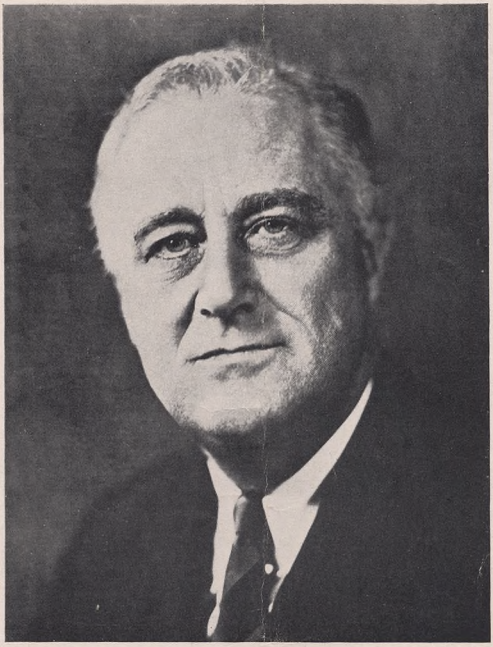

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL CONCERT

Wednesday Evening, January 30, 1946
Grand Ballroom, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

Greater New York Chapter
THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR
INFANTILE PARALYSIS, INC.

This is the day we celebrate and this is the day we grieve. For with our remembrance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt comes the great pain of our loss.

The world has rarely been plunged into the kind of sorrow that it suffered upon the death of President Roosevelt. All civilized humanity had its heart set on this man to lead it out of the wilderness of sorrow on to the broad plain of happy living.

He died April 12, 1945, at Warm Springs, Georgia. I'm sure that if he had had his choice he would have willed it just that way. He loved that peaceful spot, where more than twenty years ago he started his great fight against infantile paralysis.

This fight against the disease that could not conquer him was the most determined of all the battles he fought for his fellow-men.

One of history's greatest figures — and one of the warmest of human beings — has passed on.

I know in my heart that the force of his personality will continue to help bring the fine things the world so badly needs — the fine things he worked for the world to have.

And so today, January 30, we celebrate his birthdate — In Memoriam.

Remembering him now we can see that famous smile, that kindly face saying to every one of us, "Go ahead — keep up the fight — keep going."

Basil O'Connor

PRESIDENT

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

The Prayer delivered tonight by Helen Hayes was written by Stephen Vincent Benét at the request of Archibald MacLeish, then Librarian of Congress.

Franklin D. Roosevelt read this Prayer during the course of his radio address on United Nations Flag Day, June 14, 1942.

PRAYER

BY STEPHEN VINCENT BENET

GOD OF THE FREE, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind.

Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our brothers. Grant us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for the days to come which shall and must unite all the children of earth.

Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet of it we can make, if we choose, a planet unvexed by war, untroubled by hunger or fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man.

The spirit of man has awakened and the soul of man has gone forth. Grant us the wisdom and the vision to comprehend the greatness of man's spirit, that suffers and endures so hugely for a goal beyond his own brief span. Grant us honor for our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years — a brotherhood not of words but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth — grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace — that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen.

ARTUR RUBINSTEIN

DEEMS TAYLOR

HELEN HAYES

FRITZ KREISLER

HALL JOHNSON

LAURITZ MELCHIOR

LAURITZ MELCHIOR AND HELEN TRAUBEL
AS "TRISTAN AND ISOLDE"

HELEN TRAUBEL

This memorial concert marks the first time that we celebrate the birthday of Franklin Delano Roosevelt without the living presence of the great war leader and humanitarian. His struggle against the handicap of disease remains an inspiration to those who fight on in the cause he led.

In previous years, January 30 has been the occasion for festive celebrations. With tonight's concert, our annual tribute to our departed leader takes a new form.

Future observances of his birthday will continue to honor his memory, which endures in the heart of America. Remembering his gallant spirit, the people of America will carry on the fight against infantile paralysis — to final victory.

All the artists have contributed their services for the occasion.

The songs of the Hall Johnson Choir were arranged especially for the Choir.

Waldorf-Astoria Ballroom, Courtesy of Lucius M. Boomer.

Fritz Kreisler uses the Steinway piano.
Lauritz Melchior uses the Knabe piano.
Artur Rubinstein uses the Steinway piano.
Helen Traubel uses the Baldwin piano.

Helen Hayes appears through the courtesy of Mark Hanna.
Fritz Kreisler appears through the courtesy of the National Concert and Artists Corporation.
Lauritz Melchior appears through the courtesy of the William Morris Agency.
Artur Rubinstein appears through the courtesy of the Hurok Management.
Helen Traubel appears through the courtesy of Lawrence Evans.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL CONCERT

JANUARY 30, 1946 DEEMS TAYLOR, presiding

PROGRAM

HALL JOHNSON CHOIR

Star-Spangled Banner . . . . . *Francis Scott Key*
O, Lord Have Mercy on Me
Lord I Don't Feel No Ways Tired

FRITZ KREISLER

Hymn to the Sun . . . . . *Rimsky-Korsakoff*
Midnight Bells . . . . . *Henberger-Kreisler*
Humoresque . . . . . *Dvorak*
Prelude, G minor . . . . . *Rachmaninoff-Kreisler*

CARL LAMSON at the piano

HALL JOHNSON CHOIR

Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho

LAURITZ MELCHIOR

Heimliche . . . . . *Strauss*
Because . . . . . *D'Hardelot*

COENRADD V. BOS at the piano

INTERMISSION

HALL JOHNSON CHOIR

St. Louis Blues

ARTUR RUBINSTEIN

Prelude, A minor . . . . . *Debussy*
Second Prelude . . . . . *Gershwin*
Polonaise, *opus 53* . . . . . *Chopin*

HELEN HAYES

Prayer . . . . . *Stephen Vincent Benét*

HELEN TRAUBEL

Nacht und Traume . . . . . *Schubert*
Zueignung . . . . . *Strauss*
Drums Loudly Beating . . . . . *Beethoven*

COENRADD V. BOS at the piano

HALL JOHNSON CHOIR

City Called Heaven

LAURITZ MELCHIOR and HELEN TRAUBEL

Love Duet — Act II — Tristan and Isolde . . . . . *Wagner*

COENRADD V. BOS at the piano

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