

Embassy Concert Series

May 18

Ambassador Coats

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Music is a universal language that everyone can understand. It is a language that unites us, and a language that can speak to each one of us individually, in a very personal and direct way.

But music is also a language that only a small minority of us are capable of speaking, of using to formulate any meaning at all. Those artists who have mastered the language of music -- either alone or working with other musicians from countries around the world -- can use that universal language to inspire, to comfort, to instruct, and to bring people together.

This Embassy concert series highlights music's role as an international cultural "common denominator." Mr. Schmidt-Ott, I salute you and your colleagues for your vision in realizing this concert series. I know how much hard work has gone into its organization and that the planning started well over a year ago.

Of course, without the support of Deutschland Radio, this series would not have been possible. Mr. Elitz [EH litz], please accept our thanks for your commitment.

The events of the past eight months have emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and cultural understanding, and the value of your endeavors.

Of course, this series would also not have been possible without the orchestra and the artists. Tonight we look forward to the music of Eva-Christina Schoenweiss, Bertram Hartling, Lorna Hartling, Wayne Foster-Smith, Bernhard Nusser [NUHS ser] and Sheila Elz. As musicians and artists, you have mastered that universal language that can bring us closer together.

Viel Vergnugen!