

The original documents are located in Box 7, folder “4/19/75 - Entertainment Introduction, Kaunda Dinner, Zambia” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SLEW

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ENTERTAINMENT INTRODUCTION --

KAUNDA DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT, HONORED GUESTS.

MUSIC IS A VERY POWERFUL FORCE. IT HAS BEEN

CALLED THE ONE TRULY INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE -- A LANGUAGE

OF SOUND AND FEELING THAT EVERYONE CAN UNDERSTAND.

OUR GUEST ARTISTS THIS EVENING ARE PROOF OF JUST

HOW POWERFUL THAT LANGUAGE CAN BE.

JAMES TOCCO ^{TOE-KOE} (TOC-CO)

IS ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S MOST TALENTED YOUNG PIANISTS.

^{13th}

THE THIRTEENTH CHILD OF HIS ITALIAN IMMIGRANT PARENTS,

HE INHERITED THEIR STRONG LOVE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC.

HE HAS PERFORMED FOR AUDIENCES AROUND THE WORLD, AND WON
A NUMBER OF PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS. IN SEPTEMBER OF
1973, FOR EXAMPLE, MR. TOCCO BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN
PIANIST EVER TO WIN THE MUNICH INTERNATIONAL PIANO
COMPETITION IN GERMANY.

BUT THAT IS ONLY PART OF THE STORY. AS I SAID,
MUSIC IS A LANGUAGE OF SOUND AND FEELING THAT CAN BRING
TOGETHER PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. AND
MISS GILAN AKBAR (GE-LAHN AK-BAR), MR. TOCCO'S ASSISTING
PIANIST TONIGHT, IS LIVING PROOF OF THIS.

ALTHOUGH SHE STILL PERFORMS UNDER HER MAIDEN NAME,
MISS AKBAR IS MARRIED TO MR. TOCCO, BUT MISS AKBAR IS
A DISTINGUISHED ARTIST IN HER OWN RIGHT AND HAS FREQUENTLY
PERFORMED FOR THE SHAH AND EMPRESS IN HER NATIVE IRAN.

HER STUDIES HAVE ALSO TAKEN HER TO VIENNA AND PARIS --

AND IT WAS IN PARIS, WHERE THEY WERE BOTH STUDYING UNDER THE SAME
TEACHER, THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND FIRST MET. THEY HAVE BEEN
MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER SINCE.

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME THEM HERE TONIGHT --

GEE LAHN

JAMES TOCCO AND GILAN AKBAR.

END OF TEXT