



THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE



On the Occasion of the Presentation of the

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

and the

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HUMANITIES



Monday, September 29, 1997

The Recipients

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

LOUISE BOURGEOIS
BETTY CARTER
AGNES GUND
DANIEL URBAN KILEY
ANGELA LANSBURY
JAMES LEVINE
THE MACDOWELL COLONY
TITO PUENTE
JASON ROBARDS
EDWARD VILLELLA
DOC WATSON

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HUMANITIES

NINA M. ARCHABAL
DAVID A. BERRY
RICHARD J. FRANKE
WILLIAM FRIDAY
DON HENLEY
MAXINE HONG KINGSTON
LUIS LEAL
MARTIN MARTY
PAUL MELLON
STUDS TERKEL

PROGRAM

Performance by

John Cephas
Acoustic Guitar

Phil Wiggins
Harmonica

Remarks by

Mrs. Clinton

The President

Presentation of Medals



John Cephas and Phil Wiggins

John Cephas and Phil Wiggins exhibit a unique ability to exemplify the synthesis of African and European elements which co-exist in the Blues. This acoustic guitar and harmonica duo specialize in a style known as "Piedmont Blues," a musical approach with a regional sound born of the Southeast, stretching from Richmond to Atlanta.

Mr. Cephas and Mr. Wiggins are Washington, D.C. natives. John Cephas began playing the guitar at the age of nine and was influenced by such famous bluesmen as Blind Lemon Jefferson and the Reverend Gary Davis. In 1989, the National Endowment for the Arts honored John Cephas with the Heritage Fellowship Award. Phil Wiggins was attracted to the blues harp as a young man and he has played with many notable Washington, D.C. blues artists, including Archie Edwards and John Jackson. He is known for his ability to make his harmonica sit up and talk.

John Cephas and Phil Wiggins first met in 1977 at the Smithsonian National Folklife Festival and soon after teamed up to become ambassadors for old-time blues. They have toured the world playing in colleges, universities and community centers. Recognizing their excellence and authenticity, the State Department invited them to Africa, South America and Russia to showcase American Blues. They have held a number of teaching residencies and have been awarded numerous honorariums. In addition, they continue to appear on stage, radio and television and have recorded seven albums for a variety of small blues labels.

