

For Immediate Release
Monday, March 29, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY TO MRS. FORD

Charlie Byrd, jazz and classical guitarist, will entertain at the State Dinner for King Hussein of Jordan on Tuesday, March 29.

During the Johnson Administration, Byrd performed twice at White House functions, including a State Dinner for the King of Nepal.

Byrd, a native of Virginia, learned to play guitar from his father. His interest in jazz was stimulated by an encounter with the late Django Reinhardt, a gypsy guitarist, in Paris during World War II. At the time, Byrd was traveling with a G.I. orchestra.

After the war, Byrd studied at the Harnett National Music School in New York City and performed with many notable jazz musicians. During the late 1940's, Byrd became interested in the classical guitar, and in 1954, he studied with Andrea Segovia, the great classical guitarist.

Through the years, Byrd has pursued his interest in both classical and jazz music. Since 1956, he has produced more than fifty albums of his own, and he has won virtually every major award for a guitarist.

In addition to numerous concerts and tours in America, Byrd and his group have made several international tours, including State Department tours in Africa, the Far East and India.

Besides performing and recording, Byrd also composes musical scores for films and television. The guitarist has made his home in the Washington, D.C. area for over two decades. He is married and presently lives with his wife and daughter in Annapolis, Maryland.

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