





THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

welcome you to

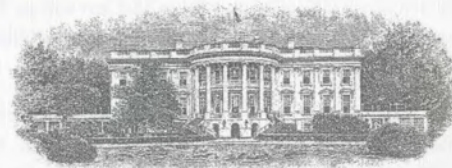
THE WHITE HOUSE

for entertainment honoring

THE GOVERNORS

OF THE

STATES AND TERRITORIES



Sunday, February 25, 2007

RONAN TYNAN

Though Ronan Tynan enjoyed singing as a boy, he did not seriously consider formal voice study until he was 33 and well into his residency as a physician. His quick success is a typical development in a life of extraordinary achievement. Born with lower limb disability that threatened to sideline him throughout childhood, Tynan still rode horses and raced motorcycles. When he was twenty, his legs had to be amputated below the knee after an auto accident caused serious complications. Within a year, he was winning gold medals in the Paralympics as a multitalented athlete. Between 1981 and 1984, Tynan amassed eighteen gold medals and fourteen world records of which he still holds nine.

The determination instilled in Tynan by his parents soon propelled him to conquer a whole new field. He became the first person with a disability ever admitted to the National College of Physical Education. He later became a full-fledged medical doctor, specializing in orthopedic sports injuries, with a degree from Trinity College.

Tynan won both the John McCormack Cup for Tenor Voice and the BBC talent show *Go For It* less than one year after beginning to study voice. He also won the International Operatic Singing Competition in Maumarde, France. In 1998, Tynan joined Anthony Kearns and John McDermott as The Irish Tenors, an instant worldwide sensation. His autobiography *Halfway Home* was published in February of 2001.

This gifted Irishman considers New York his home away from home. "The thing I love about New York and the states is that...they encourage you, and they rejoice in your success. That's a great virtue."

Selections by

RONAN TYNAN



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