



**Remarks to Chopin Society of Atlanta  
November 2, 2002**

Good evening. On behalf of Mayor Shirley Franklin, it is my great pleasure to bring greetings and congratulations to the Chopin Society of Atlanta and to Mr. Folkert, on the occasion of the Chopin Society's inaugural concert.

I am especially pleased and honored to be with you this evening, since Mayor Franklin is a strong supporter of the arts, and I, personally, am a music lover!

The Chopin Society of Atlanta makes a great contribution to the Atlanta region by providing cultural richness to our communities, and Mayor Franklin commends your work.

Over the last several months, my staff and I have had the pleasure of getting to know this evening's very talented artist. Mr. Folkert has been the emissary of the Mayor of Rude Slaska, Poland, and has helped foster a friendship between the two mayors. They have exchanged pleasantries several times since Mayor Franklin took office, almost a year ago, and we greatly appreciate Mr. Folkert's efforts.

In closing, I'd like to share with you something I learned about Frederic Chopin. In reading a biography of this great composer, I learned that he believed he was not meant to play in public. He disdained crowds, and was made uncomfortable by the stares of his audience. Regardless of whether this was actually true, his beautiful music, composed over the very brief period of his 39 years, was *definitely* meant to be *heard* in public. For this, we thank the Chopin Society and Mr. Folkert, for bringing the artistic genius of Chopin to us.

Thank you.

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