

# PROGRAM

B. BARTOK  
ROMANIAN FOLK DANCES



I. ALBENIZ  
ASTURIAS, FROM SPANISH SUITE, OP.47



L.M. GOTTSCHALK  
SOUVENIR DE PUERTO RICO,  
"DANSE DES GIBAROS", OP.31



F. LISZT  
HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY NO.2



AMBASSADOR DAVID KILLION  
AND MRS. KRISTIN EAGER KILLION

DINNER IN HONOR OF  
MR. AND MRS. SAM PISAR

Thursday, September 9, 2010  
8:00 p.m.

AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE  
17, avenue Léopold II  
75016 PARIS

## ***Samuel Pizar***

Granted American citizenship by a special Act of Congress, Pizar was 10 years old when Hitler and Stalin carved up his native Poland. After 6 years of Soviet occupation and Nazi internment in Auschwitz and other infernos, he was liberated by the US Army in 1945. Retrieved from the ruins of post-war Germany by French and Australian relatives, he resumed his education in Paris and Melbourne and went on to earn PhDs from Harvard and the Sorbonne, as well as honorary doctorates from other major universities.

In the 1950s, he served at the United Nations in New York and at UNESCO in Paris, becoming in 1960 a member of President John F. Kennedy's brain trust on foreign policy, an adviser at the State Department, the Senate and the House of Representatives. As an international lawyer admitted to American, French and British Bars, he counseled governments, industrial corporations, charitable foundations and the International Olympic Committee. He has presided at numerous multinational conferences, notably the 1983 world gathering of Nobel Prize laureates in Paris, testified at the Congress, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, and addressed such organizations as the Davos Economic Forum, the International Monetary Fund, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Elected a Trustee of Washington's Brookings Institution, he is also the Founder-President of Yad Vashem France and a Director of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah. Pizar was one of the first to urge broader economic, cultural and human contacts as "weapons of peace" to reconcile the so-called hereditary enemies of history. At the height of the Cold War he helped shape Allied strategies for expanded commercial intercourse with Eastern Europe, Russia and China. As a defender of freedom and human rights, he took up the causes of political dissidents such as Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, Russian scientist Andrei Sakharov and author Alexander Solzhenitsyn. His books, translated into 20 languages, include "Coexistence and Commerce", "Of Blood and Hope" and "La Ressource Humaine." Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in the 1970s, Pizar is a Commander of the French Legion of Honor, Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, Commander of Poland's Order of Merit and Officer of the Order of Australia.

Long devoted to education, science and culture, Pizar was invited by UNESCO in 2008, to perform with the Orchestre de Paris, his libretto "A Dialogue with God," written for Leonard Bernstein's monumental Symphony No.3 KADDISH – a work which he has performed with other renowned orchestras in major capitals of the world.

## ***Judith Pizar***

Judith Pizar has devoted her career to building cultural bridges across the Atlantic. As President of Arts France-USA, an organization committed to cultural exchange between the two countries, she regularly produces concerts and festivals of American music in Paris – including recent tributes to Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Broadway, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. Prior to that she served for 17 years as Chairman of the American Center of Paris, the avant-garde meeting place for French and American artists, which had been founded before World War II. In that capacity she selected Frank Gehry to design a new building in 1988 – one of his first in Europe – and asked the City of Paris to name the square on which it stands the *Place Leonard Bernstein*.

Described by Philip Johnson as "America's Cultural Czarina in Europe," she has also served on the French Ministry of Culture's *Conseil Supérieur du Mécénat*, on the board of the Régine Chopinot Ballet and as a founding signatory of the World Charter against Cancer – signed with President Jacques Chirac at the Elysée Palace in 2002. She has been honored on numerous occasions by the French government and is an Officer of the French Legion of Honor and a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters. She and her husband, Samuel Pizar, were honored at the 2008 Caramoor Music Festival, dedicated to Franco-American culture.

Prior to moving to France, she served as Director of Music and the Brooklyn Academy, as Executive Director of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and founded *The Composer Speaks*, a lecture bureau which brought some of the greatest composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to cities and universities throughout the United States -- Pierre Boulez, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Iannis Xenakis, John Cage, Luciano Berio and others. She was educated at Vassar College, New York University and the Juilliard School of Music. Her son, Antony Blinken, is National Security Adviser to Vice-President Biden and her daughter, Leah Pizar, recently earned a doctorate in political science and is currently working on a book. She and her husband share their time between Paris and New York.

## ***Marouan Benabdallah***

Not yet thirty, acclaimed pianist Marouan Benabdallah is indisputably the leading representative of his native Morocco on the international concert stage. With a musical heritage deeply rooted in the Hungarian tradition, Mr. Benabdallah received his formal training at the Bela Bartok Conservatory and the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, and in 2008, was presented with the Medal of the Hungarian Parliament for his achievement in music - an honor he shares with such artists as Plácido Domingo. Since receiving a scholarship from the French Government in 2008, Marouan Benabdallah makes his home between Paris, Budapest and Washington D.C.