing chants with Ives's *Nine Experimental Canticale Phrases*; Sherwood, "The Choral Works of Charles Ives: Chronology, Style, Reception" (Ph.D. diss., Yale University, 1995), 102.

by the merits. I think they will pay him something as they said that they wouldn't want an organist that would do it for nothing. It seems as if everything here was run that same way, by a "pull," and that is one of the reasons that I think it would be better for Unc. Lyman to see Prof. Stoeckel and the sooner the better, as I heard that he is going away again soon for his health, and that also, Jepson was going to Germany next fall to study, and that will probably leave the Center Church, and the asst. organist at Chapel open.

I am bound that I will not let all of these things interfere with my musical studies, in the end and if possible to take advantage of it, although it does make one feel blue, etc. I can't do so very much before examinations. The first thing I am going to get the best of is the harmony and counterpoint, which I ought to get through with out taking much time to it with Dr. Stoeckel. There is some kind of music course in college which I will look up. I think it can be taken with out any extra charge and may be substituted with other things. There are several other things I can do more at in the music line, for which I wouldn't have time for with the regular church. I think if anything the work at St. Thomas had a tendency rather to deaden that [than] to give ambition and I think that my aim ought to be now to improve in the things that I wouldn't have time to with the church work, and also to see and look out for some place in N.Y. for next year.

Haven't I enough money in the bank to pay what is necessary for my music lessons next fall?

I don't see now why things at school hadn't ought to go all right. I saw Miss Porter last evening the first chance I got, and she said that I ought to come out all right at Hopkins, that she will speak to Mr. Fox. He seemed to be all right today, and asked me how my arm was for baseball. (I think maybe that is one of the reasons he wants [me] to come back.) I don't quite see what you mean by the "appearances" it would make. It would be a means of regular outdoor exercise and won't take much time as I won't have to practice with the rest unless somebody else comes I feel as if I was needed to pitch, that is a position that there would be no danger in at all. I can tell more about [it] after season begins. Of course if you decidedly think it would hurt me very much, why I won't.

While I am [was?] writing the letter with the newspaper slip came. I won't let the N.Y. trip interfere with work but am very anxious to see what Wagner opera is. Please tell Uncle Ly. what I have said about school and Dr. Stoeckel etc., and will write him as soon as I find out anything definite from Mr. Fox. Give love to everybody.

Yours very truly,
C.E.I.

• • •

This lengthy description of a performance of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* presents one of the earliest statements of Ives's highly individual musical aesthetics. It is particularly interesting to compare this statement with the comments on Wagner in Ives's *Essays Before a Sonata*.¹⁸

18. Ives, *Essays Before a Sonata*, ed. Howard Boatwright (New York: W. W. Norton, 1970), 72–73.

23. 1 April 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Rec'd your letter last evening after I had returned from New York. I left here at 10:20 and reached the city at a little before one o'clock and went immediately to the theater in time to get a good seat in the family circle (top gallery) I could ~~hear~~ see quite well and could hear very plainly. I bought a libretto with both German and English words. I read the plot over thoroughly two or three times so I could understand and and [*sic*] follow the German words better. I could easily see what Wagner tried to [do]. You wouldn't notice the music or orchestra as it all seems to be a part of and go along with the action and story. I don't mean that you wouldn't notice it, because it is integral in the play but that it feels as if it was only made to help one pay attention to the action. I don't remember any particular piece or song that you would notice simply for the music itself unless it was the 'Song of the Rhine-daughter' at the beginning of the second act. There are some things though that don't seem exactly natural. For instance in one place, Siegfried is supposed to be greatly infuriated at Brünhilde and she has a long song in which she is greatly excited and upbraids him, but he, instead of interrupting her, waits until the orchestra plays a long intermezzo and then begins, and there were several other places like that struck me as being rather unnatural, although there was probably some reason for it. They bring a horse on the stage, and it is supposed to be on the shore of the river but you hear his hoofs striking the timbers of the stage, which spoils all the effect. And then too the the [*sic*] using of so much horn, reed and kettle drums grows awfully tiresome towards the end. And about all I can remember of the orchestra now, is that it was all diminished chords, wholes, and trombone. Of course I don't mean to criticize but ~~there are just this things~~ is just as it seemed to me, but probably if I had studied it more ~~in the first~~ before, I would think differently. But any way the horse ought to have had some dirt to walk [on]. I wish I had time to study all of his operas. Everything all together is great, and you can see just what his idea was, and it seems funny that nobody thought of it before. Although it does seem that if the band beat more rhythm, or ~~melody~~ connected melody (you know what I mean) in his music, and if the action was more natural, and if the plot had more sense to it, as it is just a common fairy story, and when you think of it looks like a great deal of work over nothing, or if it was in fact in real history, or taken from some noted book, so that some educational benefit could be gotten from it. Will send program and libretto when I send wash, as I want you to read it all over and tell me what you think, and lieber Uncle Lyman.

The opera lasted until quarter past six and so when I got down to Prince Street, Mr. Crevling¹⁹ had gone home but I was reassured very carefully by a clerk who said he would tell him I was in. Mr. Stan's store was also closed. I left at 8:01 and reached home at 10:20. Everything seems to be all right at school. Please ask Moss to get me one of those coaching hats, 6 ¾. Give my love to all.

Yours very truly,

C.

-C. Figure 4
near here

19. John Kirkpatrick transcribes this name as Cushing. His many transcriptions of and annotations on the letters are filed with the originals in the CIP. The John Kirkpatrick Papers contain additional material.

CEI to GEI Su. 1 Apr. 1894.

New Haven Apr. 1 '94

Dear Father,

Rec'd your letter
last evening after I had
returned from New York.
I left here at 10.35 and
reached the city at a little
before one o'clock and went
immediately to the theatre,
in time to get a good seat
in the Family circle (top gallery)
I cared ~~less~~ ^{soon} quite well and
could ^{hear} very plainly. I bought
a libretto with both German &
& English words. I used the plot
one thoroughly two or three times
so I could understand and
follow in human words

1 April 1894, to George Ives.

24. 12 April 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I have just received your letter. Why don't you think that I don't understand your letters Maybe I don't write as if I did but I think I understand what you have advised and what I have got to do. You know after the first of May which is nearly here I can come up over Sunday. Of course if you writing won't do until then, I can come up some afternoon, and you might come down. The best I can do now is to study and exercise, with the church work. You know you said you had a way by which I could keep practice after organ is through with. I don't see how things could go better now either at church or school.

Please send hat as soon as convenient, as I described in a letter to Moss. I suppose he rec'd it although have not heard. Very bad weather here.

Yours very truly,

C

• • •

Anxious about being able to assist his parents in paying for his education as his brother, Moss, prepared to go to college as well, Ives worked conscientiously to find another job as an organist after he left St. Thomas's Church in April 1894. He was soon hired at Center Church, one of the most prestigious positions in New Haven, surely an indication of his talent as a performer,.

25. 29 April 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I suppose Mother and Moss arrived from Stamford last evening, and told you about their Stamford visit etc. We finished the game in time to take the 6:20 train and reached New Haven at 7:30. We finally won 13 to 3. I expect to take the first [voice] lesson, as soon as Mr. Bonney gets settled. The service ended up in good shape today. I went to Center Church to see Jepson after service today but he had gone. If I need a tutor at all it will be in Greek, and the best time to have him would [be] right before the exam. Moss says that he is making arrangements by which he he [*sic*] expects to go to U. of P. [Pennsylvania] next fall. I wish I was doing something for my expenses. But I hope I will be again next year. It is a fine day to-day here. Archie was taken quite sick yesterday, and the doctor feared scarlet fever, but he is much better to day. Give my love to Mother and all. Please ask them to send clothes as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

C

26. 2 May 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

The Letter with order rec'd this evening and one with 2 checks yesterday, and wash Monday. Well I have finally seen Mr. Jepson, and he says he will want me to play for him at Center Ch. in the mornings as soon as College opens next Fall, if one with whom he made arrangements with a long while ago can't do it and he says it is very doubtful if he can as since then he has accepted a pos. at Dwight Pl. and he is very doubtful if they will let him off for the mornings.²⁰ He said he hoped things would turn out so I could do it, as he didn't think so very much of the other fellow. He said he had heard of the organist at St Thomas but didn't know that I was the one, and was very glad I asked him. He didn't mention anything, but suppose he would give me $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of his salary which is \$1000. I would have to be only at the Sunday morning rehearsal, and could do as I liked about Sat. evening. As he promised the committee he would be at the other rehearsals. They have a choir etc. He will let me know for sure some time this summer. I can have the organ to practice all I want.

Yours

C

27. 4 March 1895, from Charles W. Whittlesey²¹

Dear Sir:

The Music Committee of Center Church authorize me to offer you the position of organist under Dr. Griggs' directorship, for one year from May 1st 1895 at a salary of \$200.00. If possible I would like to hear from you to-morrow and will then inform you how to get some of the money now due you for services. I will be in my office all day except between one and three or possibly 2:30.

Yours respectfully,

Charles W. Whittlesey

• • •

Though the experience of working for Charles Bonney left a bad taste in Ives's mouth, the ideas about a natural style of singing that he impressed on Ives during his voice lessons seem to have found an outlet in many of Ives's songs. The second letter in this group shows that these lessons were a source of conflict between father and son. Studying singing was not in itself problematic; George's concern seems to have been that all of Charles's extracurricular activities, particularly sports, took too much time away from studying for the impending Yale entrance exam. Charles responds by giving a detailed and defensive description of his daily routine.

20. This is probably Dwight Chapel at Yale.

21. The secretary of Center Church, New Haven. I include this letter here to give a sense of the scope of Ives's job at Center Church. Apparently he was employed ad hoc before March 1895.

28. 6 May 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I don't see how Moss could have misunderstood my postal, as Mr. McIntire told me that he said he rec'd before starting. I said, as I remember that we would not play here anyway, probably would go out of town, and may not play at all. I waited as long as possible to find out what we would do. I am awfully sorry that he came. But Tom is going to write him to come and spend Sunday, next here. I hope he can come then. The hat is neat in looks & shape etc. but is altogether too big. I can't wear anything larger than 6 $\frac{7}{8}$ and the smaller than that even, is better, even with a lot of paper it was too large. I wish he would try and get one same style but smaller size and bring it next week. I took first singing lesson Thurs. He didn't do much except try my voice. He said I had a good high tenor voice and also fairly low. Better than he thought I had. He told me to sing just as I speak, naturally you know. He said too I didn't have any bad faults. He says of what he knows of church com. that Dwight Pl. won't possibly let the organist off.

Yours very truly,

C

29. 8 May 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Your last letter with envelope and paper just rec'd. I can't think of anything in my last letter that wouldn't do for the family to hear. Don't they know I am taking singing lessons, and if they there don't, don't you want to have them know? I don't remember writing anything about extra lessons in that letter, as I thought that you understood from what I have written before, that if I considered it necessary to have any tutors at all, it would be towards the end of the term, and I will look out and attend to that at the proper time. I use the technique every day and see more good in it than I did at first when I thought it didn't amount to much. I also exercise as you said every night and morning. I have succeeded in getting up about 6:30 every morning lately and get quite a little studying done then. I have been playing tennis for the last week or so, as I don't need to go to the field to practice with the nine except the day before the game. And don't see why ~~you insist why~~ you insist on blaming everything on ball, or at least because I didn't write a good letter last Sunday. I usually study in the evening until 9:30 or 10:00, and then go to bed. And this is the program as far as I can state it for the day. Mr. Fox has not complained to me at all for a long while, and I am sure he thinks I am doing all I can. I will try and write to Uncle Lyman soon about studies, but as much as I can say will be what we are studying, etc., and how I am getting along with them, (that is, as to what my opinion is.) but as to what Mr. Fox and the teachers think of course I can't say. Sunday after I had gotten lessons out of the way, I was working on a little song that I am trying to write for Garrison. I worked later than I expected to and then wrote that letter, I was rather tired and probably that was the reason it was so poor. I will try to have better ones in the future. I will attend to cash

acct. and send next chance I get. If Moss would like to wait until May 19 (Sat.) there is a Yale-Princeton game which he might like to see. The last part of this letter is not written perhaps as well as I can, but hope otherwise it is satisfactory.

Yours very truly,
C.

30. 13 May 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I took my second lesson from Mr. Bonney Thurs, he had me sing some of these Concone exercises, but of course paid most attention to the way I get the tone. He believes that singing is only an extension of talking, and makes me say a certain sentence and then sing it with the same kind of voice. I will need some money when my pants and shoes which are being fixed are done. It is also about time for another laundry bill. I will get a tutor if you think best, but I would hardly have time to do the lessons at school and his too. And I am pretty sure Mr. Fox will recommend me one. The base ball season is mainly at an end. I will send a letter to Moss by same mail.

Yours very truly,
C

• • •

Written only weeks before George Ives's fatal stroke, this letter seems to foreshadow the impending tragedy that would so change Ives's life. It also indicates some type of chronic health difficulty in Ives's mother. The letter is particularly touching when read in the context of the flurry of letters home from Charles as he excitedly prepared to begin his job as organist at Center Church and to start his studies at Yale.

31. 28 September 1894, from George Ives, Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Charles,

Was glad to rec've telegram. Want to know particulars but suppose you've been too busy to give details. As Mr. R. has gone to N.Y. I am to stay in the bank all day which will be the first day I have done so since last week Thursday. I feel awfully weak & shaky, but besides that & a cold & cough am about well I hope. Your mother and Moss each have colds. Mother has another new nurse, quite a young girl but starts off well. Rest are as usual. Send Draft for \$5. as you must need that much at least by this time. Love from all,

Father

32. 30 September 1894, to George Ives (written on the back of Letter 31)

Dear Father,

Rec'd your letter with check last evening. I did rather need the check then as I had just found out that I had been admitted to the commons so early, and before I could enter I had to deposit ten dollars in the treasury as a security. As I understand it I can either let that go towards the board (which is \$3.50 a week) or withdraw it again when I return the bond enclosed. Of course you will see where you are to sign, and then when you return it, I will fill it out fully in ink. We were about to move into our room in South Middle, when the Dean sent us word that they who had rented the room before Mullally²² applied had changed their mind and as they were upper class men he had to give it to them, but he said there was a single room in the new Berkeley Hall which we could have until he got us something better although I think we shall be satisfied with that. The price is about the same but we won't have to pay for light, but steam heat is \$12. a year, we also have the use of bathroom. We are not quite sure of this as it depends on whether the fellow who rented it, is coming back, but Prof. Wright thinks that he isn't and will let us know for sure by Tues. or Wed. If we take this room the only thing I will need will be a small folding bed and a few rugs and chairs. It has hard wood floor. Don't send trunk or anything until I send word.

Played at Cen[ter]. Ch[urch]. first time this morning, seemed to go very well. I am going to see Mr. Bonney to morrow and also get my music from St. Thomas' to Center. Began to eat at commons to day. I happened to get at same tables with Ned Tweedy. Rec'd Moss' papers. To read it, it would appear that I didn't often pass a successful examination (which is about right I guess) Ned is trying for foot ball team. Some of the fellows want to have me try, but of course have given up hopes of that. They some times get fellows together later in the season and play scrub games, just for the fun of it, Sat. afternoons, would like to play then if I get to it, and wish you send my football things, and also send heavy flannels, stockings shoes, etc. as I want to sell stockings and pants to some of the H.G.S. team. Haven't moved things yet from Macintires, will write when I know just where we will be.

• • •

College life seems to have boosted Ives's already frenetic level of activity, and his almost impressionistic letters reflect his desire to try to experience everything at once. This letter particularly reveals some of the musical opportunities Ives had as he entered Yale. The University Chamber Concerts were a yearly subscription series that featured performances by the nationally renowned Kneisel and Beethoven String Quartets. The Kneisel Quartet played a concert on the evening this letter was written, with the following program: Haydn's op. 76, no. 4, in B-flat, Jean-Marie Leclair's Sarabande and Tambourine, and Dvořák's op. 34 in D minor.²³ Later in the season the series presented quartets and other chamber music by

22. Ives's roommate, Mandeville Mullally.

23. *Yale Daily News*, 24 October 1894.

Beethoven, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Cherubini, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Brahms.²⁴ The *Yale Daily News* reported the program of the organ recital by Horatio Parker that Ives mentioned. It included works by Joseph Rheinberger, Alessandro Stradella, Wagner, Alexandre Guilmant, Théodore Dubois, Bach, and Parker himself.²⁵

33. 24 October 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

Yours rec'd last evening. The man that makes them ought to know best about the cords
The dis. between the window frames for pole or rod is 3 ft. 4½ in. I should think some
colored stuff would [be] better than white, something like that in the music room. I have
bought a ticket of Mr Hume²⁶ for the series of chamber concerts, this winter, Kneisel,
Beethoven quartets etc. \$2.50. Hope to hear the symphony concert Tues. When you get
time please send Garrison some more lessons, if only a little. We can go over them
together. Also please send the man[uscript]. of the march I was fixing just before I left.
When you send the cushions, curtains, etc., please send my black hat, also. Have Thatcher
Hoyt block it as he did Moss'. Have seen a good deal of Ned, Ebbie, and Bert Van, who
also come over to the room quite often. I began playing football a little the other day I
go out regularly, from 2–3 on Tues, Thu, & Fri, every week. The other days they have
games. Its pretty good exercise as they make us run in and out to the field, which is little
over a mile. There is not much fun in it, as I thought at first there would be, especially as
I don't play in the games, but think I will keep it up for a while as I feel better for it. They
take us in the gym. and give us a rub down after it. Mr. Parker gives an organ recital this
evening in Battel [Chapel]. I have made arrangements with the blower for every day ex-
cept Tues. and Fri., as I have recitations at that time. I send some old copies of the "Lit."²⁷
which Mullally's brother was editor, and which Mandeville will probably be on before he
gets through his college course. If Moss wants to try to see what he can do, he might write
something and hand it in under my name, which is all right. If he writes anything, it must
be some, good sensible piece. He must know thoroughly what he is writing about, not only
to have it sound good, but it must mean something, and above all it must be original but
not in an egotistic way. Some little short stories are good, too. There is no harm in trying,
as if it ~~don't~~ isn't published, they will return it with suggestions etc. The "Lit" is the best
and largest paper in college, and to get on it is even a bigger thing than to make the football
team (at least some consider it so).

Yours Very Truly,

C. E. Ives

24. *Yale Daily News*, 3 November 1894; 12 December 1894; 26 January 1895; 12 February 1895; 27 February 1895; 24 April 1895.

25. *Yale Daily News*, 25 October 1894.

26. Hume was Ives's tutor for the Yale entrance exams.

27. *Yale Literary Magazine*.

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Almost as a balancing gesture against the dark premonitions of George Ives's letter, above, the following letter hints at a brighter future, as Ives mentions for the first time seeing the man who would one day be his father-in-law.

34. 29 October 1894, to George Ives

Dear Father,

I started a letter Sunday evening to you but left it before I had finished, to go over to Dwight Hall as Mullally wanted to have me go with him to hear the Rev. Mr. Twichell of Hartford. When I got back I couldn't seem to find it, and so thought I would [wait] until to day, and start a new one, although I found the other one between the leaves of a book where I had put it. We had an exam this afternoon so I had to wait until this evening before I wrote. Will try to get them off on Sunday after this. Rec'd Moss' letter Sat. We would both be glad to have Grandmother send us the "Out book" and will read it. There is a fellow who sits at my table at the commons, he asked me the other day, if I knew a Mr. Henry Hoyt in D[anbury,] that he was in his father's class '33 and had heard his father speak of him. His name is Bingham of Honolulu Sandwich Islands. I wore the overcoat Sunday, the sleeves are a little long, and maybe it is very little too short, otherwise it seems alright will keep until the other comes. Mullally has gotten a window seat from Mr. Crampton. It will be as for both of us, so he will let him have at wholesale price, let Unc. Joe send the bill to me and he will pay me. Mr. Butler's new address is #3-3-7 I copied the other one out of the directory. I wish the things could be sent as soon as possible. I see Nowell [Howard?] Starr quite often he was over here the other evening. I expect to write Grandmother and Uncle Joe soon, with love to all

Yours very truly,

C. E. Ives

Oct. 29

Please send march, music sheet paper & that book of B. Conwalls that Dr. Stoeckel used, Harmony.

• • •

George Ives's death on 8 November 1894 marked a stark turning point in his son's life. After this date there are few surviving letters to and from Charles at school. Letters like this one to his mother indicate that at least outwardly Ives continued much as before and that his musical ambition was still strong. The letter also mentions John Griggs, the choirmaster at Center Church, who became an important friend and musical influence.

35. 20 January 1895, to Mollie Ives

Dear Mother,

I rec'd your's and Aunt Amelia's letters. I finally found the landlady in and paid her \$10.00. I told her about the mistake in the bill etc. and said she [would] make out another one and have it ready next week. The chairs haven't arrived yet, were they coming by express or freight, we suppose they would come by freight so we had a car man look out for them. I will say before I forget it that Garrison was much pleased with his hat, he says it fits him better than any hat he ever had. The commons bill was 15 weeks instead of 12. It began Oct. 13 Thur. which week I had to pay for as I went in before the 22nd. Mullally also owes about \$6.00 as he went in on a guest ticket with me before he was admitted as a regular member. I spoke a little while ago about taking a few lessons this winter with Dudley Buck as I haven't had any lessons at all for quite a while. I think it almost necessary that I should and if I don't get any other good from it, just being a pupil of Buck's would be very helpful. I think I can go about every 3 wks until about March or April. I think he charges \$4. a lesson. Mr. Griggs who advised me to do it has made arrangements for next Thurs. at 5 o'clock. I can leave here about 1.30 and get back about 8.30 or 9 o'clock. I have more time than I did, and no recitations Thurs afternoon. So I will go down any way next Thurs. unless I hear to the contrary from you.

Please ask Moss to go up to Izzie Raymond's and ask her for the copy of "Rock of Ages" which I wrote some time ago, and also ask Uncle Ly. for a copy of his song, "The Ocean and the heavens are arrayed in blue etc." I didn't send laundry as I had so few to send. Will send it next week. I enclose receipt from washing. With love to Grandmother and all

Yours Very Truly,
Chas

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Ives graduated from Yale in 1898 but continued his association with many classmates and alumni. He lived with a number of recent Yale graduates in "Poverty Flat," a series of shared apartments in New York City, until his marriage. Letters from this time are very few. One scrawled draft, written to his future brother-in-law David Twichell in 1903, survives to give a sense of the rowdiness of Ives and his friends in the years just after school. The letter describes two trips. The first one was to Keene Valley, New York, with a Twichell family friend and Yale compatriot, Delano Wood, over Labor Day. The second was a trip to Pine Mountain, near Danbury.²⁸ Here also is a brief description of life in Poverty Flat.

28. See Mark Tucker, "Of Men and Mountains: Ives in the Adirondacks," in *Charles Ives and His World*, ed. J. Peter Burkholder (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), 170–71.

36. September or October 1903, to David Twichell, New York

Dear Dave,

Why don't you occasionally write damn you anyway I hear good reports from time to time and hence the pyramids.²⁹ Willis Wood spent a day with us recently & tells us you're in good form and an able foreman in the "wheez factory."³⁰ Del Wood took me to Keene Valley over Labor Day. We didn't seize any panthers, but had an agreeable time though am afraid I was a disturbing element being full of malaria . . . quinine and whisky at the time. YES. The flat is filled with 2 new dogs. Harry Farmer of Bart's class and Walter McCormack, a cousin of Vance.

Winter and Malony held a convention last evening. W insists upon more authority, that Malony's position is of the character of a secretaryship and not the vaunted idea in any sense of imperial treasurer or controller; that the bills be paid by him because when he don't want to, when he won't, then for just this reason, it can't be, because and why not etc. etc. A stenographer on the scene would have furnished Weber & Fields a 3rd act.

Bill takes it so placidly that my crys are most for Keyes, but for no real reason otherwise. Saw Morris Ely a while ago and says Joe is at present a good 2nd in the quarterback business I hope he keeps along through this season and doesn't get laid up.

We finally succeeded in placing that shanty on the mountain in Ridgefield, but did it unbeknownst to Aunt Amelia fearing adverse suggestions. It makes a good young camp. Geo Lewis went up with me last month taking Sat. afternoon off. What! We spent the night on the mountain. Having no curtains on the window, it took 2 hours of kind words to get the old scrinch to disrobe. He being afraid that some farmer's wives in the next house (about 3 miles down in the valley) would peek at him. He walked all day long in a circle among the woods and discovered an egg—that Benedict Arnold laid in the battle of Ridgefield. Remember me to Deac.³¹ Is he with you and answer this soon.

Sincerely,

Chas E. Ives

29. This is the first of several references to the mysterious "pyramids" in the correspondence. See also Letter 369.

30. Twichell worked as a physician in a tuberculosis sanatorium at Saranac Lake, New York.

31. David and Harmony Twichell's older brother, Edward.