

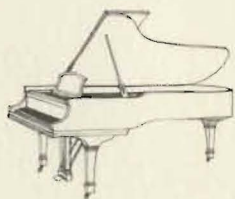


IN HONOR OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. URHO KEKKONEN
PRESIDENT OF FINLAND

THE WHITE HOUSE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1976

GEORGE SHEARING

PIANIST



By the time English-born George Shearing was twenty-one, he had already established himself in London as a top star in supper clubs, and his recordings there were on the best-seller lists.

In 1947 Shearing and his wife came to the United States to reside and later to become American citizens. Two years after their arrival, Shearing organized his first quintet for the now-historical LP recording which included a number called "September in the Rain." That album launched what is now called "the Shearing sound"—unique, suave—the kind of sound that enchants audiences and inspires the highest admiration from professional colleagues. Subsequent recordings, many of which have become collectors' items, as well as personal appearances made the group a nationwide sensation. Since then Shearing's name has many times topped every trade paper, disc jockey and jazz poll of any significance—some as many as seven times!

Such has been the impact of "the Shearing sound" that whether he and the quintet are guest artists with major American symphony orchestras, whether he delights the supper club night owls as soloist or with the group, he has been proclaimed the No. 1 pianist in over a dozen nations including Japan, Australia, Germany, France and South Africa.

In addition to 26 half hour segments of "The George Shearing Show" for nationally syndicated television featuring the quintet and top guest vocalists, Mr. Shearing has made numerous TV guest appearances and has been the subject of a one hour special for National Educational Television.

Shearing was born blind. This fact possibly has made him all the greater musician. With an ear of extraordinary sensitivity, he has composed and arranged an enormous amount of music. The result is artistry of the first magnitude.

