

Dec. 29

90TH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO PABLO CASALS
BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
DECEMBER 29, 1966
DELIVERED FOLLOWING CONCERT
AT GOVERNOR SANCHEZ' RESIDENCE
FORTELEZA, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

There are, in every century, a few men who, by their extraordinary gifts and contributions to mankind, light up the world around them. We have come here tonight to pay joyous tribute to such a man -- Pablo Casals -- on his 90th birthday. Pablo Casals -- innovator, genius of the Cello, unique musical personality whose fame dates from before the turn of this century -- is a gentle man whose great artistry continues even today to inspire and enrich the lives of people throughout the world.

It is an honor for me to join with the illustrious American artists -- Eugene Istomin, Isaac Stern and Alexander Schneider -- who are here tonight and who have brought so much glory and inspiration to our country.

For they, Don Pablo, are part of your musical family! And they, in a very real sense, reflect your influence in our cultural and artistic life.

Beyond them are thousands of our gifted young musicians who have benefitted from your teaching at several American universities and your annual presence at Rudolf Serkin's Marlboro School of Music in Vermont.

We are proud that Pablo Casals' association with the United States is both an old and a current one.

His first visit was in 1901 when we were still virtually a frontier nation.

He has graced the White House with his music as a guest of President Theodore Roosevelt and President John F. Kennedy.

We are proud, too, that it was an American, Alexander Schneider, who encouraged the light of Pablo Casals' music after the darkness of voluntary exile following the tragic years of the Spanish Revolution and the Second World War.

He, along with a number of American musicians, some of whom are here tonight, and other distinguished Americans organized the glorious Casals Festival in Prades.

While these festivals took place in Europe, they were forged by the ideals of Casals and the idealism of Americans.

And since 1957, the Casals Festivals in Puerto Rico, encouraged originally by Governor Munoz and supported more recently by Governor Sanchez, have become crowning musical events in Latin America.

But most of all, we are proud to be here for we revere this man, Pablo Casals, for the example he has set for us as a human being.

He is a man who radiates, by his extraordinary and magnetic warmth, a glowing humanity to millions of his fellow men.

His life has been a free and courageous one.

To the world, he is not only a great artist, but also a great man of conscience; one who chose to reject the privileges his talents brought him in order to protest against political and moral injustice as he saw it.

It is easy to talk about moral principles, but it is yet another thing to live them, especially in turbulent and dangerous times.

The Maestro has lived them and continues to live them.

Not only musicians can learn from a man like this. We all would do well to look at him today and be reminded that the goals of freedom and

justice for all cannot be achieved without the enlightenment, responsibility and integrity of the individual.

It is this kind of individual that Don Pablo represents to us.

It is his kind of humanism that transcends the goals of nations, ethnic groups and political systems.

It is the ultimate and surpassing goal of all free men.

You, Pablo Casals, have magnificently fulfilled the great obligation of artists and intellectuals -- to keep alive and glowing, in this difficult world, the conviction that the quality of our lives matters far more than the quantity of our worldly possessions.

Genius of your calibre not only interprets our life here on earth -- it justifies it!

And so, Maestro, great talent, great heart, great soul -- in sum, great man -- we are happy to be with you tonight.

To us, whatever the calendar may say, you can never be really old; for, as you yourself have said, "The man who works and is never bored is never old." So, young man, young Maestro, happy birthday!

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