

APPENDIX EE

REMARKS OF MR. JOHN MAUCERI
CHANCELLOR-ELECT
NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
MAY 12, 2006

Thank you all very much. I am always grateful for standing ovations and it is rare that I receive one before I perform. It is an honor for Betty and me to be part of this great state and the great educational system this is fundamental to this great state, which separates North Carolina from all other states, that you have made a commitment to education right from the very beginning of the history of this state, is something that is a model for every other governing body in the entire world. This astonishing moment comes at the 40th anniversary of the school. Forty years ago, I was studying at Yale to have my very first concert and the 40th anniversary of the very first concert I ever conducted will happen this December. How extraordinary that I would come full circle and come back to school. I have always loved school. Betty said to me when we were thinking about this, "Well of course you should do this, you always loved school." The fact is, except for my first day in kindergarten, I always have loved school. I really looked forward to kindergarten except when my mother walked me to P.S. 157 and then she started to leave and I said, "You mean you're not staying?" That was the one thing my mother forgot to tell me. And that was my fifth birthday, but there was a good party when I got home.

The idea that you have this extraordinary university system and that the *baby* school is the School of the Arts, which is really five conservatories, is the most extraordinary vision of the importance of not only education, but of the arts. Part of what I hope to do, besides of course continuing the great work of this school, is to help demonstrate and articulate that the arts are not separate from our lives, but in fact an expression of our lives. Everything that the arts do, celebrates the continuity of human expression. It is always easy to see what is different about all

of us, but sometimes harder to know what is the same about all of us. This makes it a lot harder to be aggressive and to be impatient with our fellow human beings when we realize how much we are the same. And the one thing about the arts is that even when it delivers a message that might be pessimistic, the fundamental issue about the arts is that it is optimistic. Because if we didn't believe that we could change the world or teach the world, we wouldn't write that poem or song. We might write it and then tear it up. But the idea that we continue to want to communicate with each other through the arts is that expression that unites us through time, back to the very first humans that we know who left artwork for us. It unites us throughout the world simultaneously to people of every culture. One of the things that can not really be outsourced, in our country, is in fact our talent. We, American people, are the source of the greatest and most popular arts in the world at this time and have been for more than a half a century.

I hope the North Carolina School of the Arts can reach out to every kid in the state so that any kid with talent and the desire will know that he or she has a school that they can come to. I hope that we can, at the same time, reach out to every person on this planet because right now within the next three or four years we will see a proliferation of arts that will make what we had in the past disappear because what's happening with the ability of the internet and blogging is that we can publish our poems and films instantaneously. Since the future of the arts began yesterday, it is our job to catch up to what is already out there, learn what it is, to teach it, and to mentor it. One of the great things about this school is that it is fundamentally based on that magic thing that only really happens in the arts, which is almost a medieval reality, which is that of the sorcerer and the apprentice. Every great artist, every singer, every songwriter, filmmaker, poet, usually had some sorcerer, some mentor that touched that person, challenged that person, brought that person to understand who he or she is and not to be afraid of who he or

she is, and to continue to create. And that's what we do at the North Carolina School of the Arts and that is what we will continue to do at the same time looking forward to sharing the message of our young people with the entire world. I am so honored to be part of you and look forward to a great future with all of your help. Thank you so very much.