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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

on the occasion of the presentation of the

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

to

His Excellency SHIMON PERES President of the State of Israel



Wednesday, June 13, 2012

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AWARDS THIS PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

TO

SHIMON PERES

An ardent advocate for Israel's security and the cause of lasting peace, Shimon Peres has devoted his life to public service. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the profound role he played in Middle East peace talks that led to the Oslo Accords, and he continues to serve the Israeli people with courage and dignity. Through his unwavering devotion to his country and the cooperation of nations, he has strengthened the unbreakable bonds between Israel and the United States.

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Summer Chopped Salad Lemon ~ White House Honey Dressing

HAGAFEN ROUSSANNE "LODI" 2010

Seared Salmon with Citrus Aioli Farmstand Squashes and Farro

HAGAFEN PINOT NOIR "NAPA" 2008

Blackberry, Strawberry _{and} Mango Sorbets Sugar Cookies

ITZHAK PERLMAN

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman is beloved for his humanity as well as his talent. In addition to his orchestral, recital and conducting appearances worldwide, Mr. Perlman performed at the Inauguration of President Obama and at the State Dinner honoring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Among his many honors, Itzhak Perlman was awarded the National Medal of Arts, and was one of twelve recipients of the Medal of Liberty-awarded to distinguished naturalized citizens during the centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty. He has won fifteen GRAMMY Awards, four EMMY Awards, and was a Kennedy Center Honors honoree.

This evening Mr. Perlman will collaborate with pianist Rohan De Silva. Born in Sri Lanka, Mr. De Silva's partnerships with violin virtuosos have led to highly acclaimed performances at recital venues all over the world. Mr. De Silva was the recipient of a special prize as Best Accompanist at the Ninth International Tchaikovsky Competition, and the Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award at the 2005 Classical Recording Foundation Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

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 those persons whom he deems to 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.

President Kennedy announced the first *Presidential Medal of Freedom* awards on July 4, 1963. President Lyndon Johnson then made the first presentations of the *Presidential Medal of Freedom* in a ceremony at the White House on December 6, 1963.

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