

## **News Posted by Embassies of the United States, November 2007**



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

**AMMAN • JORDAN**



### **"Trio Chicago and Friends" Highlight the Best of American Music for Large Audiences Around the Kingdom**

November 14, 2007 - On a U.S. Embassy-sponsored visit to Jordan, American musical ensemble "Trio Chicago and Friends" attracted Jordanians from throughout the Kingdom to live performances in the governorates of Greater Amman, Aqaba, Tafileh and Madaba this week. The hundreds of students attending the various concerts raved about the performances, many stating that they had never heard music of this caliber before.

Captivated audiences offered spontaneous applause in reaction to soprano vocalist Alyssa Bennett's tone, range and versatility, especially when she performed classics such as Gershwin's "Summertime" and Leonard Bernstein's "Glitter and Be Gay." The attendance at their various concerts reached approximately 2000 people in total, ranging from schoolchildren to mature audiences grateful for the rare opportunity to see a performance in Jordan by such skilled musicians with such a unique repertoire. Trio Chicago and Friends also conducted master classes at the National Music Conservatory for more than twenty local aspiring musicians.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

**ADDIS ABABA • ETHIOPIA**



Returning to Ethiopia for a fourth concert tour, "Trio Chicago and Friends" arrived in Addis Ababa on November 14 to launch their latest concert tour of Addis Ababa and Gondar. As United States "Cultural Ambassadors," the five American musicians will perform concerts at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the Addis Ababa Municipal Theatre, Gondar University, the Fasilidas Palace in Gondar, and conduct a master class for student musicians at the Yared Music School.

## News Posted by Embassies of the United States, January 2007



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

PHNOM PENH • CAMBODIA



### Trio Chicago Shares Classic American Music with Cambodian Audiences



The respected American musical ensemble Trio Chicago and Friends recently performed to large and enthusiastic audiences across Cambodia as part of a Southeast Asia tour that also included Laos and Thailand. In Cambodia, the group performed in Battambang, Siem Reap (as part of the Angkor-Gyeonju World Culture Expo), and Phnom Penh. City officials estimated that Trio Chicago's outdoor concert in Battambang drew nearly 10,000 people to the city center, where an impromptu street fair had been set up to capitalize on the concert crowds. In Siem Reap, Trio Chicago performed on the Grand Stage at the Angkor-Gyeonju Expo to an audience of more than 1,000 people, and the group concluded its stay in Cambodia with a sold-out performance at Chenla Theater attended by special guests of honor H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, and H.E. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information.

*Office of the Ambassador*

January 15, 2007

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

Dear Elliott:

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, I would like to express our appreciation to you and all the musicians of Trio Chicago and Friends for the superb performances TCF recently mounted in Cambodia. By all accounts the concerts were a tremendous success. City officials estimate that the group's performance in Battambang attracted a crowd of more than 10,000 people, an unprecedented response for an American cultural presentation in this country. And the Cambodian Ministry of Culture has already asked if we can bring TCF back for an encore tour. The nationwide broadcast of the Phnom Penh performance as a prime-time television special was merely frosting on the cake. Please accept the accompanying video of the television special as a small memento of the group's visit to Cambodia.

On a personal note, I would like to say how much my wife Sharon and I enjoyed the Phnom Penh concert, especially Copland's adaptations of "Old American Songs," which was certainly a crowd pleaser. Several important Cambodian contacts came to us after the performance to say that this was "the best show" the Embassy had ever produced.

I commend you and the entire TCF ensemble -- Marlow Johnston, Alyssa Bennett, Laura Hamm and Kay Kim -- for your dedication to citizen cultural diplomacy and to fostering mutual understanding between Cambodians and Americans. Bravo!

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Mussomeli  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

## VIENTIANE•LAOS

American Musicians Trio Chicago  
and Friends Thrill Lao Audiences

The quintet Trio Chicago and Friends held two concerts in Vientiane as part of a State Department-sponsored tour as Artistic Ambassadors. On January 5, the group entertained about 80 guests at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Patricia M. Haslach with a performance that featured jazz pieces and traditional American music. The next night, hundreds of members of the general public attended a concert at the National Cultural Hall. The group also conducted a master class for about twenty Lao music students from public and private schools. This was the group's second visit to Laos, following a 2002 tour.

At the end of their concert at the National Cultural Hall, Trio Chicago and Friends surprised audiences by inviting noted Lao musician and teacher Ajaan Kamsuan and his students to join the performers for two songs. The combination of western and traditional Lao instruments produced a unique and memorable sound, showing that, in music, there are no borders between nations. Following the concert, Vice Minister of Information and Culture Boua Ngeun Saophouvong congratulated the group on their performance.



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

February 21, 2007

AMBASSADOR

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

Dear Mr. Golub:

I am writing to thank you and your group, "Trio Chicago and Friends," for your wonderful performances in Laos this January, both at my residence and at the National Culture Hall. The audience at the public performance particularly enjoyed the joint session with Lao musicians for Duke Ellington's "Caravan" – by all reports the highlight of the concert.

Audiences in Laos rarely get to enjoy listening to American music performed live, and I appreciate your outstanding efforts in sharing our culture and history. As you already know, the Artistic Ambassador program is extremely important to us as we continue our efforts to connect with the Lao people and improve ties between our two countries. We welcome visits by talented artists and performers like "Trio Chicago and Friends" to help us build those cultural bridges.

Thank you again for traveling all the way to Laos to share such an important and enjoyable part of Americana. I hope you enjoyed your stay in Vientiane, and we look forward to your next visit to the region.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Haslach



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Vladivostok, Russia  
October 17, 2006

Mr. Elliott M. Golub  
228 Sheridan Road  
Winnetka, IL 60093

Dear Elliott,

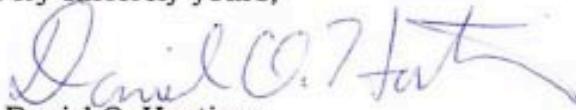
I am writing to profusely thank you and the Trio Chicago & Friends for your ground-breaking musical tour of the Russian Far East where thousands of Russians got to hear -- most for the first times in their lives -- original American classics played live. I would also like to thank the Illinois Arts Council for supporting your exceptional tour.

Your group's passion for music, love of sharing it with foreign audiences, and engaging spirit helped us improve America's image in one of the world's most remote corners. Today, more than ever, America needs goodwill ambassadors such as yourselves who can culturally and creatively engage with new, younger generations around the world. These youth know little about the beautiful story that is America, that is, until they got to hear the Trio Chicago & Friends play.

I was particularly impressed by your resilient attitude in what proved to be an extremely challenging environment, including the claimed test of a nuclear explosion in North Korea 100 miles away shortly after your arrival, and the unanticipated 16-hour train ride that you had to take across the vast Russian Far East so you could be the first-ever U.S. artists to appear in the Jewish Autonomous Oblast.

Thank you again for being such passionate and caring cultural trail blazers for the United States of America. You epitomize the essence of our great nation.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Daniel O. Hastings  
Public Affairs Officer



### Certificate of Appreciation

This Certificate Is Awarded To **Elliott M. Golub**

*In Recognition of His Generous Contribution to Promoting Cultural Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between the United States of America and the Russian Federation during the Trio Chicago & Friends' music tour of the Russian Far East (October 7 – 17, 2006)*

Vladivostok, Russia, October 11, 2006



*John Mark Pommersheim  
U.S. Consul General in Vladivostok*





EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Hanoi

**AMBASSADOR**

December 7, 2005

Mr. Elliott Golub  
Winnetka, Illinois

Dear Elliott:

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the music you and the Trio Chicago and Friends brought to Vietnam in November. The unique mix of classical and jazz music by you and your musicians was a spectacular representation of American music at its best. My highest praises go to you and the rest of the group, Marlou Johnston, Lyudmila Ladisova, Laura Hamm and Alyssa Bennett.

I know your performances in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, Haiphong and Hanoi generated great enthusiasm from the Vietnamese audiences. Through your music diplomacy, you helped us mark the tenth anniversary of normalization of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic relations. As you know, during this special commemorative year, the United States Mission has programmed cultural events to foster mutual understanding and celebrate the friendship of our two countries. The Trio Chicago and Friends have played a remarkable role in these efforts. In particular, your outreach programs at conservatories throughout the country have inspired and moved music students who rarely have the opportunity to experience such encounters with professionals of your caliber.

Once again, I thank you for your dedication to the performing arts and youth education. I know you have a busy global tour schedule and hope you will have the opportunity to return to Southeast Asia in the near future.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Marine

## ETHIOPIA TOUR - JULY 2005



*Embassy of the United States of America*

July 28, 2005

Mr. Elliott Golub  
Trio Chicago and Friends  
228 Meridian Road  
Winnetka, IL 60093

Dear Elliott:

Let me take this occasion before you leave Ethiopia to congratulate you and other members of Trio Chicago and Friends on your service to American cultural diplomacy in Ethiopia. Having completed your third annual tour to this country, you have once again set a high standard not only of musicianship but also of educating Ethiopian publics about serious as well as light classical American music.

I continue to be amazed by the adaptability of your ensemble, facing venues as diverse as city halls and soccer playing fields. You met the challenges of performing under these conditions this year in Jimma and Mekele, and my staff and I congratulate you on your patience and demonstrated good will in performing under less than ideal conditions in cities that have never before heard live classical American music. I witnessed the nearly 3000 in your audience at Jimma University, a testimony to the interest in your group and American music in general.

At your performance recently at the Ambassador's residence, I was amazed to see that you were able to recast your program so quickly once it was confirmed that your soprano vocalist was unable to perform due to illness. The instrumental program that you offered as a substitute was very well received by some very sophisticated listeners. Congratulations on this performing tour de force and your quick adaptability to adverse conditions!

Let me then add my voice of appreciation to those of our U.S. ambassadors from Mali, Zambia, and Uganda, who have also benefited from your recent tours. Congratulations on music well played and a cultural mission well performed. You are welcome back anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Westgate".

Sam Westgate

Director, Public Affairs

ETHIOPIA TOUR - JULY 2005



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JIMMA UNIVERSITY

Ref. No. JU36/293  
PTC  
Date July 4/2005  
on

July 4, 2005

Mr. Elliot M.Galub  
228 Meriden Road  
Winnetka, Illinois 60093  
U.S A

Dear Mr.E.M.Golub,

I am writing to thank you and your group "Trios Chicago & Friends" for coming all the way from U.S.A along with the U.S Embassy Public Affairs Offices, Dr. Sam Westgate and Cultural Affairs Officer, Mrs Bettina Malone on the eve of the graduation of 1, 430 Students from Jimma University on July 2, 2005.

At the outset, I thought our students would not be able to appreciate soft classical Jazz, only to be proved that I was for the most part wrong. The over 3,000 Students packed in the mini graduation stadium thoroughly enjoyed your music, which was the first of its kind in the town.

Please, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank you and all the members of your group on such auspicious occasion. We are very grateful for what the U.S Embassy is able to continue the do in creating mutual understanding between our two countries.

Our good relationship have gone one step further in the right direction. Jimma University is looking forward to hosting you for future graduation.

Sincerely

*Solomon Mogus (Ph.D)*  
Solomon Mogus (Ph.D)  
President

CC:

- Public Diplomacy Section, Embassy of U.S.A  
Addis Ababa





*Embassy of the United States  
Office of Public Affairs  
P.O. Box 7186  
Kampala, Uganda*

1 April 2005

Dear Trio Chicago & Friends,

On behalf of the Public Affairs Section of the American Embassy I would like to thank you for reaching out to the people of Uganda through music. As you discovered during your time here, Ugandans are not familiar with classical music. Your music, and Alyssa's angelic voice, filled the halls and hearts of Kampala and eastern Uganda with an appreciation for this art form.

In an environment of shrinking budgets for cultural diplomacy within American embassies, we commend your creativity in finding supplemental funding to enable you to continue in sharing with overseas audiences that component of your repertoire that highlights our American cultural heritage.

We are confident that the various performances by Trio Chicago & Friends in Uganda will remain as fond memories of an evening of something different and something beautiful in the minds of your audiences. Thank you for sharing your passion with them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Gonzales".

Michael C. Gonzales  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer



*Embassy of the United States of America*

Addis Ababa

June 15, 2004

Mr. Elliott Golub  
228 Sheridan Rd.  
Winnetka, IL 60093

Dear Mr. Golub,

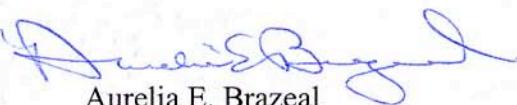
I want to express my appreciation to you and Trio Chicago and Friends for your outstanding performances in Ethiopia, but more importantly, for the generosity of your spirit in sharing something of our American culture, and your ability to connect with audiences of all ages and backgrounds, ranging from the President of Ethiopia to young Ethiopian students.

It was a pleasure to have you open our centennial celebrations at the National Palace in November, and your concert at the embassy in May provided us a very special way to say “thank you” to the audience representing organizations involved in the struggle against HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia.

Your musical clinic at Yared Music School and your performances at regional universities in Nazareth, Awassa and Bahir Dar gave those students a rare opportunity to hear live performances of both jazz and classical music; for most it was for the first time in their lives. Your willingness to perform at any venue, the marvelous response of the audiences, and the friendly rapport you established with your audiences are testament to Trio Chicago and Friends’ effectiveness as cultural ambassadors of the United States.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

  
Aurelia E. Brazeal  
Ambassador



Embassy of the United States of America

Lusaka, Zambia

June 4, 2004

Dear *Trio Chicago & Friends*:

On behalf of the entire American Embassy, I would like to thank the *Trio Chicago and Friends* for your exceptional performance and warm friendship during your concert tour of Zambia.

Classical music is a relatively unknown musical genre in Zambia. Armed with a program of American composers, excellent arrangements, and most important of all, an outstanding group of performers, *The Trio Chicago and Friends* brought great appreciation of a different aspect of American culture to our Zambian colleagues. You captivated audiences as varied as elementary students, college music students, and high-level Zambian and international professionals. I and my colleagues have been impressed with your ability to find the perfect way to communicate with each group. Throughout, your undeniable expertise and love of music brought standing ovations and smiles. You won many friends in the process.

We hope that you enjoyed your stay in Lusaka as much as the community enjoyed the sharing of American culture through your musical performances. I look forward to hosting you again.

Sincerely,

Martin Brennan  
Ambassador





*Embassy of the United States of America*

Bamako, March 25, 2004

Mr. Elliott Golub  
*Trio Chicago and Friends*  
228 Sheridan Road  
Winnetka, Ill. 60093

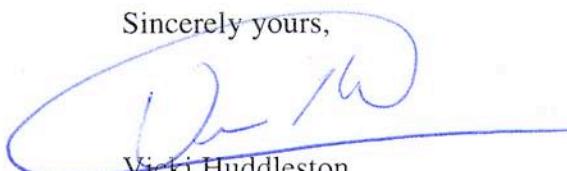
Dear Mr. Golub:

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy and the American community in Bamako, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to you and *Trio Chicago and Friends* for your extraordinary performances and generous philanthropy to the people of Mali. Your concerts in Bamako and Timbuktu introduced many Malians to classical music, which is relatively unknown in this country. Your donations of musical instruments to the Malian National Institute of Arts will make an enormous difference to this impoverished school and its students. Through your musical virtuosity and largesse, you have acted as cultural ambassadors, sharing American values and ideals.

Mali is a country rich in musical tradition with a vibrant presence in world music today. Your joint concert with Toumani Diabate and Habib Koite was a memorable experience of shared cultures expressed through music. This is not the first time I have witnessed your dedication to sharing American music and traditions with other countries. I was very happy to have welcomed you to Mali after having hosted a concert at my residence in Havana. I congratulate you on your continued efforts to bring high caliber chamber and other music to places where it is unfamiliar or people lack access to it.

With thanks and warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Vicki Huddleston  
Ambassador

A HANDWRITTEN NOTE FROM A STUDENT  
BAHIR DAR UNIVERSITY, ETHIOPIA

"To Trio Chicago & Friends  
All in all I enjoy your present[ation]  
Specially the African American piece take my breath away  
it goes deeper and deeper in my soul.  
I love you.  
John"

## **ADDITIONAL LETTERS REGARDING PRE-2004 TRIPS**

### **NAZARETH, ETHIOPIA--March 4, 2004**

**College Of Technical Teacher Education**

On behalf of the staff, students and community of Nazareth College of Technical Teacher Education, I would like to express my appreciation to Trio Chicago Friends for the concert performed by the musical team at our college on December 10, 2003. The students and the college community were very much satisfied with your talented musical performance and friendliness of your group.

It is our hope that such kind of music concert and relationship would bring about remarkable cultural ties between our countries at large and between your esteemed musical group and our college in particular.

I, thus, would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the musical performance and cultural relations you launched, and I hope this will continue at a large scale in the future.

*Solomon Shiferaw Bogale, Dean*

### **ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA--December 5, 2003**

**Addis Ababa University, Yared School Of Music**

This is to express our admiration and feeling on your great music performance.

The high-class concert of Trio Chicago and friends that we could be part of witnesses was the real performance of world-class musicians.

Your presence in our school was a great opportunity to our students, as well teachers in hearing a wonderful sound lively. We always remember you.

*Aklilu Zewdie, Director*

### **IZMIR, TURKEY--June 20, 2003**

**Consulate of the United States of America**

I would like to thank you very much for your visit to Izmir on April 21-22, 2003. The visit - which included two full concerts at the music conservatories of the two major universities in the city, Ege (Aegean) and Dokuz Eylul (9th of September) and master classes conducted by the members of the group for students in their respective specialties at Dokuz Eylul - was an excellent and highly productive one, and will be long remembered here in Izmir. In particular, the session at Ege University in which your group and the conservatory faculty exchanged notes and ideas regarding Turkish and Western classical music traditions on stage in the presence of over 150 fascinated and enthusiastic students was an example of international cultural exchange at its best. It was one of the highlights of my public diplomacy efforts in this city.

*Scott Edelman, Consul*

**ANKARA, TURKEY--July 7, 2003**  
**Embassy of the United States of America**

On behalf of Ambassador Pearson and the officers of the Embassy, I want to express our appreciation for your wonderful tour in Turkey last April. From the audiences at concerts in four universities in three cities to the official guests at the Ambassador's residence, everyone who heard your music was enriched. We especially appreciate your professionalism in standing by your commitment and sticking to your schedule, at a time when some American groups, not fully comfortable with the idea of travel to Turkey, were canceling their engagements.

Not only did you travel to Turkey, you got around! Your performances in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir thrilled hundreds of our Turkish friends, and your willingness to hold master classes at conservatories in each city introduced many young, Turkish musicians to a new form of instruction.

Our guests were further delighted with Trio Chicago's Turkish roots and connections, on a personal level, and we were proud to point to these enduring human relationships at a time of some stress in official relations.

We are indebted to you for your excellent music and tireless good humor, and to the Arts Council of Illinois for making it possible for us to appreciate your versatility and gentility.

*Francis B. Ward, Ph.D  
Counselor for Public Affairs*

**VIENTIANE, LAOS--December 12, 2002**  
**Embassy of the United States of America**

I am writing with sincere thanks to the Trio Chicago and Friends for the immensely enjoyable performances that you gave in Vientiane, Laos recently.

It is not often that Laotians-or Americans living in Laos-have the chance to hear Western classical music performed by musicians of such high caliber. As I have frequent opportunities to attend Lao cultural productions, it was very satisfying for me to have the all-too-rare opportunity to give Laotians a chance to hear American musicians playing pieces by well-known American composers.

I know that the international diplomats and Lao officials-who included the Minister for Information and Culture-greatly enjoyed your performance at my residence. The audience of over 300 people at the public performance, mostly Laotians, also appreciated the chance to hear a style of music unfamiliar to many of them.

I was especially pleased that you and the other musicians were able to visit the National School of Music for a real musical interchange with its students. I am sure that you enjoyed meeting and hearing the young Lao musicians as much as they enjoyed your demonstration of Western music.

*Douglas A. Hartwick, Ambassador*

**HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM--November 29, 2002**  
**Consulate General of the United States of America**

This is just a brief note to express our appreciation for the recent concert by Trio Chicago & Friends here in Ho Chi Minh City.

The Trio's tremendous initiative, energy, and talent brought American interpretations of classical music to a southern Vietnamese audience for the first time in our young Consulate General's history. I am especially proud that your dazzling performance exposed them to the vibrancy and creativity of American culture.

*Emi Lynn Yamauchi, Consul General*

**HANOI, VIETNAM--November 29, 2002**  
**Hanoi National Conservatory of Music**

On behalf of Mme. Tran Thu Ha, Director of the Hanoi Conservatory of Music, and Dr. Hoang Cuong, Director of the Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music, I would like to offer thanks to the members of the chamber ensemble Trio Chicago & Friends for their efforts as musical ambassadors during their recent visit to Vietnam.

In addition to giving outstanding performances on October 26 in Ho Chi Minh City and October 29 at our conservatory in Hanoi, which many students were able to attend, the members of Trio Chicago & Friends made important contributions to musical education in Vietnam through their coaching and encouragement of students, both in formal master classes and informally in conservatory classes that the group observed. Trio Chicago & Friends' clear interest in and respect for Vietnamese music and musicians helped to create people-to-people links that have importance beyond the field of music. The teachers and students that met with Trio Chicago & Friends would enthusiastically welcome a return visit.

I would also like to express thanks to the Fund for Reconciliation & Development for their assistance with the visit of Trio Chicago & Friends, and to the U.S. Embassy and Consulate along with other donors who helped make the tour possible.

*Liu Quang Minh*

**CITY OF CHICAGO--July 5, 2001**  
**Office of the Mayor**

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to congratulate the members of Trio Chicago & Friends on your many accomplishments. I thank you for your work as cultural ambassadors of Chicago. You ably showcase our rich and accomplished cultural life and diverse musical heritage. I am sure that your visits will continue to build a spirit of cooperation and friendship between our city and other countries.

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor*

**CARACAS, VENEZUELA--April 17, 2001**  
**Embassy of the United States of America**

It was a great pleasure to host Trio Chicago and Friends during their recent Venezuela tour. Their musicianship is superb; their repertoire holds something of delight for everyone; and they are outstanding human beings to work with. Not one is a prima donna, but they play as world-class virtuosi, whether the material is Beethoven or Billy Strayhorn. It is no wonder that they played to packed houses, and received standing ovations, everywhere. I would recommend them highly, without reservations.

*Jeremy Carper, Ph.D. (Music, Washington University), Cultural Affairs Officer*

**HAVANA, CUBA-- November 21, 2000**  
**Embassy of Switzerland--United States of America Interests Section**

I want to express my appreciation for the fine concert by the Trio Chicago and Friends at the Residence last month. Your initiative in organizing this performance of the Trio Chicago and Friends at my Residence -- the former Residence of our Ambassadors to Cuba -- is key to building bridges between the American and Cuban people. Your wonderful performance exposed Cubans and diplomats alike the vibrancy and creativity of American culture.

For many of our Cuban guests, it was their first opportunity to attend a concert given by American musicians. They were delighted and impressed with the "Trio's" technical skill and interpretation, as well as with the selection of pieces. Many commented on how exciting, and unique, it was to exchange impressions with musicians in the Trio.

All of the paintings and Richard Hunt's sculpture added a special dimension by building bridges to art as well as music. The presence of the American artists allowed for a personal exchange with the guests about their work.

I would like to thank you personally and the Illinois Arts Council as well for bringing Trio Chicago and Friends to Havana, making possible their wonderful performance at my Residence. Elliott, no one had ever thought to do this before; so your decision to bring to Cuba this very exciting exchange is especially significant and important. Thank you so much.

*Ambassador Vicki Huddleston*

**BELIZE--December 7, 1999**  
**Embassy of the United States of America**

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy and the American community in Belize, I want to reiterate our thanks for the extraordinary night of music provided by Trio Chicago and Friends on the evening of Friday, December 3. In addition to providing a rare treat for all who attended the concert at my residence, you also helped raise desperately needed funds for the Ambergris Museum.

The performances will long be remembered by all who were in attendance. I am grateful to all of you and to everyone who played a part in bringing you to Belize for this most worthwhile cause.

*Carolyn Curiel, Ambassador*

**HAVANA, CUBA--October 26, 1999**  
**Amadeo Roldan Conservatory**

On behalf of the students and faculty of the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory, we thank you for the visit of the Chicago Trio & Friends at this place, hoping that it will not be the last time but rather the beginning of a great friendship that will be broadly linked with brotherly ties of solidarity - as music knows no boundaries and will always be in our hearts.

*Lic. Roberto Catala de la Hoz, Director General*

**HAVANA, CUBA--November 5, 1999**  
**Union de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba**

We wish to express our gratitude for the Chicago Trio's visit to Havana.

Your contact with our public, the meetings with our students, your generous gift for the music schools and your excellent concerts are beautiful symbols of friendship between our peoples. Your concert was recorded by CMBF Radio Musical Nacional and will be broadcast to all our country.

*Guido Lopez-Gavilan*  
Presidente Festival de La Habana Asociacion de Musicos, UNEAC

**BEIJING, CHINA--September 24, 1998**  
**China Radio International**

Your wonderful performance brought enormous enjoyment to the audience. As the beautiful music echoed throughout the CRI building, the appreciative audience responded with warm applause. Many said it is a day they will never forget. I myself certainly share that feeling.

These fine musicians also performed live on the air for our two-hour music program "Afternoon Concert". It was the first time we have invited a group for a live performance on this program. Their professional skills and their spontaneity in communicating with the program host made a strong and positive impression on our listeners.

Their visit to CRI coincided with the celebration of the 51st anniversary of CRI's English Service. Their participation made our celebration a very special event and can be best summarized by CRI Director Zhang Zhenhua, who said, "You have not only brought us excellent music, but also friendship from the American people. Your performance at CRI has brought our listeners closer to our station."

*Li Ping, Deputy Director*