

musicians have happened right here at the White House. You just witnessed one. In 1882, a black choir called the Fisk Jubilee Singers moved President Arthur to tears with their performance of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Sissieretta Jones, the daughter of a slave, sang opera here in the White House for President Benjamin Harrison. In 1939, Marian Anderson performed "Ave Maria" for Franklin Roosevelt right here in this room. President Roosevelt said that "music can make us all more vividly aware of the common humanity which is ours." Let history record, you had me jumping in my seat. *[Laughter]*

Throughout our history, African American artists have created music with the power to change hearts and reshape our national conscience. The songs of black musicians heralded social change. Music like jazz and blues communicated across racial barriers. That music began in America's country churches and urban clubs of Chicago, New Orleans, and Harlem. Today, it is cherished here at home and around the world.

And our black musicians continue to inspire us and bring us together. Across the country, American cities and towns will cel-

ebate Black Music Month with their own festivals. We're just a small part of a larger celebration. From the Chicago Blues Festival to the B.B. King Homecoming Festival in Mississippi to the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City, people of all races and ages and creeds will come together on warm June nights to celebrate these musicians and their music.

Today, African American artists have continued to set standards of originality and creativity. The incredible talents of black musicians keep lifting their art and lifting the souls of America. We heard that talent today. We're grateful to all the black musicians who have brought such beauty and pride to our country, and we're grateful to you all.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Teresa Hairston, founder and publisher, Gospel Today; and entertainers Smokie Norful, Mary Mary, and Rev. Donnie McClurkin. The Black Music Month proclamation of June 1 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom *June 7, 2005*

*President Bush.* Thank you all. Good afternoon. Laura and I are really honored to welcome the Prime Minister and Cherie back to the White House. Welcome, Tony, glad you're here. Congratulations on your great victory. It was a landmark victory, and I'm really thrilled to be able to work with you to spread freedom and peace over the next years.

Our alliance with Great Britain is strong, and it's essential to peace and security. Together our two nations worked to liberate Europe from fascism. Together we de-

fended freedom during the cold war. Today, we're standing together again to fight the war on terror, to secure democracy and freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and the broader Middle East, and to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. As we face the challenges and opportunities of a new century, our alliance is stronger than ever.

Prime Minister Blair and I share a common vision of a world that is free, prosperous, and at peace. When men and women are free to choose their own

governments, to speak their minds, and to pursue a good life for their families, they build a strong, prosperous, and just society.

This is the vision chosen by Iraqis in elections in January, and the United States and Britain will stand with the Iraqi people as they continue their journey toward freedom and democracy. We'll support Iraqis as they take the lead in providing their own security. Our strategy is clear: We're training Iraqi forces so they can take the fight to the enemy, so they can defend their country. And then our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

By spreading freedom throughout the broader Middle East, we'll end the bitterness and hatred that feed the ideology of terror. We're working together to help build the democratic institutions of a future Palestinian state. We support Israel's disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. We're advancing the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

We also share a commitment to help the people of Africa build strong democratic institutions and healthy economies. The Prime Minister has made the promotion of reform and development in Africa a center piece of the G-8 summit that the United Kingdom will be hosting next month. And I'm grateful for your vision, and I'm grateful for your leadership on this important subject.

Helping those who suffer and preventing the senseless death of millions of people in Africa is a central commitment of my administration's foreign policy. We're making historic progress in helping the poorest countries in Africa gain a fresh start and to build a future of greater opportunity and prosperity. America will continue to lead the world to meet our duty in helping the world's most vulnerable people.

Over the past 4 years, we have tripled our assistance to sub-Saharan Africa, and now America accounts for nearly a quarter of all the aid in the region. And we're com-

mitted to doing more in the future. We also agree that highly indebted developing countries that are on the path to reform should not be burdened by mountains of debt. Our countries are developing a proposal for the G-8 that will eliminate 100 percent of that debt, and that, by providing additional resources, will preserve the financial integrity of the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

As we work with African nations to develop democratic institutions and vibrant economies that will provide greater opportunity for all Africans, we must also address emergency needs. I'm pleased to announce the United States will provide approximately \$674 million of additional resources to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa. One of those emergencies is the growing hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa. In response to this need, \$414 million of those additional resources will be provided immediately to avert famine there. We urge the international community to join us in committing greater resources to the humanitarian needs in Africa.

I also look forward to working with the Prime Minister through the G-8 to forge a new strategy for the 21st century that helps countries achieve economic prosperity, energy security, and a clean environment to improve public health by cutting air—public air pollution and to address global change, subjects which I look forward to discussing at the G-8, Mr. Prime Minister. To develop and make available clean and efficient technologies that will help attain these goals has got to be part of our dialog at the G-8.

I look forward to also continuing our discussion to support freedom and democracy in the broader Middle East.

The United States congratulates the United Kingdom as it takes over the Presidency of the EU on July the first. The United States has a wide-ranging and active agenda with Europe, and we're determined