November 26, 2012

Billy Sherrill

601 Lynnbrook Rd.

Nashville, TN 37215-1025

Dear Mr. Sherrill,

I’m writing a book on record production, specifically on the production of country music. It’s an oral history, and it’s under contract with Wesleyan University Press. I would really like to talk with you, by phone, about your work as a producer. Thirty minutes is all I’m requesting. I’m interested in asking two sorts of questions. The first is theoretical: How did you understand your role as producer? The second is more practical. I’d like to hear about a few sessions that you produced, about your practices as a producer.

I started this project a number of years ago, and in the course of my research I’ve spoken with a number of people: Chet Atkins, Shelby Singleton, Steve Cropper, Jack Clement, Sid Feller, Tompall Glaser, Jerry Kennedy, Tony Brown, Ken Nelson, Don Pierce, Jimmy Bowen, Bob Johnston, Jerry Wexler, and Tom Dowd.

Still—and this is way more fact than flattery—I really need to include your comments for my work to be complete. Would you grant me an interview? I can be reached, most easily, at home: (717) 852-3283. You could also contact me via email (jmj3@psu.edu) . If you’re willing to talk, you could leave me a convenient time to call and your phone number, or you could tell me (or my answering machine) when to be ready for your call. I’m available any time, day or evening, except Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Thanks for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Michael Jarrett