

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1967

Office of the Press Secretary
to Mrs. Johnson

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON AT THE
MUSIC FOR YOUNG AMERICA CONCERT BY THE
WASHINGTON NATIONAL SYMPHONY,
WHITE HOUSE LAWN

Good afternoon. How pleased I am that our first event on the White House lawn this spring brings together one of our leading musical organizations and an audience of young people.

I can think of nothing more important to the continuing development of the musical arts in our nation than making the beauties of symphonic music readily available to young Americans. The Washington National Symphony, as the resident orchestra of our Nation's Capital, has been especially active under its music director, Howard Mitchell, in playing programs for young audiences. The President and I have extra reasons to be aware of this because our daughters, Lynda and Luci, grew up in Washington and made their first acquaintance with symphony music by attending National Symphony youth programs.

Howard Mitchell had a dream for years to find a way to give the thousands of students who stream into Washington in the spring an opportunity to hear a major symphony orchestra during their visit. Our community has been extremely fortunate that one of its residents, who has a deep interest in making music available to young Americans learned of Mr. Mitchell's hopes and decided that his wish must be fulfilled. I speak of a great and gracious lady, Mrs. Merriweather Post. For the eleventh year, each spring the Washington National Symphony has presented some 25 special concerts called "Music for Young America," all a gift from Mrs. Post.

This afternoon's concert is one in that series -- and the first to be heard at the White House. Many of you here today have demonstrated your interest in music by participating in orchestras, bands and choruses in your schools. You come from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

So I am sure that you are going to enjoy, as I will, the program that is about to be introduced to you by the music director of the National Symphony, whom I now welcome to the stage.

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