

Sunday, June 24th, 1945

My dearest Billy,

Yesterday night, I received your charming letter with immense pleasure and I had the great joy of finding one of your beautiful photos, I had a little special frame made [for it] and I put it in my room. It has been 5 days, dear Billy, since I sang at Copacabana and I had great success. I really regret that you were not there.⁹ I sang “Still as the Night” and “Begin the Beguine.”¹⁰ No one wanted me to stop, they wanted me to keep singing, I was very happy but I would have been even more so if you had been there. Dearest Billy, when will you come back? I am anxious to see you again. I was supposed to give a letter to one of your friends. But I didn’t get a chance to because he did not come to pick it up at the Red Cross, without a doubt he had [already] left. Now, the Red Cross [dances] are every night except for Wednesday but I only go 2 or 3 times per week. At this moment, there is a really good American orchestra. Dearest Billy, I never forget to look at our dear little star and it seems that it speaks of you to me. Dear Billy, I’ll finish my letter because I have to go rehearse. Tomorrow, I am singing at my singing coach’s [house] who is hosting a party. Dear Billy, give my best wishes to Bob. Mother sends you all of her love. Wishing to see you again very soon or to receive one of your kind letters. Please do receive, dearest Billy, all my love and a thousand kisses.

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⁹Maybe in reference to a club known for providing entertainment and fun, it also celebrated primarily American pop culture. Originally founded in New York City in 1940, it was known as a well-connected nightclub that hosted many famed performers. It boasts even hosting many of the top talents of World War II. The Copacabana was often adorned with Brazilian decor and Latin-theme orchestras hosted events for soldiers on leave and would often invite local artists to perform for them.

¹⁰Begin the Beguine is a song written by Cole Porter. Porter composed the song while on a cruise from Indonesia to Fiji in 1935. The song gained little attention after its initial release because of its length and unconventional form. However, once bandleader Artie Shaw, recorded an extended rearrangement of the song with a swing orchestra, the song began to gain popularity. Throughout the years, the song has been covered and re-recorded by countless artists like Ella Fitzgerald and Elvis Presley to name a few. “Begin the Beguine” was evidently a World War II classic and it was later famously adapted into a painting by Max Backmann in 1946. No information found on Still As the Night, could be in reference to 1937 Cole Porter song.