

**Moritzburg Festival
August 9, 2002**

Ambassador Coats

Dr. de Maizière (Staatsminister - Justice)

Dr. Rössler (Staatsminister - Science/Culture)

Herr Vogler
(Kammermusik Festival Schloss Moritzburg" Artistic Director -also cello soloist)

Guten Abend,

It is a pleasure to be here this evening. Thank you very much for the invitation.

Marsha and I arrived in Germany almost a year ago. Our year has been, as you can imagine, very emotional and very rewarding. And our most rewarding experiences have been our travels around the country.

The events of September 11 - and the year that has passed since that terrible day – have shown us the importance of the role of cultural bonds and understanding. Marsha and I will never forget the many public and private gestures of support and understanding that we received. A woman came up to us on one visit and said: "You were with us in our time of need, and now, we are with you in your time of need."

Last spring, Washington's National Symphony Orchestra toured Europe. We had the honor of hosting the Orchestra in Berlin. In a conversation with the Orchestra's Musical Director, Leonard Slatkin, we were reminded about something he had said earlier about music and art:

"We sometimes forget the impact a positive creative force can make on our lives. One musical moment can be frozen in our memories to be awakened at some later point ... Music gives us a chance to reflect on what is good in the world."

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. Those artists who have mastered the language of music can use that universal language to inspire, to comfort, to instruct, and to bring people together.

Here in Moritzburg, 19 artists from 10 different countries have come up with a harmony in spirit as if they had been playing together forever. The musical moments you created for us do indeed reflect what is good in the world. Thank you.

I understand there is a bond - in spirit at least - between the Moritzburg Festival and the Marlboro Festival in Vermont. The countryside here in Sachsen is just as pretty as Vermont although Vermont cannot boast any 17th century castles. Both Moritzburg and Marlboro are celebrating anniversaries this year. I think Marlboro's slogan for their 50th is just as appropriate for your 10th:

"Music is what really matters!"

"Auf die Musik kommt es an."

Herr Vogler, I salute you for your vision.