

A member of the Ghanaian organising committee told me he remembered having music appreciation lessons at school 50 years ago, when Ghana was still a British colony, but he could not remember any similar event in his lifetime.

Most of the audience were invited to attend, with the few hundred tickets actually put on sale costing between US \$30-50, well beyond the reach of the pockets of the average Ghanaian.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 60 per cent of people live on less than two US dollars per day. So, unsurprisingly, the auditorium was packed with local officials and diplomats.

A quick trawl around Accra's teeming markets confirmed earlier suspicions—that the Ghanaian capital completely lacks CD shops selling classical music.

While African faces on the crowded stage were limited to two, one the African-American bass-baritone Kevin Deas, and the other, the soprano Measha Brueggergosman, a Canadian national.

The impact of the music on those lucky enough to be present was, however, electric.

Daniel Barenboim, the musicians and the four soloists (who included La Scala newcomer and rising British star, tenor Ian Storey) gave their all. They had time for only a single rehearsal, but their performance was impeccable.

Barenboim told me during rehearsal: "The problem is, you cannot articulate the content of music in words. This can only be expressed through sound. This is what I hope we are bringing to them."

This extraordinary event was the result of a casual invitation to Daniel Barenboim in New York last December by Ghana's highest-profile international figure, Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General and a friend of La Scala's new "maestro" conductor.

The president of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, and the Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti, also helped to make Kofi Annan's dream come true.

SPIRITED RENDITION

Annan was beaming afterwards at the Ghanaian President's post-concert party in Accra's State Banqueting Hall.

"In international affairs, you have to learn how to create pillars and foundations in order to realise dreams," he said.

At the post-concert party some of La Scala's violin players playfully took over from a local Accra orchestra, giving a spirited rendition of Guantanamara.

But was it really worth the vast expense (\$500,000) to charter an Airbus and fly this huge and talented company 6,000 miles across the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert to Ghana, and back, for a single Beethoven performance?

Barenboim says emphatically "yes". He would like to return to Africa, either with La Scala or to give a series of solo piano recitals in various African countries.

The former child prodigy, who has replaced Riccardo Muti as conductor at La Scala, and who built up the now famous West-East Divan orchestra of Israeli and Palestinian musicians, believes music may hold the key to bridging the North-South cultural, and even economic, divide.

"You have to listen to the other players if you want to play in an orchestra," he said.

But as one of the first violins in the orchestra whispered to me as we were flying back high over the Sahara desert, while she had enjoyed this unique experience, she was not so sure that a charity concert in Milan to raise money for Ghana might not have been preferable.

The audience shouted for more after the Accra concert, but a performance of this quality of Beethoven's Ninth hardly lends itself to an encore.

Now we shall have to see whether Daniel Barenboim's ambitious dream of stimulating a demand for classical music in Africa is going to be fulfilled.

It will require a lot of money, and a lot of politics. The encore is not yet assured.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RONALD CALERY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. Ronald Calery, who has spent a lifetime fighting poverty, serving as a voice for those least fortunate and defending the powerless in our society. This week, Mr. Calery will be recognized for his efforts with the prestigious Terence DuVernay Award, which recognizes career excellence in the field of affordable housing.

Mr. Calery has served for 35 years as Executive Director with the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resources Authority (CAHRA) Inc. Before his appointment to the position of Executive Director, he served the agency as a founding member of the board of directors. The Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac CAHRA administers a number of critical programs that attack poverty head on. Among its vital services, the organization provides quality housing that is affordable to low income and moderate income persons.

Ron Calery's leadership of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resources Authority has strengthened this organization, making it one of the most effective community action agencies in the state. Under his leadership, the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency has assisted local entities to improve existing housing and develop new housing units.

Perhaps one of Mr. Calery's most notable contributions was the construction of Avery Square Complex, a project that served to help revitalize downtown Sault Ste. Marie. The project has been widely recognized as a housing model throughout the State of Michigan. Mr. Calery has also worked closely with county and local governments, helping to spur the construction of moderate cost housing in several rural communities. He planned a housing development in Sault Ste. Marie, and is currently planning moderate cost housing in St. Ignace.

While the DuVernay award which Mr. Calery will receive focuses upon efforts to provide affordable housing, Mr. Calery's service to the public, the Eastern Upper Peninsula (V.P.) and the State of Michigan extends well beyond affordable housing issues. His service to the state and his community has been extensive.

At one time or another, he has been a driving force in just about every organization that plays a positive role in the Eastern U.P. He served on the Tri-County Small Business Loan Committee, helping to spur small business in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties. As President of the John F. Kennedy Chippewa County Retarded Children's Association, he helped to expand activities and programs for handicapped children. He served on the State board of directors for the Michigan Association for Retarded Children. He spent 4 years in a

non-partisan position as an elected City Commissioner for Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. As the Chairman of the Tri-County Recreation Commission and the Sault Ste. Marie Parks and Recreation Commission, he helped ensure that positive recreation opportunities abound in the Sault Ste. Marie region. He also coached Soo PeeWee Hockey.

No matter what project Mr. Calery takes on, he never takes "no" for an answer. He never retreats from a challenge. Instead, Ron Calery is known for pausing, examining the various obstacles, assembling a new coalition, seeking different funding arrangements, and ultimately finding a solution to achieve the goal. Regardless of what it takes, once he decides that a project or program can have a positive impact on his fellow citizens, he is relentless in seeing the project brought to fruition. The affordable housing projects, programs to eliminate poverty, and efforts to improve the living conditions for residents of Michigan have all been challenging, but never once has Ron Calery shirked from the challenge.

When a project he has worked upon is complete or a program is successful, this humble man does not leap forward to take credit. Instead, Mr. Calery always steps aside to commend the work of others and compliment the fine leadership they have provided.

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007, Mr. Calery will be recognized by his colleagues for a career spent helping others. His many friends will gather to say thank you for all that Ron Calery has accomplished. Across Michigan, many other citizens will be unable to attend, but they, too, will be thanking this warm man for his many kindnesses. Madam Speaker, as Ron Calery receives this well-deserved award, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting, congratulating, and thanking him for his selfless service to others.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AMENDING STATUTE ESTABLISHING EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, joined by Representatives JERRY MORAN, THORBERRY, BOSWELL, TIAHRT and BOYDA, I am today introducing legislation which would make a variety of technical changes to the statute establishing the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created by the U.S. Congress in 1999 as a bipartisan commission for the purpose of considering and formulating plans for the location, design and construction of a permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to the United States. Since being fully appointed in 2001, the Commission considered 26 different sites in the District of Columbia. In 2005, it selected a site between the Department of Education and the National Air and Space Museum, two institutions resulting from and greatly influenced by President Eisenhower's leadership. In 2006, Congress approved the memorial's location within Area I, in compliance with the

Commemorative Works Act. The Commission secured full approval for the selected site following extensive review by the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts.

Since its inception, the Commission has also taken great care to study and analyze the Eisenhower legacy. It produced a report by leading scholars and experts on Eisenhower that provides a definitive statement on the transcending elements of Eisenhower's enduring legacy. He ranks as one of the preeminent figures in the global history of the 20th century. Dwight Eisenhower spent his entire life in public service. His most well-known contributions include serving as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in World War II and as 34th President of the United States, but Eisenhower also served as the first commander of NATO and as President of Columbia University. Dramatic changes occurred in America during his lifetime, many of which he participated in and influenced through his extraordinary leadership as President. Although Ike grew up before automobiles existed, he created the Interstate Highway System and took America into space. He created NASA, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Federal Aviation Administration. He added Hawaii and Alaska to the United States and ended the Korean War. President Eisenhower desegregated the District of Columbia and sent federal troops into Little Rock, AR to enforce school integration. He diffused international crises and inaugurated the national security policies that guided the nation for the next three decades, leading to the peaceful end of the Cold War. A career soldier, Eisenhower championed peace, freedom, justice and security, and as President he stressed the interdependence of those goals. He spent a lifetime fulfilling his duty to his country, always remembering to ask what's best for America.

Eisenhower's legacy provides hope to all of us—like him, through education and public service, we as a Nation and individually can rise to meet any challenge. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission now needs to move into the design phase. As design begins, the Commission's organization, specifically with regard to contracting and staffing, needs to be updated and revised to enable efficient management and responsible stewardship. This legislation provides for the necessary reorganization. The legislation enables the Commission to retain the services of full, part-time, and volunteer staff as government employees, without the restrictions of the competitive service requirements. It also provides the authority for the Commission's Executive Architect to manage technical and administrative aspects of design and construction. It provides for staff to be released on the completion of the memorial and enables the Commission to work in collaboration with federal agencies. In addition, the legislation will allow the Commission to receive direct appropriations, easing the burden on both the Commission and federal agencies that previously served as conduits for Commission funding. I have also enclosed a detailed justification of the proposed legislation for your review.

Very similar legislation, S. 890, has been introduced by Senator DANIEL INOUE of Hawaii, who serves with me and Senator TED STE-

VENS on the Executive Committee of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. I am joined today in introducing this measure by Representatives JERRY MORAN, THORNBERRY and BOSWELL, who serve as members of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and by our fellow Kansans serving in the U.S. House, Representatives TIAHRT and BOYDA.

A TRIBUTE TO TAIWANESE
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-Bian recently announced that his country plans to pursue full membership in the World Health Organization. I wish President Chen and the 23 million people of Taiwan the best of luck in this endeavor, and I hope that all Americans will support their effort.

Taiwan has a modern, world-class health care system and has lent its talents and resources in the field to people around the world. Taiwan's expertise and contributions to world health are particularly important at this time when people, products, and threats to health and safety can travel great distances in relatively short periods of time.

The WHO's mission is “. . . the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.” Providing accurate information about the spread of health threats is a critical part of that mission.

Last year, however, the WHO disseminated an inaccurate map which classified Taiwan as an area affected with human cases of the bird flu—even though no cases had been documented on the island. Unfortunately, because the WHO—like many organizations pretends that Taiwan is a part of China, the WHO depicted Taiwan as an “infected area” because there had been an avian flu outbreak on the Chinese mainland. This is not only unfair, it is dangerous.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the intent of the WHO is not to knowingly disseminate false information about such a dangerous health threat—yet because of Chinese pressure to exclude Taiwan from this body, that is exactly what happened. And unfortunately, unless the problem of Taiwan's exclusion from this body is remedied, this could easily happen again.

When China and the WHO play politics with people's health, it isn't just dangerous for Taiwan, it is “bad medicine” for the whole world. I hope that the Administration recognizes this fact, and I hope they will actively support Taiwan's bid for full membership in this world body.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK NEMETH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Nick Nemeth of Chapparral High School in Parker, Colorado. As a sophomore, Mr. Nemeth received an invi-

tation to attend a 10-day National Young Leaders Conference this summer in Washington, DC.

Mr. Nemeth has demonstrated outstanding academic and leadership qualities as a young man, and is an archetype of his school and community. Completing the academic school year first in his class, he was chosen as a National Scholar, an honor presented to less than one percent of all qualified high-school students.

Students chosen to attend the National Young Leaders Conference are hand selected based on both their academic achievement and recommendations by educators, mentors, and community leaders.

The National Young Leaders Conference is a forum for promising youth designed to inspire and foster their full leadership potential. Supported by over 400 members from the U.S. Congress, this program provides young men and women a rare opportunity to gain an insider's perspective into the legislative and political process of Washington D.C. This unique interaction and exposure enables them to formulate valuable perspectives which will help them guide their communities into the future.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own as one of America's young leaders. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Nemeth and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. VAUGHAN INGE MORRISSETTE FOR HER SIGNIFICANT PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF MOBILE AND THE STATE OF ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, in life, there are givers and there are takers, and it is with personal pride and pleasure that I recognize someone who is always giving and always doing for others, Mobile's own, Vaughan Inge Morrisette. In this vein, I rise today to salute Vaughan and offer her our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people of south Alabama for a lifetime of exemplary philanthropic service to both the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama.

For some 40 years, Vaughan has dedicated a considerable amount of her time toward the advancement of education, the arts, and history by serving as trustee, board member, and even as chairman of numerous organizations in the state and throughout the nation.

Shortly after graduating from Sweet Briar College in Virginia in 1954, Vaughan began to make a name for herself in the all-important area of volunteerism. Ironically, it was some forty years later than Vaughan would be named to the board of directors of her alma mater. She served Sweet Briar in this capacity from 1996–2002.

In 1973, Vaughan became a member of the Colonial Dames, serving on the Conde Charlotte Museum House Committee, trustee for the friends of Sulgrave Manor, center head, state president, and national board member. She currently serves on the Dumbarton House