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Folder Title: President Wolfensohn - Briefing Book for President's Meetings and Events - Social Event - Piano Performance - Miss Shruti Kumar - December 8, 1997

Folder ID: 30488841

Series: Meeting and event briefing materials

Dates: 06/23/1997 – 08/25/1997

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THE WORLD BANK

Washington, D.C.

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The World Bank

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Piano Performance: Miss. Shruti Kumar

Monday, December 8, 1997

5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

IFC Auditorium

2121 Penn. Ave., "F" Building

DECLASSIFIED
WBG Archives

Archives



30488841

R2002-036 Other #: 45 Box #: 186493B

President Wolfensohn - Briefings Books for Presidents Meetings - Social Events -
Piano Performance - Miss Shruti Kumar - December 8, 1997

Archive Management for the President's Office

Document Log

Reference # : Archive-01837

12/88

Edit

Print

A. CLASSIFICATION

☐ Meeting Material
☐ Trips
☐ Speeches

☐ Annual Meetings
☐ Corporate Management
☐ Communications with Staff

☐ Phone Logs
☐ Calendar
☐ Press Clippings/Photos

☐ JDW Transcripts
☐ Social Events
☐ Other

B. SUBJECT: PIANO PERFORMANCE: MISS SHRUTI KUMAR (Confirmed) // TIME: 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. // VENUE: IFC AUDITORIUM, 2121 PENN. AVENUE // "F" BUILDING // CONTACT: ROSEWITA FERNANDEZ @ 37727 // TARA VISHWANATH @ 410-366-6232 (HOME) OR 473-1152 (OFFICE) AT THE BANK // 11/20 IFC AUDITORIUM WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 5:00 P.M. AND PIANO WILL BE ON STAGE // ATTENDEES: SHRUTI KUMAR - 10-YEAR OLD PERFORMING FOR JDW, TARA VISHWANATH - MOTHER OF SHRUTI - SHE'S WORKING AS AN ECONOMIST WITH WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT AT THE BANK //

PIECES TO BE PLAYED: TO BE CONFIRMED // NOTE: SARA WILL BE ATTENDING TOO // ARRANGED BY JANE // 11/20 JDW AGREED TO THIS // 11/20 CFMD WITH SHRUTI'S MOTHER THE DATE/TIME // (B) CONSISTS OF SHRUTI'S LETTER AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPING // EXC: JDW // LFG (11/20) Brief includes:

--- Invitation from JDW to Shruti Kumar, Aug. 25
--- Letter from Shruti Kumar to JDW, Jul. 28
--- Press Article

DATE: 12/08/97

C. VPU

Corporate

☐ CTR
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☐ LEG
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☐ LAC
☐ MNA
☐ SAS

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☐ FPR
☐ HRO

Affiliates

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☐ ICSID
☐ IFC
☐ Inspection Panel
☐ Kennedy Center
☐ MIGA

D. EXTERNAL PARTNER

☐ IMF
☐ UN
☐ MDB/Other IO
☐ NGO
☐ Private Sector

☐ Part I
☐ Part II
☐ Other

E. COMMENTS:

File Location ☒ EXC ☐ ISC ☒ Archives	Cleared By Lai-Foong Goh	Date: 12/11/97
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View Update History

20458

The World Bank
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

JAMES D. WOLFENSOHN
President

August 25, 1997

Mr. Shruti Kumar
36 Overridge Court
Baltimore, MD 21210

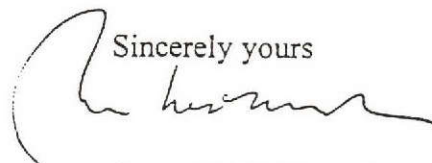
Dear Shruti,

Thank you for your note and congratulations on all the progress that you have made on the piano and in your other activities. I am very happy for you and feel sure that your performance on July 26th with the Baltimore Symphony would have been a success.

Unfortunately I have been away all the time since receiving your letter, and I simply now want to congratulate you and remake the offer for you to use the Bösendorfer at IFC. Simply call Jane Holden, my secretary, and we can set it up. I am so busy in September and October that it is unlikely that I will be able to hear you at that time, but if you can wait until November, we could set up a date when I could not only show you the Bösendorfer, but could hear you play.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours



James D. Wolfensohn

P

20458
JUL 28 1997

Dear Mr. Wolfensohn,

How are you doing? I guess that I haven't written to you in a while. Well, you see, I have been quite busy lately.

I have done a taping with David Letterman for a segment on child prodigies. I was invited because the crew liked the tape that I made for an audition. I was transported by the metroliner service at 6:15 in the morning, reaching there an hour early (which seemed like five minutes.) It was a nice experience to talk to this humorous man who could make any joke seem real. They were funny, except I couldn't get myself to laugh, I only got him to!!

On July 26, 1997, I will be playing as a soloist with the symphony(the Baltimore symphony orchestra). The piece will be the 3rd movement of the Bach concerto in A major. It is a family and donors day. This being my debut has made me very excited.

I am a composer. I have recently completed a violin sonata with three movements. Maybe I will compose a cello sonata next?! If I do, I will be sure to send you a score. You must be a great musician. I wish I could hear you play some time.

I called your secretary to take up the offer you gave me, to try the Bosendorfer. Well I guess I'll see it with the company who owns it.

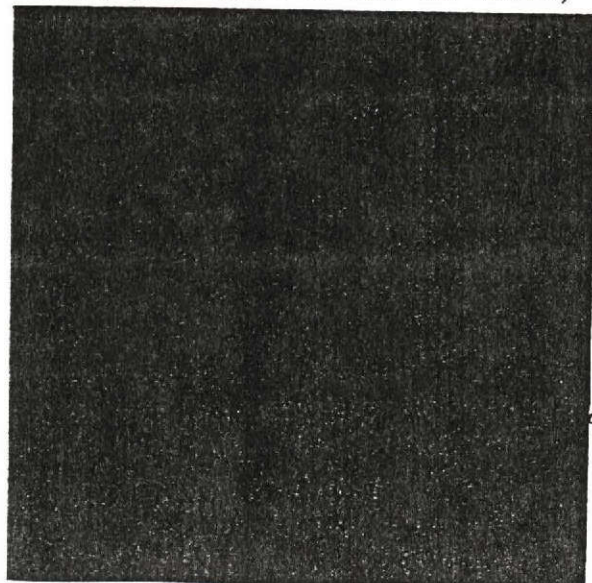
Thanks for reading this letter,

Your Friend(or penpal),

Shruti Kumar
36, Overridge Court
Baltimore, MD 21210
410-377-6906

Shruti K

(P.S, You said that you wanted to put a smile on every child's face, well there is one on mine!)



Paul
What is this?
all about?
Don't write before

On Students

Peabody Prep standout waxes poetic with Letterman

Anne Garside

Special to *The Gazette*

In a practice room on the third floor of the Peabody Conservatory, Shruti Kumar sits cross legged on the piano stool and discusses matter-of-factly what she wants to play on the *Late Night with David Letterman* show.

"A Peacock Dancing in the Rain," she says decidedly. "And 'Summer Days.'" Both are titles of two of her own compositions. At the ripe old age of just turned 10, Shruti has a whole portfolio of compositions for piano, and she recently completed a sonata for violin as well.

She didn't know whether she would be playing her compositions on the CBS program or whether Letterman would ask her to recite one of her poems. If Letterman wanted a poem, Shruti thought she might choose the one she wrote about Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, titled "The Light of Life." It begins:

I walk through a mystical,
peaceful cave,
As the echo of my footsteps
sounds like thunder,
The rhythmic noise surrounds
my brain,
Sounds like rocks rumbling
down under.

Shruti, who attends Friends School in Baltimore, has been studying at the Peabody Preparatory and in the Hopkins Center for Talented Youth for the past four years. She has just been accepted into the Prep's Arts for Talented Youth program, too. At the Prep her piano teacher is Conservatory faculty member Julian Martin (she is the only Prep student Martin takes), and her composition teacher is Stephen

Photo by Michael McGovern



Shruti Kumar has been a Peabody Prep and CTY student since she was 5 years old. She got the opportunity to show off her poetry talent when she appeared on the *Late Night with David Letterman* show.

Coxe. Over the past months, this young musician has been winning a string of competitions and will be making her debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Meyerhoff in a "Family Concert" on Saturday, July 26, at 3 p.m., as soloist for the Bach A Major Concerto.

When Shruti got to New York on Friday, June 13, to tape her segment, David Letterman finally met his match. "Shruti was a real killer," says her proud Mom, "Nothing Letterman could say intimidated her. He asked her to write a poem about him, and she did!"

The *Late Night with David Letterman* audience will be able to judge the results for themselves sometime during the week of June 23, when the segment is scheduled to air. Shruti was one of eight children from all over the country who taped interviews for this feature on exceptionally gifted children. Local CBS affiliate WJZ-TV 13 planned to air the segment with Shruti in advance to alert local viewers when to tune in.

In the meantime, Shruti has other things on her mind, such as her upcoming performance as

winner of the Maryland State Teachers Concerto Competition. She will be playing a piano concerto specially composed for children by another Peabody student, Matthew Edwards, who is completing his doctorate at the Conservatory. Shruti has already appeared with the Peabody Prep

String Ensemble as winner of the Peabody Preparatory Concerto Competition.

But teacher Julian Martin is most proud of the fact that last December she gave her first one-hour recital in the Prep's Leakin Hall.

Shruti's parents have had to make adjustments to their own careers to accommodate their daughter's exceptional talent.

Her parents came to Johns Hopkins University a few years ago during a sabbatical year from their native India. While attached to Hopkins, they discovered the resources of the Peabody Prep and the Hopkins CTY program and decided to continue basing themselves in Baltimore so Shruti could continue her music lessons and her accelerated coaching in math through CTY. This means quite a commute for both parents.

Her father, Srkanta Kumar, now flies out on Southwest Airlines each Monday morning to Chicago, where he is on the faculty at Northwestern University in the field of electrical and computer engineering. Her mother, Tara Vishwanath, is an economist with the World Bank in Washington, D.C. Shruti has the shortest commute, from the family's Roland Park home to Friends School.

The family is used to making adjustments to fit each other's cultural backgrounds. Coming from the Bangalore province in India, Shruti's father speaks the Kannada language. Her mother is a Tamil speaker, so husband and wife use English as their common language. Shruti also speaks English as her primary language but has picked up a fair amount of Kannada from her father and grandparents.

This young composer may very well explore her own Indian musical heritage one day, after she has thoroughly mastered Western classical music. She may become a well-known "crossover" composer one day.