



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

June 12, 2009

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

GREETINGS

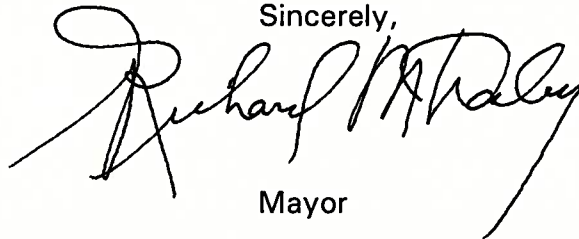
As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to welcome all those attending the Russian Independence Day performance guest-conducted by Philip Simmons, Artistic Director, American Music Festivals, in Sochi, Russia.

Music plays an important role in Chicago's rich cultural life, attracting wide recognition for excellent productions and providing enjoyment to countless people in our city and around the world. This event offers the opportunity to recognize future prospects for fostering cultural exchange between the United States and the Russian Federation.

In today's global environment, we must continue to explore new partnerships and renew existing friendships. Chicago and Russia have a long history of exchange, highlighted by our sister city relationship with Moscow. We are the proud home to a strong Russian-American community that works hard to make our city a better place to live, work and raise families. I value the many contributions Russian Americans have made to the development of our city and the ties that continue to unite Chicago's citizens with the people of Russia.

You have my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Daley

Mayor