



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MOSCOW

May 2, 2012

OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR

Aleksander Sergeyeovich Sokolov
President, Moscow State Conservatory
Bolshaya Nikitskaya ul., 13
Moscow, Russia

Dear Aleksander Sergeyeovich:

I want to thank you for your enthusiastic support for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's tour of Moscow. This was a monumental undertaking and it could not have happened in a more beautiful and acoustically perfect music hall than the Bolshoy Zal of the Conservatory. The CSO musicians said it was a wonderful experience to be able to "really open up" their full sound in the Bolshoy Zal. They also thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal and master classes and working with your students. We are especially grateful to Prof. Bonduryansky and his lovely wife Ksenia for their hard work in this project.

The visit served as the highlight of our year-long American Seasons cultural program, which has brought a broad spectrum of contemporary American artists to Russia in order to give audiences a taste of modern culture in the U.S. Few, if any, ensembles could better represent the best of American music than the CSO and you should feel proud of your contribution to this tremendous success.

Since July 2009 and the formation of the Obama-Medvedev Bilateral Presidential Commission, we have been working with our Russian counterparts to increase mutual understanding through cultural exchanges. Our governments have thus allocated notable funding increases for bilateral cultural programming. But government funding alone has not proven nearly enough to finance the many eminent cultural figures and institutions in both countries who indicated their eagerness to be a part of this effort to deepen cultural understanding between our nations. It was only through a partnership with the private sector that we were able to greatly expand the range of possible cultural activities that we bring to Russia. I deeply appreciate your commitment to helping further the goals of the "reset" in relations between our two nations through your generous sponsorship of the CSO.

Again, thank you for your support and I look forward to cooperating with you on other projects in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "McFaul", written in a cursive style.

Michael A. McFaul
Ambassador