



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 2007

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2007 Stradivarius International Violin Competition.

Music plays a vital role in exploring ideas, expressing emotions, and conveying the diversity of the human experience. By capturing the imagination of our citizens, music has influenced our cultural heritage and created some of our country's most treasured art forms. This competition is an opportunity to encourage artistic development and to help the next generation of musicians realize their dreams.

I applaud participants for your hard work and discipline in reaching this level of competition, and I encourage you to continue sharing your gifts. I also appreciate the efforts of the Stradivarius International Violin Competition organizers and volunteers to recognize the talent of great artists who bring inspiration to people around the globe. Your dedication helps foster an appreciation for the arts and enriches the lives of many.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack" followed by a stylized flourish.