

**Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Dr. Ray Luck  
Ambassador D. Brent Hardt  
Piano Recital by Dr. Ray Luck  
July 25, 2012  
Georgetown, Guyana - CMR**

Representatives of the Government of Guyana, diplomatic colleagues, members of the music community of Guyana, and music lovers all, I am truly delighted to welcome you to a very special piano recital this evening by distinguished Guyanese-American pianist, Dr, Ray Luck.

Saskia and I are particularly pleased to be able to host this performance as a reflection of the personal connections that exist between Guyana and the United States, embodied by so many talented immigrants to our country, and as a reflection of the ongoing cultural connections we share through music and other forms of cultural expression. Classical music is a universal expression in which we all find our common humanity, and Ray Luck brings music to life in a way that has enchanted audiences in the United States, Guyana and many other countries around the world.

In fact, I first met Dr. Luck during my recent tour as Charge d’Affaires at U.S. Embassy, Barbados, when our Embassy brought him to the Eastern Caribbean to perform for audiences in Barbados, Antigua and Dominica/St. Lucia. The audiences were thrilled with his performances, which he blends with insightful descriptions of the music and its history.

Dr. Luck is currently conducting his eighth Annual Caribbean Piano Workshop, which from its inception in 2005, has attracted participants from Anguilla to Tobago and Guyana. The workshop offers an excellent opportunity for a genuine musical exchange, which is contributing to the growth and appreciation of classical music in Guyana and elsewhere in the region. Mrs. Hardt and I were able witness another musical exchange last month in Trinidad when our National Symphony Orchestra performed and Maestro Christoph Eschenbach conducted a master class with the Trinidad Youth Orchestra. The young musicians did an outstanding job with a difficult Dvorzak symphony under the

Maestro's tutelage. It was heartening to see such talent and such enthusiasm for classical music in the Caribbean region.

Dr. Luck first studied piano with Millicent Joseph and her sister, Ruby MacGregor, in Georgetown. While attending Queen's College, he gained the Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music and Fellow of Trinity College of London diplomas before studying at the Royal College of Music in London. Later, at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, he studied with artist and teacher, Yvonne Lefébure, winning First Prizes in Piano and Chamber Music, prior to his prizewinning performance at the Geneva International Piano Competition. He completed graduate study at Indiana University at Bloomington where he earned the Doctor of Music degree with high distinction.

Dr. Luck has performed in concert and recital in several music capitals of the world. His performances in New York's Alice Tully Hall, in London's Queen Elizabeth and Royal Albert Halls, in Paris' Théâtre

des Champs Elysées and other major concert venues have won public and critical acclaim. He has appeared as soloist with the Paris Conservatoire Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and City of London Sinfonia, and he has collaborated in chamber music performances with the New World and Lark String Quartets. He has conducted master classes, and adjudicated music festivals in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia. After a distinguished tenure at Randolph College in Virginia that included Fulbright teaching awards to the Caribbean, Greece, and Canada, he was appointed the Charles A. Dana professor emeritus of music in 2002.

In 1992, the Government of Guyana appointed Dr. Luck a Member of the Order of Service of Guyana and he was awarded the Cacique's Crown of Honor for outstanding musical achievement.

This evening, we have a wonderful program. We will hear classical masterpieces by Clara Wieck Schumann, Robert Schumann and Maurice

Ravel, an American/Guyanese medley by Ross Lee Finney and  
Caribbean Folk songs by Hugh Sam.

I know you will enjoy this evening's performance. Please join me  
in welcoming Dr. Ray Luck.