

Draft 12/03/99 4:00pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR ACLU BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER
HONORING VH-1 PRESIDENT JOHN SYKES
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
December 15, 1999**

Good evening. I am glad to be a part of this year's ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner, and to join you in saluting my friend John Sykes. Tonight he joins very elite company: past honorees like Rosa Parks, Frank Capra, and Barbra Streisand; as well as John Wells and the Hollywood Ten, whom you also honor tonight. Like the ACLU itself, these men and women – each in their own, remarkable ways – have stood steadfast for the basic rights and liberties of our people. They exemplify – and strengthen – the values of our nation's founders.

Just last month, here at the White House, Hillary and I hosted a wonderful concert – some of the greatest musicians of our time, on one stage. It was John Sykes who brought them together, and for one important reason: to bring the power of music, and music education, into the lives of our children. That's what his VH-1 "Save the Music" program has been doing for three years now. The efforts of John Sykes are already improving the quality of music education across our country – teaching more children the value of patience and practice, giving them an outlet for the ideas and emotions only music can express.

When Hillary and I helped John launch "Save the Music," I gave one of my own saxophones to an accomplished young musician – Gregory Thompson of Washington, DC. Thanks to John Sykes, more than 120,000 children have received gifts like this one – small investments that can help a young artist fulfill his or her God-given abilities. I think that's a pretty good investment.

John, Hillary and I send you our heartfelt congratulations for tonight's award. And, as I hope you know, you already have our heartfelt gratitude for all the causes you champion, from music education to AIDS research, from supporting the Special Olympics to creating new opportunities for the people our prosperity has not yet reached. My thanks to John, and to all of you at the ACLU who do such important work. Best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET



To: Josh
Company: White House
Phone:
Fax: 202-456-2505

From: Bob Mariscan
Company:
Phone: 212-846-7627
Fax:

Date:
Pages including this: 2

Comments:

Here are the downmats. please

Call me to discuss: 212-846-7627

KATHIE BERLIN

Opening greeting to the audience at the ACLU dinner in L.A

This evening has a long tradition of honoring great Americans who have fought for the basic civil liberties and civil rights for all of our people. Some of the past honorees have been Rosa Parks, Frank Capra, Gregory Peck, Smokey Turkle, Barbra Streisand and tonight you honor my friend, John Sykes.

I am thrilled to send ^{Fantastic} my congratulations to John. Hillary and I have been apart of ~~VH1~~ ^{the} VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC from the start. A young man in Washington DC (get name) has one of my saxophones. It was one of the first of ~~one~~ million dollars worth of instruments that have been distributed to public school students across the country. This program is a model of how the private sector can support the public need. Facts here about how much it has helped raise the SAT scores, the Presidents personal reflections of his music teachers, etc.

Last month ^{for VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC} Hillary and I hosted a concert here at the White House, ^{VH1} CONCERT OF THE CENTURY, where some of the music greats performed to benefit SAVE THE MUSIC and promote music education in our schools. John Sykes has, in the last three years, been responsible for bringing the joy of music back into the lives of our children.

My warmest regards to all of you, who year after year support the ACLU and the extraordinary work they do to protect the rights of all Americans. I hope you have a wonderful evening, and again, John, Hillary and I are very proud to be your friend.

NOTE: John first became aware of the lack of music in the schools when he was as Principal for a Day in a school in Brooklyn. He asked to hear the band or orchestra play and was informed that there was no music program. Last year he went to another school where kids had instruments that were held together with tape, he asked the principal where the instruments came from, she told him she got them a flea markets. That school got an entire new set of instruments at the beginning of the school year this fall.



John Sykes
President
VH1
1515 Broadway
20th floor
212.846.7880 phone
212 846.6721 fax

Date: December 1, 1999
To: Josh Gottheimer
Fax: 202.456.2505
From: Nancy Bergen for John Sykes
Pages: 10

Dear Josh,

Kathie Berlin asked us to fax you the attached information. Please feel free to call our office if we can help with anything else.

Thanks.



1515 BROADWAY NEW YORK NY 10036-5797 TELEPHONE (212) 846-7880 FAX (212) 846-6731
JOHN SYKES PRESIDENT

JOHN SYKES

John Sykes is the President of VH1, one of the fastest growing networks in cable television. Having established VH1 as one of the strongest brands in cable, Sykes oversees the overall day-to-day operations and programming of the channel. VH1 reaches 69 million US television homes.

His innovative leadership and numerous accomplishments in the music entertainment industry led John to be tapped as VH1's President in 1994. Since his arrival, Sykes has guided the channel to unprecedented success with more viewers now tuning in than ever before. Dedicating itself to "Music First," the network has taken an active position in presenting both new and established artists on such critically acclaimed programs as "Legends," "Storytellers" and "Behind the Music."

Under Sykes, VH1 not only has become a force in the music industry but is helping to raise public awareness about the importance of music participation for our nation's youth. VH1 Save The Music, the pro-social initiative which Sykes instituted in 1997 to help restore and support music education in the nation's public schools, has supported more than 350 school music programs in 30 American cities, enriching the lives of more than 120,000 children. To date, the Foundation has generated over \$25 million in total support. President Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and General Colin Powell, as well as other high profile Americans, have lent their time and support to VH1 Save the Music.

Sykes began his own career in the music industry at CBS Records in 1977. He then joined Warner Amex Satellite Entertainment, to be part of the original, pioneering team to launch MTV: Music Television. In 1986, he left the company to join the Creative Artists Agency where he remained until 1988.

Sykes was then named President of Champion Entertainment where he guided the careers of such well-known artists as John Mellencamp, Mariah Carey, Carly Simon and Hall and Oates. Soon after, he was selected to become President of Chrysalis Records, overseeing the music label's day-to-day operations throughout the United States and leading the company in 1990 to its best sales year in its 25 year history.

In 1992, Sykes joined EMI Music Publishing Worldwide, the world's largest music publishing company. As Executive Vice President of Talent Acquisition and Marketing, he signed and developed such top-selling artists as Stone Temple Pilots and Counting Crows, whose combined album sales alone have surpassed 15 million units.

Sykes has received numerous awards for his philanthropic efforts including the 1999 Corporate Leadership Award from the Arts & Business Council; 1998 FAME Award from the Music Educators National Conference for his support of music education; the 1998 Spotlight Award from the Creative Coalition; and the 1996 Spirit of Life Award from the City of Hope Cancer Research Center and Hospital.

He currently serves as a board member of The Robin Hood Foundation, City of Hope Cancer Center and Hospital, the T.J. Martell Cancer Foundation, Leukemia Foundation, LIFEbeat, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He is also a member of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School Advisory Board.

Sykes earned his B.S. in Communications from Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. He lives in New York City with his wife Laurie, son Jack and daughter Kate.



FACTS

Kids who are involved in music programs score 100 points higher of the SAT's than students who are not.

New research studies point out that children involved with active music participation demonstrates significant improvements to their spatial abilities, important for success in math and science.

Research shows children involved in music programs have improved reading abilities, higher self-esteem and are less likely to be involved with gangs and drugs.

Today only 25% of our nation's eight graders are able to participate in instrumental music and access to these programs becomes even worse in our most urban and rural settings. The children who need these programs are the ones who have them the least.

VH1 Save the Music helps children become involved in a worthwhile activity that has positive benefits to their use of time in and out of school.

ABOUT VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC

The VH1 Save The Music initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in America's public schools by restoring music programs in cities across the country, and by raising public awareness about the importance of music participation for our nation's youth.

VH1 Save The Music is a separate, 501 C3 non-profit foundation.

More than 90% of every dollar marked for the VH1 Save The Music Foundation finds its way into a child's hand in the form of a musical instrument.

During 1998, President Clinton donated his personal saxophone to a student in the Washington D.C. public schools system and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed her support of the program at a national White House event as a model public/private partnership to help bring music/arts education back to schoolchildren.

By the end of 1999, the Foundation has generated \$25 million in total support and implemented 350 school music programs in 30 American cities, which has enriched the lives of more than 120,000 children.

Our ten-year plan is to provide \$100 million of total support to bring music participation to one million children. This announcement was made at a White House press conference attended by The First Lady.

Special Events

VH1 Save The Music supports a wide variety of events and activities around the country to help raise awareness. 1999 special events included:

- ♦ The Concert of the Century for VH1 Save the Music joined some of music's greatest performers on the White House lawn for a once-in-a-lifetime concert.
- ♦ DIVAS LIVE '99 – VH1's highest rated broadcast was a platform to raise awareness for VH1 Save The Music and to promote the importance of music education for our children. The CD from Arista is currently on sale. A portion of the proceeds goes to VH1 Save the Music.
- ♦ VH1 Save The Music TODAY - This weeklong instrument drive in partnership with the NBC's Today Show collected over 1000 instruments during the week.
- ♦ Premieres of the film Music of the Heart - VH1 Save The Music, in partnership with other national music organizations developed 41 screenings on a single night of the film Music of the Heart. This film features the real life story of a teacher who fought to keep her music program alive
- ♦ Local Instrument Drives – Working with or local cable affiliates VH1 Save The Music conducted instrument drives and ran local public service campaigns to support music education restoration in the local markets.

Awards

- ♦ 1999 Business Council for the Arts Award for Innovation
- ♦ 1999 Leadership Award presented by the North Eastern Division of MENC- The National Association for Music Education
- ♦ 1999 Business Partnership Award from the New York City Public Schools
- ♦ 1999 Beacon Award from the Cable Television Public Affairs Association
- ♦ Received 1998 Creative Coalition "Leadership in Education" award.
- ♦ Received 1998 Foundation for the Advancement of Music Education Award
- ♦ Received 1998 Arts and Business Council award for leadership in education.

Proclamations

Mayor of Buffalo, Mayor of New York City; Mayor of Newark NJ; Newark Public Schools, Mayor of Providence, Los Angeles Unified School District,

Endorsements

The VH1 Save The Music Program has received the endorsements of the following organizations:

- ♦ National School Boards Association
- ♦ Council of Chief State School Officers
- ♦ MENC- The National Association for Music Education

- ♦ America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth
- ♦ RIAA- Recording Industry Association of America
- ♦ NAMM- International Music Products Association
- ♦ National Association of Band Instrument Manufacturers

Sponsors

National Sponsors of VH1 Save The Music are Best Buy, Subaru and Tommy Jeans

#

ACLU*Liberty and Justice for All***American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California**

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Los Angeles, CA
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fax: 213. 250. 3919

email: acluinfo@aclu-sc.orgwebsite: www.aclu-sc.org

October 12, 1999

John Sykes

Vh-1

1515 Broadway Fl 20

New York, NY 10036-8901

Dear John:

President
Stephen F. Rohde

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Judith Glass
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Diane Hochman

~~Each December, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California celebrates the anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights by paying tribute to individuals who help to preserve civil liberties and civil rights. This event provides vital resources which fund the ACLU's watchdog efforts to protect fundamental constitutional rights. Please join in that defense by supporting this tribute to our remarkable honorees.~~

We are very pleased to announce that this year's Bill of Rights Awards will be presented to **John Sykes, President of VH1 and television producer John Wells.** We will also take this opportunity to recognize **"The Hollywood Ten"** with the 1999 Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award.

The dinner will be held at the **Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel** on the 208th anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights, **Wednesday, December 15th.** Our program will feature special guests, including **Sean Penn and Gary Shandling.**

In 1995, when **John Sykes** saw students playing musical instruments held together with gaffer's tape, he made sure their efforts were rewarded and their instruments were upgraded. He enlisted a broad array of media outlets and music product retailers, in partnership with educators, to create a formidable task force. Together, they created the VH1 "Save the Music" program, which has been a tremendous success and has changed many lives. ~~"Music develops basic math and reading skills, spatial reasoning skills, self-esteem, self-discipline, and creativity," Sykes contends. "Children exposed to music generally have fewer alcohol and drug-related problems, better school attendance, and higher SAT scores."~~ No professional advocate could have said it better. ~~As the head of VH1, Sykes has championed many causes, including AIDS, cancer and MS research, the Special Olympics, as well as bringing attention to many issues through the "VH1 Honors Program."~~ We are pleased to recognize him for his dedication to the principles we share. ☺

We honor **John Wells** for many reasons, including the strong stand that he took against censorship during the debates over the TV ratings system. He demonstrated tremendous insight and courage, and proved to be an effective advocate. Without articulate leaders like Wells, we may see the important issues that he has tackled in his productions, such as HIV disease and physician-assisted suicide, fall prey to the ratings system. So far, his efforts have proven helpful in creating a less intrusive approach to rating television shows. Wells' productions have taken advantage of an incredibly powerful medium, television, using it as a forum to encourage families and communities to discuss sometimes painful issues. As the writer and producer of "China Beach," Wells brought before the public the stark realities of war, its effect on anyone it touches, and the need for compassion and tolerance. Through his enormously popular show "ER," he once again explores the complexities of the human condition with great integrity. Wells has been exceptionally sensitive in examining our differences, as well as what unites us. We pay tribute to him for fostering the ideals that support liberty and justice.



Liberty and Justice for All

**American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California**

In 1947, the House Committee on Un-American Activities held hearings to determine if there were Communists working in Hollywood. The unfriendly witnesses: 19 writers, producers, directors and actors -- all accused of Communist Party membership without being permitted to examine any of the evidence against them -- made a united defense. Rather than plead the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination, they stood firmly behind the First Amendment tenet that the government had no right to question one's memberships or beliefs. After the first ten were called, the hearings were abruptly canceled and the witnesses were cited for contempt of Congress. In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear their appeal and "**The Hollywood Ten**" went to jail. Their case has become an example of how social and political panic can goad the government into violating an individual citizen's rights of association and belief. The HUAC hearings remain a reminder of how fragile the First Amendment is, and how it can only be enforced with the advocacy of ideas. We honor the "Hollywood Ten," who paid a substantial price for their belief in freedom, with the Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award.

The mission of the ACLU is to defend and expand the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and its Bill of Rights. Your support for the ACLU helps ensure that we can mount the best defense possible to maintain the fundamental rights that we all cherish. By taking part in this annual event and by honoring these deserving protectors of freedom, you provide critical support for the ACLU's work.

It is our hope that as a supporter of liberty and justice you will join in this tribute to our wonderful honorees. Several of these journal/ticket packages include distinctive journal and (if we hear from you no later than November 1) invitation acknowledgments.

This celebration promises to be a very special evening and we strongly encourage you to join us. During the reception we will enjoy the music of the Ladies Choice String Quartet. **Please call Meegan Lee Ochs, our Special Projects Consultant, toll free at (877) ACLU-4-US (225-8487) or fax toll free (877) FAX-ACLU (329-2258) for any additional ticket and journal information.**

Many, many thanks for joining our anniversary celebration, paying tribute to our distinguished honorees, and for supporting the defense of individual rights and equal justice.

Warm regards,

Ramona Ripston
Executive Director

ACLU of Southern California
Bill of Rights Dinner
Celebrating the 208th anniversary of the Bill of Rights
Wednesday, December 15, 1999
Honoring

VH1 President
John Sykes

Television Producer
John Wells

and

We will also recognize
The Hollywood Ten
 with the Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award

Special Guests will include
Sean Penn
Gary Shandling

Reception at 6:00
 Dinner and program at 7:00
 Music by The Ladies Choice String Quartet
Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel

Commemorative Journal - Special Tribute Ad/Ticket Packages

Benefactor of the Bill of Rights \$ 50,000*

- Two tables of ten in the Benefactors' Circle
- Back cover of the Journal with two-color ad
- Listed in invitation/journal as Benefactor of the Bill of Rights

Champion of Justice \$ 25,000*

- Table of ten in the Champions' Circle
- Back or inside cover of the Journal with two-color ad
- Listed in invitation/journal as Champion of Justice

Guardian of Liberty \$ 10,000*

- Table of ten in the Guardians' Circle
- Guardian two consecutive full-page ad (10" x 8") bound in the center in the Journal
- Listed in invitation/journal as Guardian of Liberty

* Tax-deductible gift (less \$50 per ticket) to the ACLU Foundation, which supports our vital legal program.

Defender of Rights \$ 5,000

- Table of ten in the Defenders' Circle
- Defender full-page ad in the Journal
- Listed in invitation/journal as Defender of Rights

Protector of Freedom \$ 3,000

- Table of ten in the Protectors' Circle
- Protector full-page ad in the Journal
- Listed in invitation/journal as Protector of Freedom

Sponsor of Equality \$ 2,000

- Table of ten in the Sponsors' Circle
- Sponsor full-page ad in the Journal
- Listed in invitation/Journal as Sponsor of Equality

Friend of Liberty \$ 1,000

- Table of ten in the Friends' Circle
- Listed in invitation and Journal as Friend of Liberty

(Individual tickets and ads on reverse side)

To include you in the invitation, we must hear from you no later than 11/1
 The Journal deadline is 11/30

Oct-20-99 11:09 ACLU SO CA

213 250-3919

P.09

ACLU FOUNDATION

OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Liberty and Justice for All

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October 19, 1999

John Sykes
VH1
1515 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10036
Attn: Nancy, Heather and Bigril

VIA FAX 212-846-6721

Charles Emeriti
Danny Goldberg
Allan K. Jonas
Burt Lancaster
Irving Lichtenstein, M.D.
Laurie Ostraw
Stanley K. Sheinbaum

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Executive Director
Ramona Ripston

Legal Director
Mark D. Rosenbaum

Dear Mr. Sykes:

All of us at the ACLU are thrilled that we will have the opportunity to pay tribute to your extraordinary efforts on behalf of children and their education. You are a great advocate and your passion is truly exemplary. At this event we will also honor television producer John Wells and pay homage to the Hollywood Ten.

The Bill of Rights Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 15, at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles. We will be in touch as the date draws near to discuss the details of the event such as your guests, the program for the evening, whether you would like to use a Teleprompter, and other details.

As you know, Sean Penn will present you with this well deserved recognition. At the event, we often have a video that represents the work of the honoree. As you well understand, the strong impact of visual images is wonderful. I was wondering if you had any video that reflects the successful work of the "VH1 Save the Music" program or of your many other philanthropic efforts, such as the "VH1 Honors" programs, that could be used in a tribute video of approximately five minutes? If you would prefer for the video to be created by those you work with, that would be great. We would be happy to make a tribute video to you; however, it could never have the production quality of a VH1 video.

If you have a list of people you would like us to send our sponsor letter and invitation to, we would be happy to do so. If you would prefer, we can provide you with invitations when they are printed, and your assistant could send them.

Board of Directors • Ruth Abraham • Steven D. Aron • Steven Baker • Marilyn Bergman • Frank Cooper III • Barbara Cuddy • Richard Dreyfuss • John J. Duran • Alan Friel • Leo Franklin • Sherry Franklin • Mary Ellen Gale • Gary Gersh • Richard Gibbs • Amy Sommer Gifford • Dan Gifford • Ellen Greenstone • Elyse Grinstein • Stanley Grinstein • Peter Grosslight • Liz Heller • Barry Hirsch • Leonard A. Kaufman • Roger L. Kahn • Dennis Lavinthal • Norman Lear • Lauren Leitchman • Shari Linnwand • Arthur E. Levine • Roger Lowenstein • Mark Magidson • Shirley Magidson • Steven Markoff • Valin Marquill • Robin Meadow • Douglas L. Mirell • Jerry Moss • Frederick M. Nicholas • Max Paley • Sarah Jessica Parker • Donald S. Passman • Tom Pridgen • Jeanne Phillips • Phil Quannaro • Judy Ulatian Quine • Andrea Rich • Rosa Robbins • Stephen E. Rohde • Richard Rosenzweig • Tom Ross • Ellen Schneiderman • Julia Benjamin Sender • Sherwood (Bob) Shaler • Bob Shaye • Alan Sieroty • Joni Sigvatsson • Robert Smith • Fred Speckin • Michael Stoltzberg • Barbara Streisand • Kate Sullivan • Barry Tarrow • Florence Temkin • Nick Wechsler • Paula Weinstein • JoAnne Widzer • Gareth Wigan • Irwin Winkler • Chie Wolk • Beatrice Zeiger

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Oct-20-99 11:09 ACLU SO CA

213 250-3919

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*Liberty and Justice for All*

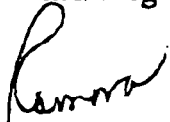
October 19, 1999

Page two

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on my private line, 213-977-9532, or our Special Projects Consultant, Meegan Lee Ochs, toll free at 877-225-8487 (877-ACLU-4-US).

It will be a great joy for the ACLU to salute you at the Bill of Rights Dinner. I look forward to meeting you in person in December, if not before. We are all looking forward to what promises to be a wonderful evening.

Warmest regards,


Ramona Ripston
Executive Director

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO VH1 "SAVE THE MUSIC" EVENT
April 13, 1998

I want to thank Hillary and John Sykes for their comments, and I want to tell you how pleased I am to help launch VH1's national "Save the Music" program, which is already improving the quality of music education across our country. You know, music education is something very dear to my heart. When I was in high school I had a music teacher named Virgil Spurlin, and he taught me a lot more than scales and keys and how to hold a steady note on the saxophone. Mr. Spurlin taught me about patience and practice, and hard work and dedication.

The music I made on that first tenor saxophone of mine wasn't always beautiful to the ear--my mother would testify to that. But as I learned and improved, I came to understand how important a musical instrument can be as an outlet for creativity, and for ideas and emotions that only music can express. That's why the "Save the Music" program is so important. One small investment of a donated musical instrument can help a young artist fulfill his or her God-given abilities. And I think that's a pretty good investment.

In that spirit, I am so very pleased to present this saxophone of mine to an accomplished young artist, Gregory Thompson. Gregory's been playing the saxophone since the fourth grade, and last year he won an invitation to play in the Duke Ellington Youth Music Festival--a high honor. Gregory even plays the drums--which we learned when his church ensemble played at a White House holiday party last year. Gregory, I'm proud--and I know your parents are proud--that you've developed your gift for music. And with the help of "Save the Music," other students will, too.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 23, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND MRS. CLINTON
AT THE
CONCERT OF THE CENTURY FOR VH-1
SAVE THE MUSIC

3:58 P.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Welcome, and please be seated. We're delighted to welcome you to the Concert Of The Century here at the White House. Under this tent, there are educators, activists and some of the best artists in our country. There are also people like me, who never quite learned to carry a tune, but appreciate those who can. But all of us are here with the same goal: to put music back into our schools and into our children's lives. (Applause.)

I want to thank you all for coming to what will be an amazing performance. Many of you were with me a year ago at the White House when we issued a call to action, and asked all Americans to make the cause of the arts and music education their own. And that's exactly what this concert will help us do.

None of this would have been possible without so many of the people here today. And I want to thank Bill Ivey and the National Endowment for the Arts, for bringing the arts to every corner of America. (Applause.)

I want to thank Tommy Hilfiger for his generous support of music education. (Applause.) And I'm grateful for all the extraordinary artists who are lending their voices and talents here today. And I especially want to thank our friend, John Sykes, and the VH-1 crew, Save the Music Foundation, for all you do every day to save the music. (Applause.)

And time and again, I've seen John's personal commitment to this issue, and the difference it has made to so many children who now have an instrument to play, and the confidence to go as far as their dreams and talents will take them. We've enjoyed getting to know John, and please join me in welcoming John Sykes. (Applause.)

* * * * *

MRS. CLINTON: I am delighted to join the National Endowment for the Arts and the VH-1 Save the Music Foundation, and so many extraordinary artists and educators who are bringing the power of music into our children's lives.

I had the privilege, last year, to meet Troy, the boy we just saw in the film. And as he talked about the french horn, I saw the same excitement I have seen in the eyes of so many young people who are playing their hearts out in schools around the country. I have met children who joined an orchestra instead of a gang; children who had never spoken, not one word, until they took a music class; and children who have picked up instruments and followed their dreams.

We know that learning music changes lives, and every child must have that chance. Whether you are Shamari Smith playing the trombone in

South Central L.A., or 'NSync, who is here with us today, all the young people filling their hearts and minds with music are stars. And their stories tell us that music education is a necessity, not a luxury. It can spark our children's confidence and creativity -- (applause) -- and it can be the one anchor that keeps so many of them engaged in their schools and communities, instead of dropping out or giving up.

And as a report released just yesterday shows, kids who play instruments are even more likely to succeed in math. But don't trust the statistics; go to a school concert in your town. Take a look at a child's proud face as she takes a bow. Or talk to inspiring teachers, like Roberta Guaspari, who have matched their students with the instruments that they need to come alive and transform lives.

Roberta is the teacher whose remarkable story of courage and commitment will be told in the new movie, "Music of the Heart." If we ever needed proof that music education works, we need only listen now to the talented young people in Roberta's East Harlem Violin Program. They are here to perform the number one song in America, the theme from "Music of the Heart," with Gloria Estefan and 'NSync. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know how much longer we have on the commercial break, and I don't own this network, so I could really get the hook. (Laughter.)

But let me thank you, and thank all the artists. And I've got all this stuff to say on the teleprompter at the end, but I just want to tell you why I did this. I still remember Miss Lucille Rutherford, who taught me to sing, and George Gray, who taught me to play the clarinet and the saxophone; my two junior high school band directors; and my wonderful high school band director, Virgil Sperlen. And I don't think I would have become President if it hadn't been for school music. And that's why I did this. And I thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

* * * * *

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Robert deNiro for the introduction, for your friendship, for your fabulous movies. (Laughter.) Let me thank all of the wonderful performers who have graced this stage today; they have blessed our lives and all of America who has heard them. Let's give them all a big hand one more time. (Applause.)

We respect and honor them for their talents and their knowledge of music. But we also respect what they have given us tonight. I respect them so much, I left my saxophone up in the White House. (Laughter.) But we have had another wonderful lesson this afternoon, thanks to the National Endowment of the Arts, which is supporting our country's living cultural heritage; and VH-1, the Save the Music Foundation, preserving our musical traditions.

The most important lesson we've had is that what we've seen in stunning brilliance tonight should at least be a possibility in the lives and the minds of all of our children. Music education is very important to me. When I was a young boy as a school musician, I started at nine with Ms. Lillian Rutherford and George Gray learning to sing and play. I learned that music was more than scales or keys or how to make sure I was always in tune. Music taught me how to mix practice and patience with creativity. Music taught me how to be both an individual performer and a good member of a team. It taught me how to work always to bring mind and body and spirit together and the beauty of music.

And so for all my teachers, for the ones I mentioned, for my junior high school band directors, Carol Powell and Joel Duskin, for my

wonderful friend Virgil Sperlen, who taught me in high school. Some are still with me, some have gone on to their reward. I want to say again, I don't think I would be President if it hadn't been for school music. (Applause.)

And I am very grateful to John Sykes, to VH-1, to all the wonderful stars and performers who are here tonight, because they want to give all our young people that same opportunity to learn, to achieve, to express themselves -- and to develop their math brain cells. (Laughter.)

This century has been called the American Century. It gave rise to democracy around the world. For the first time in history, more than half the world's people are living under governments of their own choosing. So we gave that to the world. But at the same time, we mustn't forget that America brought the world the rhythm of jazz, the consolation of country, the hard truth of the blues, the excitement of rock 'n' roll. And the diversity of our music, and our musicians -- which we have seen tonight -- mirrors the diversity of our people, and reminds us of the greatest lesson we have always to teach and always to learn: that we are stronger when we're playing in harmony, based on our common humanity. (Applause.)

A stunning example of that is the great American songwriter, George Gershwin, a Jewish boy from New York who wrote the magnificent black opera, "Porgy and Bess." He listened to others. And he once said, "true music must repeat the thought and inspirations of the people and the time."

My people are Americans and my time is today. Let us promise that we Americans will keep American music and the spirit it represents, inspiring our children and their children as we enter the new millennium.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

6:08 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 28, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AWARDS CEREMONY FOR BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

10:23 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Good morning. Congratulations. I want to begin by thanking Ruth Summerlin for her introduction and for the power of her example, which includes not only turning her school around, but asking for a little more help. Did you notice the way she slipped that in there? (Laughter.) That was pretty impressive.

I want to thank Secretary Riley for his wonderful leadership. All the things he said about me he might have said about himself. He is clearly not only the longest serving, but the ablest, the most dedicated and most effective Secretary of Education we have ever had. (Applause.) When the new millennium rolls around in January we will have completed 21 years of working together, as friends and colleagues, since we were young governors in the south trying to start our education reform programs, more than two decades ago. And every year has been a joy and I'm very grateful for what he's done in this administration.

I want to acknowledge the presence in the audience of Vincent Ferrandino, the Executive Director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. And I also want to thank Bill Ivey, as the Secretary did, the Chair of the NEA. And say just a brief word about -- before I get into a couple of other announcements -- about what Ruth said about bringing the arts back into the schools. I would urge all of you to see this new movie that's out, that I had screened at the White House, starring Meryl Streep, called "Music of the Heart," about the East Harlem Violin Program.

But I have been mortified at the collapse of the availability of music and the arts in the schools all over America, because of all kinds of issues that you understand better than I do. But I've been active in VH-1's effort to get people to donate instruments, and other support for music programs back in the schools. The NEA has worked very hard to support arts programs in the schools.

There is not only concrete evidence that such programs improve student learning in others areas because of the way they make the brain work; there's also a lot of evidence that many people with equal learning capacities learn in different ways, in ways that sometimes are nonlinear. And I think it is a terrible mistake to deprive these children of access to music and the arts if we can avoid it at all. So I urge you to look at the movie. And for those of you who agree, this movie may give you a lot of boost, because I'll be surprised if it's not also a commercial success. It's a terrific film.

Now, I'd also like to say a word about some new economic news before I get into talking about education. When I came here as President, almost seven years ago, our administration -- Vice President Gore and I -- we said we would try to turn America around. And a lot of people have forgotten that there was a lot of economic distress then, an enormous

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NBC News Transcripts**SHOW:** TODAY (7:00 AM ET)

June 3, 1997, Tuesday 10:40 AM

LENGTH: 796 words**HEADLINE:** VH1 PRESIDENT **JOHN SYKES** ON PRESIDENT BILL **CLINTON'S** LOVE FOR MUSIC**ANCHORS:** MATT LAUER**BODY:**

MATT LAUER, co-host:

Throughout Bill **Clinton's** life, he's had a passion for two things: the presidency and music. At the 1992 Inauguration, it was the dawn of a new era as President Bill **Clinton** claimed his seat in the Oval Office with a saxophone solo.

(Footage is shown of President **Clinton** playing the saxophone at the Inaugural Ball.)

LAUER: The nation had their first rock and roll president. Tonight on cable, VH1 takes a look at President **Clinton's** lifelong love for music in an hour-long special called "Bill **Clinton**: Rock and Roll President."

President Bill **Clinton**: One of the best things personally about being president has been the music and the way I can sort of swallow up all my musical interests, you know. It's been great.

LAUER: And **John Sykes** is president of VH1.

John, good to see you. Good morning.

Mr. **JOHN SYKES** (VH1): Good to be here.

LAUER: Where did the idea for this special come about?

Mr. SYKES: Well, a childhood friend of the president's gave us a call a few months ago and said, 'You know, there's a side of the president that no one sees. You know, a side of the way he's lived his life, the music, his loves, his passions. And we'd love to do something. And a lot of people in the White House watch VH1, some of the younger folks, and the president himself.' So we--we said we're sure we'll do something. And she said, 'Well, how about next week?' OK, we'll be there.

LAUER: You say there's a side of the president we don't see, though. We've watched him play saxophone. So we do know that he has a love for music. Were you looking to get deeper than that?

Mr. SYKES: Absolutely. We--we all know he has a love and a great knowledge for music. But

we--what we found out in this special is the passion he has. I mean really, music has been a road--road map for his life. And there are mileposts in his life where songs played important parts--I mean, just like us. We found out he's one of us.

LAUER: As a matter of fact, that may be the most unusual thing we find out is that there's nothing unusual about this man who happens to be the president of the United States?

Mr. SYKES: Absolutely. I think previous presidents we've thought of as our father figures, almost grandfather figures. He's someone who has shared--shared the same music, the same--the same background as we do. One of the--one of the quotes in the interview from Nancy Wilson said she feels a little bit more comfortable knowing that there's a guy in the White House, a man who is making decisions who has gone through the same things we have.

LAUER: You didn't conduct the interview, but you went to the interview when the interview was done. I understand you presented the president a boxed set CD of Sonny Rollins.

Mr. SYKES: Absolutely.

LAUER: And he looked at this thing and kind of surprised you a little bit.

Mr. SYKES: He--he completely surprised me. I gave him a gift 'cause he'd, you know, he had sat down to do the interview. We knew he loved jazz, and he's a jazz fanatic. And Sonny Rollins is one of the great jazz players. He--he took the box set. He began reading off the track listings, identifying what country he was in at the time, the Brazilian influences of Sonny. And then he said something that almost floored me. He said, You know, I've been looking for this, thank you. I've got it on vinyl. I've been looking for it on CD.'

LAUER: So, this is the first time you get an image of a president that you could possibly see getting out of the limo, running into the Whiz to browse through the CD section?

Mr. SYKES: Absolutely. Like I said earlier, he--he's one of us. Music plays a big part in his life. In the past, that might be trivial, but today, I mean, music has shaped the lives in our generation. And I think it's very important, and it's part of our culture. And it's--this is the first time a president has ever sat down to talk about music.

LAUER: He talks about some of his musical heroes in the special and talks about Carly Simon and the Beatles and Elvis Presley.

Mr. SYKES: Yes.

LAUER: Are you surprised at all that this is a man who would have--have fashioned himself somewhat after Elvis Presley?

Mr. SYKES: He grew up--his genera--I mean, his part of, I guess, the baby boom generation, he grew up loving Elvis. In fact, most parents hated Elvis and didn't want their kids to--to like him. His mom, you know, who--who, you know, played a big role in his life, loved Elvis and said, You listen to Elvis. You do whatever you want. He's great.' So, he almost became a musician, the president. He--but he didn't like the late nights. And he really--he said, I didn't think I was good enough.' He wanted to do something he was really great at. So he decided not to become a musician. But we have a joke around the office. It doesn't matter, because he's bigger than Elvis anyway.

LAUER: Do you think he made the right choice?

Mr. SYKES: I think he made the right choice. Otherwise, we'd be playing Bill **Clinton** videos on VH1 today.

LAUER: Probably wouldn't have worked. **John Sykes**. The special is called "Bill **Clinton**: Rock and

Roll President," airs tonight. Thanks very much.

Mr. SYKES: Thanks.

LAUER: Eight fifty-one. We're back in a moment. But first, this is TODAY on NBC.

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CBS News Transcripts**SHOW:** CBS THIS MORNING (7:00 AM ET)

June 06, 1997, Friday

TYPE: Newscast**LENGTH:** 523 words**HEADLINE:** VH-1 OFFERS NEW DOCUMENTARY ON BILL **CLINTON**, WHERE HE SHARES HIS PASSION FOR THE SONGS AND SINGERS WHO SHAPED HIS LIFE**ANCHORS:** JOSE DIAZ-BALART**BODY:**

JOSE DIAZ-BALART, co-host:

Well, we all know Bill **Clinton** is the first president to grow up in the rock 'n' roll era. But now a new VH-1 documentary offers more on the nation's first fan. It's called "Bill **Clinton**: Rock 'N Roll President."

(Excerpt from "The Arsenio Hall Show" courtesy Paramount Television)

DIAZ-BALART: He was not yet President Bill **Clinton** when he blew his horn on "The Arsenio Hall Show." But throughout his presidency, Americans have gotten a pretty good feel for just how much music means to the man.

(Excerpt from a Beatles video)

DIAZ-BALART: In a new special on VH-1, the president shares his passion for the songs and the singers who shaped his life.

President BILL **CLINTON**: (From "Rock 'N Roll President" courtesy VH-1) I felt that real special relationship to Elvis Presley because he was from Mississippi, he was a poor, white kid who did great, he sang with a lot of soul, you know. He was sort of my d--roots.

Mr. **JOHN SYKES** (President, VH-1): From the time he was very young, the president loved Elvis Presley. More importantly, his mother said it was OK to love Elvis. All the other kids on the block's parents were afraid of Elvis and afraid of rock 'n' roll. And Virginia Kelley, his mom, was--was t--completely supportive of--of him trying new things.

Pres. **CLINTON**: (From "Rock 'N Roll President") I still have this, one of my favorite Ray Charles albums.

DIAZ-BALART: And roll over, Beethoven. At one point, the commander in chief actually pulls out his

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September 18, 1998, Friday

TYPE: NEWS EVENT**LENGTH:** 6754 words**HEADLINE:** MAKES REMARKS AT MILLENIUM LECTURE; WASHINGTON, D.C.**SPEAKER:**WILLIAM J. **CLINTON**, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**BODY:**

WHITE HOUSE DISCUSSION ON THE MILLENNIUM

SEPTEMBER 18, 1998

SPEAKERS' LIST: WILLIAM J. **CLINTON**, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATESHILLARY RODHAM **CLINTON**, FIRST LADY

MARIAN MCPARTLAND

WYNTON MARSALIS

DR. DAVID BAKER

LAUREN SHORNBERG (PH)

HILLARY **CLINTON**: Good evening and welcome to the White House. The theme we have chosen for the millennium is Honor the Past, Imagine the Future."

This lecture continues a series of Millennium Evenings with scholars, scientists, and other creative individuals which we are holding to commemorate and celebrate this milestone.

BILL **CLINTON**: With the millennium, we must now decide how to think about our commitment to the future. Thomas Payne said a long time ago, "we have it in our power to begin the world over again."

how did jazz influence your choice of going into public service over private business. We love you in Alberta. Respectfully.

CLINTON: Well, my first thought is that when I was younger in my teens I used to do this a lot and I was honest enough to know when I was doing it that while I was never happier doing anything else, I knew I'd never be as good as these guys so I figured I had to get a day job.

(LAUGHTER)

It's a very good question. I never thought about it before, but I think the answer is, my association with music and the discipline and long hours of preparation it took and the joy it brought particularly when I got into jazz had a lot in common with what I love about public service. It is about communication, it's about creativity, but cooperation as Wynton said earlier. And like jazz, I don't think you can be really, really good at it unless you care about other people and have a good heart like these guys do. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

H. **CLINTON:** This question is from Oswego, New York and the question is for Ms. McPartland. I am 13 years old and want to pursue jazz music at school. How would you suggest our school begin a class that would help me.

MCPARTLAND: Well, you know they could get some records -- I think that would be really a good thing to get some records of some of the people we talked about and let music played tonight and let them get a feel for the music from the early days -- like the tune played by the band, Diplomat Blues, right up to present day and listening to people like Dizzy Gillespie or Herby Hancock. Actually, I think that's really the best idea, is start listening and actually my husband did this years ago when they had this little band in Chicago, the Austin High School, Jimmy and Bud Freeman (ph) and the rest of them, that's how they got started listening to recordings in the candy store somewhere where they had a record player and they all took their different parts from the records.

And Jimmy picked out the trumpet part and the piano player would pick out the piano, and probably this is the way to go because I think you can learn music as I did a little bit from actually reading music, I'm not really good at that. But really the natural way to learn is by listening, and then try to perform something. Try to play something. Don't be afraid. Don't say I can't do it, sit down at a piano and play what you hear in your head.

Oh, I could go on for hours about this, but I'd better stop because...

(APPLAUSE)

H. **CLINTON:** This is a question from Bernard Smith from Bath, England. During World War II, American jazz played on the Voice of America to the great joy of the boys in the field. What style of music do you envision being played to the future democracies?

LOVELL: Wynton, will you take that one?

MARSALIS: Well, I don't know. The direction we're going in, they might just blow up something. There might not even be music. That's a very difficult question for me to answer because we have a tremendous strain in our culture right now in terms of what direction we're going to go with music. We need a lot more education and we need to get much deeper into the mythology of our music and understand what we have been given and deal with it and develop it instead of the way that we're presenting music now, so that depends on which way it goes if I have to answer honestly. I hope it's going to be something swinging, but you never know what's going to happen out here. I'm going to be doing my best to try to help us to swing, but we got a long way to go in terms of that my good brother in England.

H. **CLINTON**: You know, that's one of the reasons why the VH-1 **Save the Music** program is so important because just as Wynton said, you know there have to be opportunities for young people to hear good music and learn their instruments and then we have to have some faith in them, but they have to have that good grounding.

This is a question from Hawaii. How do you feel the history of jazz in America can best be preserved into the millennium?

Well, one of the reasons we're doing this show Jill, is to preserve the history of jazz in America into the millennium because I think it's so important that all Americans and people all over the world like President Havel was saying appreciate the contributions that jazz has made to our democracy into the spread of freedom around the world and that to me is something that really needs to be preserved and honored for the future.

LOVELL: Well, Mrs. **Clinton**, you answered the question and Mr. President, I can't believe this evening has gone so fast. Do you have any final comments?

CLINTON: Well, we should probably end with a question. You know one of the things that I'd like to say. I'd like to compliment the recording companies who have put out CD's recently of all of Ella Fitzgerald's recordings for example, and I would like to encourage all the people that are involved in this business to think about as a way of celebrating the millennium to look at all the great jazz music that is still available in any condition over the last decade and think about packaging anything that is not yet now in mint condition, the best available condition and making it widely available because I think that's very, very important. A lot of young people will listen to this, will carry it on. Will imagine it and play it, as Marian said, if they have access to it, so that's a great question and a great way to end.

We can't know everything that will happen in the new millennium, but I'll bet you one thing we know. When you hear American jazz coming back transformed as Brazilian music or African music as Hillary and I have in our trips around the world, I think jazz will be a big part of it and all of you who are part of this night, tonight will know that all of your work will live well into this new century and this new millennium and the world will be a better place because of it. Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

END

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FDCH Congressional Testimony, June 30, 1999

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June 30, 1999, Wednesday

SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY**LENGTH:** 2507 words**HEADLINE:** TESTIMONY June 29, 1999 **JOHN SYKES** SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION**BODY:**

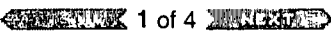
JOHN SYKES PRESIDENT, **VH1** STATEMENT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS UNITED STATES SENATE JUNE 29, 1999 THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATOR KENNEDY, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF MUSIC AND ARTS EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS. AS A PARENT, A BUSINESSMAN AND, ABOVE ALL, AS A CITIZEN, I HAVE AN ABIDING INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC, WHICH IS THE FOCUS OF THE **VH1 SAVE THE MUSIC FOUNDATION**. **VH1** SAVE THE MUSIC IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THIS FOUNDATION SEEKS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION AND TO RESTORE MUSIC PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE WORK WITH PARTNERS SUCH AS M.E.N.C. -- THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION, THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, THE RECORDING INDUSTRY OF AMERICA, AMERICA'S PROMISE, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CABLE COMPANIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY SUCH AS DISTRICT CABLEVISION RIGHT HERE IN WASHINGTON D.C.. WITH THESE PARTNERSHIPS, **VH1** SAVE THE MUSIC SETS UP LOCAL PROGRAMS WHERE WE COLLECT USED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND DONATE THEM TO NEEDY PUBLIC SCHOOLS. WHATEVER WE DON'T COLLECT, WE PURCHASE WITH MONEY RAISED NATIONALLY BY OUR FOUNDATION. WE ADMINISTER THIS PROGRAM WITH A COMBINATION OF HIGH ENERGY AND LOW OVERHEAD, WHICH ALLOWS US TO PUT 90 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR TO WORK IN THE FORM OF A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IN A CHILD'S HANDS. WE ALSO LEVERAGE THIS INVESTMENT WITH A COMMITMENT FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS TO REBUILD MUSIC PROGRAMS AS A PART OF THEIR REGULAR CURRICULUM. BY THE END OF 1999, **VH1** SAVE THE MUSIC WILL HAVE GENERATED SOME \$25 MILLION IN TOTAL SUPPORT FOR 350 SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS IN 30 CITIES AFFECTING MORE THAN 120,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN. OUR TEN-YEAR PLAN IS TO PROVIDE \$100 MILLION IN TOTAL SUPPORT TO BRING MUSIC PARTICIPATION TO ONE MILLION PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS. THERE ARE SO MANY CHALLENGES FACING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS - WHY SAVE THE MUSIC? WE ALL KNOW MUSIC AND ARTS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL PROVIDES ENORMOUS CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN AND FOR SOCIETY AT LARGE. BUT WHAT HAS RECENTLY COME TO LIGHT OVER THE PAST DECADE IS A GROWING BODY OF RESEARCH THAT SHOWS A DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN MUSIC AND ARTS EDUCATION AND A CHILD'S ABILITY TO EXCEL ACADEMICALLY. STUDIES DATING BACK TO 1989 HAVE REVEALED THAT STUDENTS INVOLVED IN MUSIC PROGRAMS SHOW IMPROVED READING ABILITIES, AND HIGHER MATH AND SCIENCE SCORES. THEY ALSO HAVE ENHANCED SELF-ESTEEM AND ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED WITH GANGS AND DRUGS. IN ADDITION, THESE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR SPATIAL ABILITIES. BECAUSE THE STUDY OF MUSIC GENERATES NEURAL

12/3/1999 9:08 AM

EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO THEM, YOU HAD IT, I HAD IT. WHY ARE WE TAKING IT AWAY FROM OUR CHILDREN? WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT OUR KIDS HAVE IT TOO. I PROMISE THAT WE AT **VH1** AND VIACOM WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR PART. BUT WE NEED ONE MORE VERY IMPORTANT PARTNER - YOU - TO HELP US AS WE WORK TO BUILD BACK THESE MUSIC AND ARTS PROGRAMS ONE SCHOOL, ONE CHILD AT A TIME. MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY TODAY. ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE. AND I WOULD BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 1999

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
DURING WETA "IN PERFORMANCE"

The South Lawn

9:10 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. The first thing I want you to do is relax, because I'm not going to play, and you'll -- (laughter) -- but I'll be wishing.

At the Millennium event on Jazz we had here last year, the great Wynton Marsalis said that just as we wouldn't have democracy without the foundation of our Constitution, so we wouldn't have Jazz without the foundation of the Blues. Like our Constitution, the Blues is a great American tradition, whose power to move never seems to diminish, and whose influence never seems to stop growing.

This compelling and wonderful music, once heard only on rural Southern porches and in South Side Chicago bars, now enjoys an audience as broad as America itself. In fact, now the whole world knows about the Blues, and there are fans from Berlin to Bangkok who can tell you the life stories of Blues icons like Bessie Smith and Robert Johnson. Today, there are more Blues artists, more Blues listeners, more Blues clubs and more Blues recordings than ever before. Even TV commercials now feature the Blues, which dramatically reduces the number of people who hit the mute button. (Laughter.)

Tonight we celebrate the music that has given birth to or influenced the whole large landscape of American music, from Rhapsody in Blue to Rap. So it's fitting that our host is a master of the great range of American music and entertainment -- Miss Della Reese. (Applause.) If talent and personality are truly gifts from above, then Della Reese really has been touched by an angel. (Laughter.) Please join me in welcoming Della Reese. (Applause.)

* * *

THE PRESIDENT: (In progress) -- whether I want to be young like Jonny, or like B.B. when I'm a little older. (Laughter.) They were all magnificent.

You know, we saw tonight in all these wonderful performers why Blues is truly one of America's great gifts to the world. It's appeal, we saw, literally spans the generations. Tonight we've been privileged to hear Blues greats from every era.

I want to thank each and every one of them. Thank you, B.B. King. (Applause.) Thank you John Cephas and Phil Wiggins. (Applause.) Thank you Marcia Ball. (Applause.) Thank you Jonny Lang. (Applause.) Thank you bands -- (applause) -- and thank you Della Reese. (Applause.) Thank you and good night. Thank you. (Applause.)

Now before you go, I've been saving my B.B. King picks for almost 20 years now. I've got another one tonight. (Laughter.) There is one more person that all of us have to thank this evening: Dick Notebaert with Ameritech. (Applause.) Let me tell you -- Dick, I want you and Peggy to come up here -- come on. He is about to leave his present position to start on a new adventure in life, and Hillary and I want to

thank him for his long-standing support for these wonderful WETA's "In Performance" at the White House. We have had so many incredible, incredible concerts here, thanks to the generosity of this gentleman and his fine company. And Dick and Peggy have accompanied us on so many nights, along with Sharon and Jay Rockefeller, and many of you who've been here.

I want to thank all of you for coming tonight, especially the very large number of people from my native state and others who occupy -- (applause) -- and others who occupy that portion of the Mississippi Delta between Memphis and New Orleans, where all of this really got started. We are very glad to be here, but we offer a special thank you to you, my friend, and to you, Peggy. We've got a little expression of our thanks -- bless you. (Applause.) Thank you.

END

10:54 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Orleans, Louisiana)

For Immediate Release

September 27, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT LUNCH FOR CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM JEFFERSON

St. Elizabeth's Orphanage
New Orleans, Louisiana

2:25 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I've had a wonderful day here. I don't think I've had a bad day in New Orleans. (Laughter.) And I'm honored to be here with Bill and Andrea, with Vic and Fran Bussie. And, Dick, you've done a lot of great things in your life, but you haven't given many better talks. That was very, very good. (Applause.)

I'm honored to be here with your bright young Mayor, who has established such a fine record, and has recently joined the ranks of the happily married. We're proud of him for that, too. (Laughter and applause.)

Let me say to all of you -- I was just sitting here listening to what everybody else was saying, wondering if I could offer any unique perspective. I first came to New Orleans 50 years ago -- I hate that. (Laughter.) I was just a little boy. My mother was in nursing school here. And one of the most vivid memories of my lifetime was seeing my mother kneel by the side of the railroad tracks and cry when I went home with my grandmother, because she had been widowed early, before my father -- before I was born. My father died three months before I was born. And she came down here to get some education, so she could support me.

I came back here when I was 15, and a budding musician. (Laughter.) And they wouldn't let me in anyplace to hear anybody -- (laughter) -- because I was so young. And I saw -- I never will forget this -- I was walking away from my mother and I saw Al Hirt sitting there in some big English limousine, reading a newspaper, and he was going to go in and perform. I knocked on his window, told him who I was and said I had come all the way down here from Hot Springs, Arkansas, and all I cared about was music. I didn't want to drink anything, I didn't want to gamble, I didn't want anything, I just wanted to go here him play. He took me in and put me on the front table. It's funny what you remember, isn't it? (Laughter and applause.)

I've never forgotten that, and that sort of embodies the generosity that the people of this city and this state have exhibited to me throughout my life. And you did give Al Gore and me, Hillary and Tipper and our administration the electoral votes of the people of Louisiana twice, and I'm profoundly grateful for that. (Applause.)

I want to say three or four things I think you ought to think about in this election. When I became President, I ran a long, hard campaign. I was written off for dead three or four times along the way -- and three or four dozen times since. (Laughter and applause.) But Bill Jefferson was one of my first supporters. I remember the first

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New Orleans, Louisiana)

For Immediate Release

September 27, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DINNER FOR CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM JEFFERSON

Private Residence
New Orleans, Louisiana

6:50 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. First of all, like everyone else, I want to thank the Davises for having us in this magnificent home. And thank you for the tour through all the art and all the books and all the history of your life. It was fascinating. And I didn't steal any books or art work. (Laughter.) And I can't afford the discount price, either. (Laughter.) But it's really wonderful and we thank you for having us here.

Q What about the golf --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm getting there. (Laughter.) I want to thank the Mayor for making me so welcome in New Orleans, and tell you that he has done a truly magnificent job. New Orleans has had one of the biggest drops in violent crime of any major city in America under his leadership. And I applaud him for that. (Applause.)

I would like to thank Sheriff Harry Lee, who is back there, for many things -- being my friend for a long time. But you should know that he came with a group of people from Louisiana to the White House and stayed two days this week and provided good Cajun cooking for the annual congressional picnic, with all the families there. (Applause.) And the annual press picnic. And while he is a strong supporter of mine, he did not taint the food of any of the members of Congress of the other party -- (laughter) -- or any of the hostile press members. (Laughter.) He was totally generous to everybody.

I want to thank the people who came from out of town here -- Tommy Boggs, my good friend; and my friend, Mack McLarty, the former Chief of Staff and Special Envoy to the Americas. We're all glad to be in New Orleans tonight, and we only wish we didn't have to go home.

And I thank Bill for running for governor. I didn't thank him in the beginning because I didn't want him to leave the Congress. You know, whenever you run for an office like this and you run against an incumbent and times are good, you wonder and worry. But I have seen, myself, a marked movement in the polls and enough to justify your investment here tonight.

So I just want to make some substantive points that have nothing to do with politics. First of all -- they have to do with policy more and people -- and, incidentally, a political campaign.

First of all, my handicap on my home course is a 12. (Laughter.) And that's what it is and that's what I play, even -- (laughter) -- unless I play a strange course from long tees, and sometimes I play to a 14. But, otherwise, I normally play to a 12 and

that's about what I shoot.

Secondly, I do most of my music in my music room. Hillary built me a music room on the third floor of the White House in a little end room. And I have saxophones there from all over the world -- from China, Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic; two magnificent horns from Germany, two from France, three from Japan; and goodness knows where else. Then I've got a bunch of American horn. And I play a 1935 Selmer, and I have a 1915 Buescher Soprano Saxophone. So I've been into this a long time and that's where I play, because it's so far away I can't hurt anybody else's ears. (Laughter.) So I don't take it on that plane with me when I go. And I do have one at Camp David. And if you have any other questions, I'll try to answer them. (Laughter.)

But let me make some points very quickly -- and I want you to know why I'm here tonight. Bill Jefferson started with me in 1991, when I was running for President and nobody but my mother thought I could win -- well, my wife did, no one else, those two. And we did it because we thought that the country couldn't go on the way it was, with this sort of gridlock in Washington where 12 years of the previous administrations had quadrupled the national debt and they basically had reached an accommodation with Congress where every year we would embody President Reagan's idea that if you cut revenues and increased spending you would balance the budget. It defied basic arithmetic, it didn't work in 1981 and it didn't work in 1991. And in between we quadrupled the national debt and we got big, big increases in interest rates and high unemployment. The unemployment rate in Louisiana when I took office was about 7.5 percent I think; and it's 4.2 percent today.

So we said -- we had been involved with this sort of new Democratic movement. And we thought the Democratic Party had to prove that you could be pro-business and pro-labor; that you could be for equality and education and for high standards; that you could be for growing the economy and improving the environment; that you could be for respecting individuals and people of all different races and ethnic groups and religious groups, and still believe that what binds us together as Americans is more important than what divides us.

In other words, we felt that American politics had fallen into this sort of liberal/conservative-right/left-business/labor-environment/economy -- everything was one way or the other and nobody was ever getting anything done and the country was getting deeper in the ditch. And our social divisions were deepening.

And I know that the previous President, with whom I had a very cordial, personal relationship, vetoed the Brady Bill to do background checks because the NRA wasn't for it and the Republicans had to be with them. And then vetoed the Family and Medical Leave law because some people in the business community said, well, that's an anti-business measure -- even though, clearly, one of the biggest challenges that we have is to balance work and family.

So I really believed -- and I had some of the same arguments with my friends in our party. If this whole business about having to make choices between these two things, we're going to leave America the loser. And the evidence was pretty compelling in 1991 -- we had high unemployment, stagnant wages, terrible recession and increasing social division.

And so I asked Bill and a number of other people in Louisiana to help me run for President, when I was, in the words of my predecessor, just a governor from a small southern state. And the people gave us a chance. They gave Al Gore and me a chance. And they basically listened to our argument about putting people first, and they said, we'll try. But it was just an argument, they didn't know.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Hazard, Kentucky)

For Immediate Release

July 5, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PEOPLE OF APPALACHIA

Main Street
Hazard, Kentucky

4:10 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Well, the Governor always told me if I would only come to Appalachia I would get a very warm welcome. (Applause.) I want to thank the good people of Hazard and Perry County for giving me that warm welcome. I want to thank all the people of Eastern Kentucky who have made me and my party feel so welcome today -- Paul and Judy Patton. I thank Mayor Gorman and Judge Noble. I thank those who have come with me today -- our Agriculture Secretary -- you heard from Secretary Glickman -- our HUD Secretary, Secretary Cuomo; SBA Administrator Alvarez. We have two Congressmen here -- Jim Clyburn from South Carolina and Paul Kanjorski, who came all the way from Pennsylvania, because they have places like Appalachia there, and they wanted to come down here to be with you. (Applause.)

I want to thank Duane Ackerman and the other CEOs who are here, including Dick Huber of Aetna; the One Central Bank Kentucky CEO, Kip Stolen; Sarah Gould from the MS Foundation; John Sykes from Sykes Enterprises -- I'll mention him in a moment.

I want to thank the Reverend Jesse Jackson, who keeps hope alive. (Applause.) And the others in our group, including Al From, the leader of the Democratic Leadership Council; and David Wilhelm, who is from nearby in Ohio and was my first Democratic National Committee Chairman. I'd like to thank the young people here in AmeriCorps -- (applause) -- and I would like to say a special word of thanks to Cawood Ledford. Boy, he is -- (applause) -- I was thinking that if old Cawood had been a political announcer instead of a basketball announcer and I could have kept him with me these last 25 years, I'd have never lost an election. (Applause.)

You know, Kentucky has been good to me and Hillary and to the Vice President. It has been brought to my attention that, in addition to the economy, we've been pretty good for Kentucky. Since I've been in office, UK basketball has had the most successful six years since Adolph Rupp was the coach. (Applause.) And Tim Couch hasn't done badly, either. (Applause.)

You know, yesterday we celebrated the last 4th of July of this century -- the last 4th of July of this century. Think of it -- 223 Independence Days. I want you all to drink plenty of water and I'll make this quick, but you need to know why we came here. I wanted to come to the heart of America and Appalachia to talk about whether we're all going forward into the 21st century; whether we really can build a bridge over which we can all walk together.

I'll bet you some of you here are actually the descendants of those people Governor Patton talked about, the Revolutionary War heroes who

helped to settle this state. But, you know, whether our parents and their parents came here on the Mayflower or slave ships, whether they landed on Ellis Island in the 1890s or came to Los Angeles Airport in the 1990s, around the 4th of July we're supposed to celebrate what we have in common as Americans, to reaffirm that what unites us is more important than what divides us. Well, if we believe that, we have a shared stake in one another's success.

I came here to say to you I believe at this time of prosperity, if we can't find a way to give every single hardworking American family the chance to participate in the future we're trying to build for our country, we'll never get around to do it. Now is the time to move forward. (Applause.)

Our country is the world's leading force for peace and freedom and human rights. We have the lowest crime rate in 25 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 30 years, 90 percent of our little children are immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history. We have the longest peacetime expansion we've ever had -- almost 19 million new jobs. Wages are rising for the first time in 20 years for ordinary people. We have a million kids lifted out of poverty, the lowest minority unemployment rate ever recorded.

And yet, even though this is a blessed time for America, not all Americans have been blessed by it. And you know that as well as I do. (Applause.)

So I came here to show America who you are. (Applause.) And when I leave here I'm going on to the Mississippi Delta, to my home country. Then I'm going up into the Middle West, and then over to Phoenix, Arizona, and up to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and then ending this tour in East Los Angeles to make a simple point -- that this is a time to bring more jobs and investment and hope to the areas of our country that have not fully participated in this economic recovery. We have an obligation to do it. (Applause.)

I started out the morning in the town of Tyner, a little village, with a wonderful woman who took me to see her 69-year-old father that just lost his wife after 51 years of marriage. And I saw four generations of that family. And I walked in the neighborhoods and I listened to the people tell me they needed better housing and better transportation.

And then I went on to Mid-South Electronics, a place that had 40 employees 10 years ago, and has 850 today and about to expand some more, to make the point that any work that can be done by anybody in America can be done here in Appalachia -- and throughout the other places in this country where they're not fulfilling their promise. (Applause.)

I came here in the hope that with the help of the business leaders here, we could say to every corporate leader in America: Take a look at investing in rural and inner-city America. It's good for business, good for America's growth, and it's the right thing to do. If we, with the most prosperous economy in our lifetimes, cannot make a commitment to take every person along with us into the 21st century, we will have failed to meet a moral obligation and we also will have failed to make the most of America's promise.

You know, these economists in Washington and New York used to tell me that if the unemployment rate ever dropped below 6 percent in America we'd have inflation out of control. Well, it's been under 5 percent for two years now and inflation is still low. (Applause.) And I'm telling you, it can go lower. We can hire more people, we can have more jobs -- (applause) -- but we've got to go to the places where there have not been enough new jobs and there has not been enough new investments and

we have to provide incentives for people to go there. (Applause.)

I asked these business and political leaders to join me because we wanted to send a signal to America that we know that government can't solve these problems alone. But we know that we'll never get anywhere by leaving people alone, either -- you've tried it that way here in the hills and hollows of Kentucky and West Virginia and Ohio and Virginia and Appalachia, for years; that didn't work out very well -- that what works is when we go forward together.

I came here to say that I believe the government's part is to create the conditions of a strong economy, to give individuals the tools they need to succeed, including education and training, and to give incentives to businesses to take a second look at the places that they have overlooked. And then the job of the private sector is to give you a chance to make the most of your God-given ability. That is what we are trying to do. (Applause.)

With the help of Vice President Gore, we've had 135 empowerment zones and enterprise communities -- I was in one earlier today. They've helped to create tens of thousands of jobs. But we have to do better nationwide. We've worked with people like the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation. But we have to do better nationwide.

So that's why I'm going around here. I want to do two things -- well, really three. Number one, I want people to know a lot of good things are going on here now. (Applause.) Number two, I want them to understand that more good things can go on, and number three, I want us to do more. I want us to pass a law in Congress to create new markets in America, to say we're going to give a businessperson the same incentives to invest in new markets in America we give them today to invest in new markets overseas. (Applause.)

Now, meanwhile, I want to thank the companies represented here -- companies like Bell South, ready to help provide jobs and training for your people. The MS Foundation. The Appalachian Regional Commission, with my friend, Jesse White, here, will help Appalachian entrepreneurs create new small businesses. Sykes Enterprises is making a major commitment -- listen to this -- to construct two information technology centers in Eastern Kentucky that will bring hundreds of new jobs to Pike and Perry Counties. Thank you, Mr. Sykes. (Applause.)

Across our nation, banks like Bank One, City Group, Bank of America, First Union, will invest hundreds of millions of dollars to finance new small businesses and other promising enterprises. I want to thank all these companies for their support.

But again, I say: Look here, America. We've got people working out here and doing fine and doing marvelous things. Look here, business community. Take another look. There are great opportunities here. But I also want to say to the Congress: Just simply give me one more tool for them, give people the same incentives to invest in Appalachia or the Native American reservations of the Mississippi Delta or the inner cities we give them today to invest in poor countries overseas, and let the American people show what they can do. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it's been a hot day -- but when I'm gone, I hope you'll remember more than that the President came and you were hot. I hope you will remember that it was the beginning of a new sense of renewal for this region and for all the people in our country to go forward together. (Applause.)

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

4:21 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 29, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS
AND THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL

Constitution Hall
Washington, D.C.

12:55 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you so much, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome. I want to welcome all of our honorees here -- Bill Ivey and all the people from the National Endowment for the Humanities; Bill Ferris and all the people from the National Endowment for the Arts; the people from Library and Museum Services; members of Congress. I have seen Senator Wellstone and Congressman Houghton, Representative Morella and Nadler. There may be others here.

I want to thank the people of our shared homeland, the Irish Band and the Step Dancers, for doing such a wonderful job today. I thought they were great. (Applause.) If George Mitchell doesn't get us over the final hump in the last steps of the Irish peace process, I may just send them back until everybody is smiling so much they can't think of anything other than ending the conflict. (Laughter.)

I'd also like to thank the wonderful strings from the Marine Corps for doing such a great job for us here today. (Applause.)

In one of his final speeches, President Kennedy said he looked forward to an America which rewards achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business; an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength, but for its civilization. Today we recognize an extraordinary group of Americans who have strengthened our civilization and whose achievements have enriched our lives -- through the songs they sing, the stories they tell, the books they write, the art they shape, the gifts they share.

Eighteen women and men, one educational institution, all having defined in their own unique ways a part of who we are as a people and what we're about as a nation as we enter a new century in a new millennium.

First I present the National Medal of the Arts winners.

Irene Diamond, one of America's leading patrons of the arts, has dedicated her life to discovery. As an early Hollywood talent scout, she discovered Burt Lancaster and Robert Redford. For that alone, some people think she should get this award. (Laughter and applause.)

As one of the movie industry's first female story editors, she discovered the script that became "Casablanca." I believe when the film industry issued its list of 100 greatest films, "Casablanca" only ranked second, Irene, but some of us voted for it number one. (Laughter.)

As the President of the Aaron Diamond Foundation, she helped fuel the path-breaking research that led to the discovery of protease