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# THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

## THE WHITE HOUSE

On the occasion of the visit of

Her Excellency

# DR. ANGELA MERKEL

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

and

# PROFESSOR DR. JOACHIM SAUER



Tuesday, June 7, 2011

# MEDAL OF FREEDOM Program

Remarks by The President

Presentation of the MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Remarks by Chancellor Merkel

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## DR. ANGELA MERKEL

Dr. Angela Merkel came to symbolize the triumph of freedom by becoming the first East German to serve as Chancellor of a united Federal Republic of Germany. She also made history when she became Germany's first female Chancellor. A dedicated public servant, Chancellor Merkel has promoted liberty and prosperity in her own country, in Europe, and throughout the world.



#### PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Originally established as the *Medal of Freedom* by President Truman by Executive Order 9586 of July 6, 1945, the Medal was reestablished as the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* by President John F. Kennedy by Executive Order 11085 of February 22, 1963. It is the highest civil award of our Government. The Medal is awarded by the President of the United States to persons who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. The Medal may be awarded to citizens of other nations and may be awarded posthumously.

Dinner

White House Garden Chopped Salad Fine Herber White House Honey Gastrique

Tuna Tartare with Rye Crisps Pickled Young Carrots and Mustard Cil Spring Pea Salad Shaved Ham and Ginger Snaps

WOODWARD CANYON CHARDONNAY "WASHINGTON" 2009

Petite Filet with Maryland Crab Ravioli Wild Ramp Purce

KOSTA BROWNE PINOT NOIR "KOPLEN VINEYARD" 2008

AppleStrudel Gelden Raisins , and Tepfen

SCHRAMSBERG CRÉMANT 2006

### PROGRAM

# Performance by MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Christoph Eschenbach Conductor

> NURIT BAR-JOSEF Violin GEORGE LI Guest Piano Soloist

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) Franz Liszt (1811–1886) George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) Octet – Scherzo "Spring Sonata" last movement Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 Concerto Grosso

Selections by

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#### JAMES TAYLOR

Jeff Вавко Piano

JIMMY JOHNSON Bass Guitar

KATE MARKOWITZ Vocals Arnold McCuller Vocals

Caroline Taylor Vocals

Chad Wackerman Drums

Andrea Zonn Vocals

### NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA conducted by Christoph Eschenbach

Now in its 80th season, the National Symphony Orchestra is the affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and regularly participates in events of national and international importance, including performances for state occasions, official holiday celebrations, and one of the nation's finest education programs. Through its foreign tours the NSO also fulfills an important international role. NSO Music Director Christoph Eschenbach is one of the world's finest musicians, globally active as conductor, pianist, and mentor. In his first season with the NSO, his distinguished leadership has already had a profound impact on the NSO's artistry and reputation.

#### GEORGE LI

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George Li gave his first public concert in Boston at the age of nine and has performed extensively since then, including appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra and Venezuela's Simon Bolivar Orchestra. He studies with Wha Kyung Byun at New England Conservatory, and plays with technical brilliance and interpretive depth far beyond his years. As the First Prize Winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, 15-year-old Li makes his formal debuts this Fall opening the Young Concert Artists Series at Washington's Kennedy Center and New York's Merkin Hall. Next month he performs on a European tour as soloist with the New England Conservatory Orchestra including Vienna's Musikverein and at Germany's Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

#### JAMES TAYLOR

James Taylor was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1971, heralded as the harbinger of the singer-songwriter era. Four decades later his warm baritone, introspective lyrics and unique guitar playing have set a precedent and blazed a path to which countless young musicians have aspired. He has sold more than 50 million albums, beginning in 1968 when he was signed to The Beatles' Apple Records. Throughout his long career, Taylor has earned 40 gold, platinum, and multi-platinum awards and five Grammy Awards. He recently received the National Medal of Arts from President Obama in a ceremony at the White House. The medal is the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence recognizing "outstanding achievements and support of the arts." Raised in North Carolina, Taylor lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Caroline, and their twins, Henry and Rufus.

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