

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**MESSAGE FOR “HOMAGE TO ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN” CONCERT**  
**New York, 15 December 2012**

Just to the right of the delegates’ entrance at the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan is a life-size sculpture of an intense and passionate Arthur Rubinstein thunderously playing the Polish national anthem at the Organization’s inaugural concert in June 1945 – his protest at the absence of Poland at this critical moment in world history. Rubinstein’s disappointment was not to last long, as Poland joined the United Nations in October 1945, becoming one of the world body’s 51 original Member States. Poland has contributed to the Organization’s goals of promoting peace, development and human rights ever since, including being elected five times to serve on the Security Council.

I thank the Government of Poland and the Arthur Rubinstein International Music Foundation for organizing this concert, not simply for the significant pleasure of hearing great music played by great musicians, but because the universality of music reminds us in a profound way of our common humanity. All civilizations since the dawn of history have embraced music and venerated musicians, for love of music is a love of life – and as Rubinstein said, “if you love life, life will love you back.”

The United Nations is, ultimately, about love – love for one’s sisters and brothers, and an enduring commitment to reduce suffering and improve the well-being of the most vulnerable. Our Organization may not be perfect, but its ideals are. As we pay homage to Arthur Rubinstein tonight let us take inspiration from the beauty of the music to dedicate ourselves to making our world a better place for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" being the most prominent.

BAN Ki-moon