

A member of the Ghanaian organising committee told me he remembered having music appreciation lessons at school 50 years ago, when Ghana was still a British colony, but he could not remember any similar event in his lifetime.

Most of the audience were invited to attend, with the few hundred tickets actually put on sale costing between US \$30-50, well beyond the reach of the pockets of the average Ghanaian.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 60 per cent of people live on less than two US dollars per day. So, unsurprisingly, the auditorium was packed with local officials and diplomats.

A quick trawl around Accra's teeming markets confirmed earlier suspicions—that the Ghanaian capital completely lacks CD shops selling classical music.

While African faces on the crowded stage were limited to two, one the African-American bass-baritone Kevin Deas, and the other, the soprano Measha Brueggergosman, a Canadian national.

The impact of the music on those lucky enough to be present was, however, electric.

Daniel Barenboim, the musicians and the four soloists (who included La Scala newcomer and rising British star, tenor Ian Storey) gave their all. They had time for only a single rehearsal, but their performance was impeccable.

Barenboim told me during rehearsal: "The problem is, you cannot articulate the content of music in words. This can only be expressed through sound. This is what I hope we are bringing to them."

This extraordinary event was the result of a casual invitation to Daniel Barenboim in New York last December by Ghana's highest-profile international figure, Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General and a friend of La Scala's new "maestro" conductor.

The president of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, and the Mayor of Milan, Letizia Moratti, also helped to make Kofi Annan's dream come true.

SPIRITED RENDITION

Annan was beaming afterwards at the Ghanaian President's post-concert party in Accra's State Banqueting Hall.

"In international affairs, you have to learn how to create pillars and foundations in order to realise dreams," he said.

At the post-concert party some of La Scala's violin players playfully took over from a local Accra orchestra, giving a spirited rendition of Guantanamara.

But was it really worth the vast expense (\$500,000) to charter an Airbus and fly this huge and talented company 6,000 miles across the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert to Ghana, and back, for a single Beethoven performance?

Barenboim says emphatically "yes". He would like to return to Africa, either with La Scala or to give a series of solo piano recitals in various African countries.

The former child prodigy, who has replaced Riccardo Muti as conductor at La Scala, and who built up the now famous West-East Divan orchestra of Israeli and Palestinian musicians, believes music may hold the key to bridging the North-South cultural, and even economic, divide.

"You have to listen to the other players if you want to play in an orchestra," he said.

But as one of the first violins in the orchestra whispered to me as we were flying back high over the Sahara desert, while she had enjoyed this unique experience, she was not so sure that a charity concert in Milan to raise money for Ghana might not have been preferable.

The audience shouted for more after the Accra concert, but a performance of this quality of Beethoven's Ninth hardly lends itself to an encore.

Now we shall have to see whether Daniel Barenboim's ambitious dream of stimulating a demand for classical music in Africa is going to be fulfilled.

It will require a lot of money, and a lot of politics. The encore is not yet assured.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RONALD CALERY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. Ronald Calery, who has spent a lifetime fighting poverty, serving as a voice for those least fortunate and defending the powerless in our society. This week, Mr. Calery will be recognized for his efforts with the prestigious Terence DuVernay Award, which recognizes career excellence in the field of affordable housing.

Mr. Calery has served for 35 years as Executive Director with the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resources Authority (CAHRA) Inc. Before his appointment to the position of Executive Director, he served the agency as a founding member of the board of directors. The Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac CAHRA administers a number of critical programs that attack poverty head on. Among its vital services, the organization provides quality housing that is affordable to low income and moderate income persons.

Ron Calery's leadership of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resources Authority has strengthened this organization, making it one of the most effective community action agencies in the state. Under his leadership, the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency has assisted local entities to improve existing housing and develop new housing units.

Perhaps one of Mr. Calery's most notable contributions was the construction of Avery Square Complex, a project that served to help revitalize downtown Sault Ste. Marie. The project has been widely recognized as a housing model throughout the State of Michigan. Mr. Calery has also worked closely with county and local governments, helping to spur the construction of moderate cost housing in several rural communities. He planned a housing development in Sault Ste. Marie, and is currently planning moderate cost housing in St. Ignace.

While the DuVernay award which Mr. Calery will receive focuses upon efforts to provide affordable housing, Mr. Calery's service to the public, the Eastern Upper Peninsula (V.P.) and the State of Michigan extends well beyond affordable housing issues. His service to the state and his community has been extensive.

At one time or another, he has been a driving force in just about every organization that plays a positive role in the Eastern U.P. He served on the Tri-County Small Business Loan Committee, helping to spur small business in Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties. As President of the John F. Kennedy Chippewa County Retarded Children's Association, he helped to expand activities and programs for handicapped children. He served on the State board of directors for the Michigan Association for Retarded Children. He spent 4 years in a

non-partisan position as an elected City Commissioner for Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. As the Chairman of the Tri-County Recreation Commission and the Sault Ste. Marie Parks and Recreation Commission, he helped ensure that positive recreation opportunities abound in the Sault Ste. Marie region. He also coached Soo PeeWee Hockey.

No matter what project Mr. Calery takes on, he never takes "no" for an answer. He never retreats from a challenge. Instead, Ron Calery is known for pausing, examining the various obstacles, assembling a new coalition, seeking different funding arrangements, and ultimately finding a solution to achieve the goal. Regardless of what it takes, once he decides that a project or program can have a positive impact on his fellow citizens, he is relentless in seeing the project brought to fruition. The affordable housing projects, programs to eliminate poverty, and efforts to improve the living conditions for residents of Michigan have all been challenging, but never once has Ron Calery shirked from the challenge.

When a project he has worked upon is complete or a program is successful, this humble man does not leap forward to take credit. Instead, Mr. Calery always steps aside to commend the work of others and compliment the fine leadership they have provided.

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007, Mr. Calery will be recognized by his colleagues for a career spent helping others. His many friends will gather to say thank you for all that Ron Calery has accomplished. Across Michigan, many other citizens will be unable to attend, but they, too, will be thanking this warm man for his many kindnesses. Madam Speaker, as Ron Calery receives this well-deserved award, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting, congratulating, and thanking him for his selfless service to others.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AMENDING STATUTE ESTABLISHING EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, joined by Representatives JERRY MORAN, THORBERRY, BOSWELL, TIAHRT and BOYDA, I am today introducing legislation which would make a variety of technical changes to the statute establishing the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created by the U.S. Congress in 1999 as a bipartisan commission for the purpose of considering and formulating plans for the location, design and construction of a permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to the United States. Since being fully appointed in 2001, the Commission considered 26 different sites in the District of Columbia. In 2005, it selected a site between the Department of Education and the National Air and Space Museum, two institutions resulting from and greatly influenced by President Eisenhower's leadership. In 2006, Congress approved the memorial's location within Area I, in compliance with the