

On May 19, 2008, at the US State Department in Washington, D.C., Christopher R. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, presented to Elliott Golub and Marlou Johnston an award to Trio Chicago & Friends “for sustained excellence in promoting cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding through music in the East Asian and Pacific region.” TC&F was previously honored at the State Department in 2006 for its activities in Africa.






Department of State
United States of America
Official recognition and appreciation
Are tendered to

Trio Chicago and Friends

For sustained and exceptional contributions and
Services to Cultural Diplomacy in Africa


Assistant Secretary
Bureau of African Affairs



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

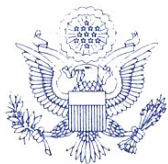
For Immediate Release

January 17, 2006

Trio Chicago and Friends Honored at the State Department

Jendayi E. Frazer, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, awarded Trio Chicago and Friends with certificates of appreciation for their four tours of Africa from 2003-2005. Receiving the awards for the ensemble were violinists Elliott Golub of Winnetka and Marlou Johnston of Bourbonnais, founders of Trio Chicago and Friends. In presenting the awards, the Assistant Secretary noted their contributions to American cultural diplomacy, as they performed under difficult circumstances to large and appreciative audiences and often far from African capitals, in venues as diverse as soccer fields and sports stadiums.

The Chicago-based ensemble has played American classical music before diverse audiences in Ethiopia, Mali, Uganda, and Zambia. The mayor of Jimma, a regional capital in southern Ethiopia, noted that their performances last summer were the first live performances by any Western musical groups in Jimma. The group performed Gershwin, Copland, and Ellington before an audience of 3000 students and their relatives at University of Jimma graduation ceremonies in July.



UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON
March 20, 2007

Dear Mr. Golub:

Congratulations on your successful tours of South East Asia in December and the Russian Far East last October. I have seen reports from our Public Affairs Officers in the field and was impressed by the rave reviews of your performances. Thank you for donating your talents and offering to work with our embassies and consulates to reach people and create mutual understanding throughout the world. The great turnouts at all of your concerts, including those in remote areas and in countries ranging from Laos to Ethiopia, illustrate the power of music as a universal language.

I commend you for your commitment to engaging foreign audiences through American music. It is efforts like yours that truly build friendships and create a more positive image of America in the rest of the world. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen P. Hughes".

Karen P. Hughes

Mr. Elliott Golub,
Trio Chicago & Friends,
228 Sheridan Road,
Winnetka, IL 60093.

Thanks so much -
music is such a
powerful language!



BARACK OBAMA

March 15, 2006

Mr. Elliott Golub
Trio Chicago & Friends
228 Sheridan Road
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Dear Trio Chicago & Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Trio Chicago & Friends for your dedication to intercultural communication through music.

Your travels to China, Cuba, Vietnam, Africa and many other countries have shown a strong commitment to education and bridging cultures. Approaching new cultures through music can create immediate connections and understanding with little or no verbal communication.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is crucial that America show its best face to the world and Trio Chicago & Friends has exemplified what it means to be an ambassador.

Your service to the community and to education is truly laudable. I wish you much good fortune and continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC
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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1504

July 6, 2004

332 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304
(202) 224-2152
TTY (202) 224-8180

230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FL.
CHICAGO, IL 60604
(312) 353-4952

525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 492-4062

701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
(618) 998-8812

www.senate.gov/~durbin

Ms. Marlou Johnston
1476 W. 2250 N. Road
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Ms. Johnston,

I am writing to express my support for Trio Chicago & Friends and particularly your activities as cultural ambassadors which represent a wonderful opportunity for the United States CultureConnect program administered by the State Department. Trio Chicago & Friends' participation in CultureConnect provides people throughout the world with inspiring educational and artistic experiences from America.

CultureConnect's goals of promoting global and cross-cultural understanding are issues that Trio Chicago & Friends have encouraged for the past decade. As cultural ambassadors, Trio Chicago & Friends have traveled all over the globe, from China to Ethiopia, from Turkey to Barbados, as well as many other countries, enhancing the activities of local United States Embassies. In addition to concert performances, your group provides master classes and coaching for local students who at times join Trio Chicago in concerts. The group also integrates traditional music from the host country into their performances.

Trio Chicago & Friends aims to bridge cultures through music. The purpose of traveling from embassy to embassy is not only to further the political relationship of the United States with foreign countries, but the cultural relationship as well. I believe that during this particular time positive cultural ambassadors from the United States are needed and I know that Trio Chicago would be an incredibly successful ambassador. I commend your organization for its valuable services to the country and the world.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator