

To: Matías Tarnopolsky

United States of America

Dear Mr. Tarnopolsky,

Thank you for your letter. It is truly a pleasure to learn that in November, the Philadelphia Orchestra will visit China for the 13th time and join the Chinese side to celebrate the Orchestra's 1973 China Tour with musical performances and activities, and renew the 50-year musical friendship between the Orchestra and the Chinese people.

Half a century ago, the Orchestra's historic China Tour marked a thaw in China-U.S. cultural exchange, which was a very important part in the normalization of the two countries' diplomatic relations. Since then, the Orchestra visited China 12 times as an active cultural envoy, playing an instrumental role in strengthening China-U.S. ties.

Today, this special concert presented by the Orchestra and the China National Symphony Orchestra alongside vocalists from various countries will become our cherished memory and go down in history. Music has the power to transcend borders, and culture can build bridges between hearts.

I hope that with the vision of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among cultures, the Orchestra and artists from China, the U.S. and across the world could move the art world forward through more dynamic exchange and cooperation, and continue the efforts to strengthen people-to-people ties between China and the U.S. and spread friendship among peoples of the world.

Xi Jinping

President of the People's Republic of China

November 5, 2023, Beijing