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Rubinstein Sends Word To Crowd Feting Him

By The Associated Press

An audience that packed the Waldorf-Astoria grand ballroom Monday night to honor Arthur Rubinstein heard a message telephoned earlier in the day from the pianist in Switzerland.

"Can you imagine how frustrating it feels to be boxed up in an armchair in Geneva instead of being among you to join the fun?" Mr. Rubinstein's son, the actor John Rubinstein, quoted the 95-year-old virtuoso as saying.

Those in the Waldorf's ballroom and its two balconies had paid \$500 a plate for a banquet to honor Mr. Rubinstein and benefit the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. Mr. Rubinstein, who had hoped to attend until his doctor ruled against the plane trip, was being honored for his support of the Weizmann Institute and his contribution to Israel's cultural life.

Sixteen minutes of a televised interview David Frost did with Mr. Rubinstein in Geneva in April was shown, followed by a speech by Zubin Mehta, conductor of the New York Philharmonic and Israel Philharmonic. Mr. Mehta said: "I knew that one day I would say that I had the honor of playing with Rubinstein. I didn't realize those days would pass so quickly. There is nobody to fill that."