

ABP - Regret
cc: MS, ZK, TG)

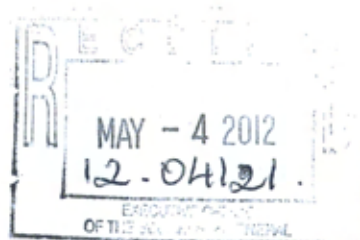
Stephen S. Lash
Chairman

May 3, 2012

CHRISTIE'S

His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

JA



Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

I am the Chairman Emeritus of Christie's Americas, the international auction house, with which I have had the privilege of working since its galleries opened in New York in 1977. This Spring Christie's celebrates the legacy of Van Cliburn, the internationally renowned pianist, whose extraordinary collection of Russian works of art, English furniture, silver and jewelry we will have the pleasure of offering for sale in New York on Thursday, May 17th.

Van Cliburn's name has resonated throughout the world since his famous victory at the First International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow during the Cold War. He has performed at every United States Presidential Inauguration since Harry Truman, as well as for various heads of state throughout the world. His artistry and respect for humanity continue to break through cultural and political borders, making him THE American cultural ambassador of the 20th century.

Therefore, in honor of this rare and memorable occasion, I would like to invite you to attend two exciting events prior to the auction. On Sunday, May 13th we will host a brunch and a private preview of The Van Cliburn Collection from 11:00am to 1:00pm at our galleries in Rockefeller Center. A pianist will perform on Van Cliburn's very first Steinway, a Model D Ebonized Concert Grand Piano, circa 1912, which is lot 148 in the sale. We are delighted to announce that proceeds from the sale of this Steinway will benefit the Juilliard School and the Moscow Conservatory, Van Cliburn's almae matres.

Then, on Tuesday evening, May 15th Mr. Cliburn will have a public conversation with Paul Holdengraber, which will launch a series produced in conjunction with Christie's and LIVE from the New York Public Library. Van Cliburn will talk about his extraordinary career and his extensive art collection that we will be selling on May 17th. This evening will also include another brief performance on a grand piano generously provided by Steinway & Sons.

Following the public conversation, Mrs. Mercedes T. Bass, in her capacity as Trustee of the Van Cliburn Foundation, will host a private dinner at the DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room in the Stephen A. Schwartzman building at the New York Public Library. We would be delighted if you are free to join us at one or both of these very special events in honor of the life and career of Van Cliburn. I have attached invitations with complete details regarding both events.

Please feel free to either RSVP to me directly (212.636.2905 or slash@christies.com) or my colleague Capera Ryan (214.599.0735, cryan@christies.com). I very much look forward to hearing back from you and, of course, to the possibility of seeing you on Sunday, May 13th and Tuesday, May 15th.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen S. Lash

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Enclosures



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SCH/08/002

phone 212.636.2905 fax 212.636.2030
email slash@christies.com

TY 10020



Stephen Lash, Chairman Emeritus
Jeanne Sloane, Deputy Chairman, and
William Strafford, Head of Private Collections

Request the pleasure of your company
at a brunch and private viewing of

The Van Cliburn Collection

We are pleased to feature a piano performance
on The Cliburn Steinway during this intimate
viewing highlighting Important English Furniture,
Silver, Russian Works of Art and Jewelry.

Sunday, May 13
11am - 1pm

Christie's
20 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

RSVP
rsvp1@christies.com



STEINWAY & SONS

Stephen S. Lash
Chairman

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Yours sincerely,



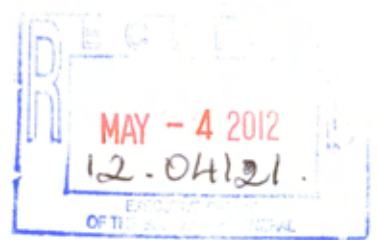
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STEINWAY & SONS

Sunday, May 13
11am - 1pm

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20 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

RSVP
rsvp1@christies.com

LIVE from the NYPL and Christie's

present

Van Cliburn

in conversation with Paul Holdengräber

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Celeste Bartos Forum

Private dinner to follow
hosted by Mrs. Mercedes T. Bass
Trustee of the Van Cliburn Foundation

DeWitt Wallace Periodical Room
The New York Public Library
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building,
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street

R.S.V.P.

Juliette Geary: (212) 930-0620 or juliettegeary@nypl.org

