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September 24, 2008

Mikhail Smirnov
 Barynya Russian Ensemble
 1350 15th Street, Apt 12K
 Fort Lee, NJ 07024

Dear Mikhail,

It is my pleasure to acknowledge that Barynya performed at the 2008 Liberty Medal Gala at the National Constitution Center. The Liberty Medal Award is annually bestowed to eminent world leaders who have dedicated their lives to global freedom and humanitarianism. In the spirit of positive action and extraordinary courage, the Center proudly awarded the 2008 Liberty Medal to former Soviet leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mikhail Gorbachev, who changed the course of modern history by working to end the Cold War, prompting widespread reform in Eastern Europe and quelling the nuclear arms race.

At this prestigious event, we honored the culture and traditions of Russia as a nod to our recipient, through the food, décor and most importantly, the entertainment. Barynya's performances were fun and captivated the audience, which included President George H. W. Bush, Tom Brokaw, Dikembe Mutumbo and Van Cliburn.

Barynya entertained at a black-tie gala dinner for more than 1,000 guests, performing both music and dance throughout the evening. The group was very accommodating, highly entertaining, and willing to adjust their choreography to fit a difficult space. We would definitely consider them for future events.

Sincerely,


 Katerina Koperna