

**EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE TRIP LOGS:
PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION SCHOLARS' REFLECT ON
THEIR TRIP TO THE WHITE HOUSE CELEBRATION OF
CLASSICAL MUSIC**

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Airport send-off and departure from Bloomington, IL: Nov. 3rd, 2009
White House event and return date: Nov. 4th, 2009



Left to right: Brandon Churchill, Morgan Schaub, Andrew Powers, Mikhayla Price-Hutcherson, Ryan Cavallo, Tess Johnson, Reyhana Pippins, Zari Gary, Shelby Bays, Sam Birsa, Stephen Cook, Haden Toohill. Photo by Dennis Powers.



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

Pratt Music Foundation. c/o Illinois Wesleyan University, PO Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61701-2900

Grammar and phrasing of students' writing retained to preserve authenticity. A few spelling mistakes were corrected.

BAYS, SHELBY

9th grade. 3rd year violin.

Town of Normal Harmon Arts Scholarship

1st Day in Washington, D.C. 11-3-09

WOW. What a day it was. A long flight, but we are here in Washington, D.C. It is so beautiful.

You can imagine how it feels to be standing next to the man himself, the one who helped stop slavery, Mr. Lincoln. What a great place to be.

BIRSA, SAM

12th grade. 2 year scholar.

Zuill Bailey Strings Scholar.

Day 1

I enjoyed looking out of the window of the plane, seeing subdivisions, cars on highways, fields of corn and Illinois' vast flatness. However, going through security, keeping track of luggage, and sitting in the tight quarters of the plane had tired me out, and I slept most of the way.

I was relieved when the traveling was done, and everyone had put their stuff in the hotel rooms. I was amazed when I saw the limo come to pick us up. Being inside was pretty neat, with water coolers, TV screens and lights that change color.

The limo took our group across Washington, D.C. to see many of the city's landmark locations. The monuments and memorials are lighted and look very beautiful in the dark.

In the roughly three-hour span, we saw the Lincoln & Jefferson Memorials, the WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, the Capitol building, the White House exterior, as well as the Washington Monument's exterior. I was very tired afterwards and had no trouble falling asleep.

Day 2

I woke up the next morning excited for the afternoon's concert. After stuffing myself at breakfast, everyone went to the Washington monument. It was much larger than I expected. At around 500 ft., the monument would actually be taller than Godzilla. Up close and in the daylight, I could see what the tour guide had mentioned earlier about the color; at about 1/3 the length of the tower, the stones used were taken from deeper in the quarry, which had differently colored stone.

After going to the top of the monument, I could see all of the city, and much of the surrounding area as well. Because the Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, White House and Capital building are all laid out in a cross, I had a clear bird's eye view of all of them. Seeing the city from a 500 ft. perspective was very good.

Following the visit to the Washington Monument was the Smithsonian Museum. At this point, we didn't have much time, so we only got to thoroughly look at one exhibit. I looked at a string exhibit, which housed many oddly shaped string instruments. Some of these had bizarre heads carved into the scroll of the instruments.

After lunch came the climax of the entire trip. After going through a security checkpoint, we were led through the back entrance to the White House itself. It was filled with employees in suits and military personnel in decorative uniforms, and very nicely furnished on the inside. It feels more like another government building than it does a house.

I don't know the name of the room where the cello workshop was, but it was circular with a panoramic style painting covering all of the walls. A portrait of George Washington hung above the fireplace as well.

While waiting for Alisa Weilerstein to show up, I drank a glass of Presidential-grade water someone had brought down on a tray. And I also talked with some students from other schools.

When Ms. Weilerstein showed up, everyone who brought a cello played in a cello ensemble led by her. They played a Bachianers (sp?) piece,

which I had played this year at Chamber Camp. I thought the group sounded great, and wished I could have played along with them.

After the seminar came the concert. I met Awadagin Pratt in the room, thanked him personally for his work in making the trip a reality, and asked him what everyone was playing. I then got a front row seat in the East Rom. As seats were being filled, and the musicians were getting ready, everyone was waiting for Mrs. Obama's entrance. Everyone clapped as she entered and gave a brief speech at the podium. It was really cool sitting roughly 5-6 feet from where she was standing.

The concert was great, but short. Among the professionals, a few impressive young kids played as well. My favorite part was Alisa Weilerstein's solo. It was a contemporary piece and kind of weird sounding, but it was incredible how full of passion she was when she played it. She is able to sustain such incredible tone and volume for so long!

The second performance that impressed me the most was Mr. Pratt's solo. It was a short etude, but it was amazing from both a technical and a musical standpoint.

All in all, I had a great time on this trip, and I feel very privileged to have been invited to come with the other Pratt Music kids. It was well worth all of the calculus and physics make-up work waiting for me after I got back.

CAVALLO, RYAN

9th grade. 4th year piano.

Awadagin Pratt Piano Scholarship

Arriving/Going to Washington

Tuesday. When we got to the airport it was so exciting! We saw banners, posters, cameras flashing. It was just amazing.

When we first all saw each other, no one really knew each other, but by the end, we were all pretty good friends. When we first got on the planes a lot of people were a little nervous, but we got over it.

When we first got to Washington I was really excited we got to see some really interesting buildings/memorials. We ate surprisingly good meals at the airports.

When we took our tour it was just amazing. I mean, I never thought Washington could be so beautiful! They have lights and just mind blowing memorials and shops.

When we left the airport, we got to ride in a Humazine. (Hummer limousine.) I was like OMG! It was amazing on the inside. It was big and I think we all enjoyed it.

The tour guide was nice and he knew everything. Haha I mean, well about the history on the monuments. He was nice and he answered any questions we had to ask.

But by the end of the tour we were all pretty tired. Even though we all slept on the plane rides. But that day was a lot of fun and just amazing.

White House (with a smiley face beside it)

Wednesday. When we woke up it was a fight for the shower. But not a real fight. Haha

But after that we went down stairs and had a very good breakfast. We ate like kings and queens!

After that we went to the Washington Memorial. We got on the elevators and we went to the top. The view was amazing. I took so many pictures.

After that we went to the White House. We saw celebrities. It was amazing. And when we went to the classes Mr. Pratt blew me away. He is amazing at the piano. I wanted to like go home and just start practicing. Haha

He said (Mr. Pratt) some very good tips that I know I will use.

When it got time for the mini-concert, Mrs. Obama sat two seats away from me. She shook my hand! I thought I was going to faint. HaHa

But after that we got on the planes and were all sad it was over. This was an awesome trip and a great opportunity which I'm glad I got to do!

CHURCHILL, BRANDON

9th grade. 4th year cello.

Zuill Bailey Strings Scholarship

11/3/09 1:58 p.m. After Send Off

Well, have been on the plane for a while. The send off was pretty cool. I could tell that everyone was proud of us and that this is going to be a fun trip.

This is my second time being on a plane to D.C. I still get excited taking off every time!

I was pretty excited about this trip, too! I'm planning on making some new friends and I can't wait to meet Awadagin! And hopefully the President!

11/3/09 6:27 p.m. In Airport (D.C.)

Both flights were good. I fell asleep on the second one and still managed to make 2 more friends. We still have about a half an hour till we leave in the limo. Can't wait to see more of DC.

11/04/09

The tour was really cool! I loved seeing the monuments at night. Being at the top of the Washington Monument was awesome. You could see everything up there.

11/4/09 The White House

I have to admit I was a little nervous. It was so exciting! Awadagin is so cool! I wish we had more time to get to know him. The concert was really cool, too. They were all super good. The little girl (8 year old cellist) amazed me at how good she was. The whole thing inspires me to practice more to be great at the cello.

COOK, STEPHEN

10th grade. 2nd year cello.

Minor Myers, Jr. Classical Music Scholarship

The start of my adventure started earlier than which I thought that it would. A two-person student team from ISU came to do some filming and an interview with me regarding the trip that I was about to go on. And overall, it went well.

At the airport I wasn't expecting the party-like greeting and send-off that there was. It was nice to see all the people excited about us going to D.C.

My first time on a plane was fun. How fast it went surprised me. It made my ears hurt though. But wow, 33,000 feet up. In D.C. I could see the capitol building as well as the Washington Monument from the plane.

It took me off guard, as you would say, to be taken on the tour with the stretch Hummer limousine. It looked cool on the inside, but I wish that they had higher ceilings than what they were, especially being all the way in the front of the limo.

The tour was amazing. I wasn't expecting it to be as good as it was and in depth. I just thought that we would just be riding around seeing where everything is located at, and not going inside and exploring them like we did.

The Vietnam wall of names was a sad, yet moving place. There was the names of about 58,000 soldiers who were killed while serving in the war.

The Smithsonian was very interesting, all of the different exhibits throughout the place.

Finally, the big event came, The White House. When we got there a lot of people were also waiting to get in with all their instruments.

For about the 5th time this trip we had to pass through security again. But I knew that it would be there since it was the White House after all.

Inside there was lots of architectural details with the building that made it more amazing.

There were lots of Navy personnel and a few MARINES.

The class was impressive along with the teachers' skill. The group picked up quickly. Another thing that was impressive was that there was an 8 year old with incredible skills that played in the concert along with the instructor.

I liked all of the individual parts of the concert, especially the piece that Mr. Pratt played solo.

My second favorite was the cello and marimba playing "Swan."

Michelle Obama opened up the whole ceremony. The only thing I did not like about the trip is that it was too short. But still loaded with fun.

Thank you.

GARY, ZARI

10th grade. 5th year viola.

Hurst Strings Scholarship

In D.C., we had a great time seeing many places and memorials. But words could never express my gratitude for the opportunity to experience our nation's capitol. Seeing the names of how many war veterans who fought and died for our country's freedoms helps me understand the sacrifice that our troops today are making.

I thank the Pratt Foundation for allowing me the opportunity that I may have never been given otherwise. Out of the places we visited my favorite two were the Smithsonian Museum and the WWII Memorial.

In closing, thanks a million times for the golden opportunities of visiting our nation's capitol and White House, a gift that I will treasure for as long as I can remember.

Gratefully, Zari Gary

JOHNSON, TESS

10th grade. 3rd year violin.

Ruby K. Worner Charitable Trust Scholarship

Going to Washington! November 3, 2009

I couldn't wait to get to the airport Tuesday morning. Even though we had only been planning this trip for a month, it felt like this day would never come.

When my family and I got there we saw the colorful signs and banners made for our send off. J

As everyone arrived a TV crew interviewed a couple of the scholars.

Finally it was time to leave. I said goodbye to my family and proceeded to security with the rest of the group.

Later we settled into our seats for the flight to Atlanta, Georgia, where we had a lay over. Again we boarded the plane and were finally on our way to Washington, D.C.!

It was a pleasant night as we stepped off the plane. When I found out we were riding (and taking a 3 hour tour) in a Hummer limo I was ecstatic!

For the next three hours as the group talked and walked around the city, we all got to know each other better.

Jumping in and out of the limo we were able to see the Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, White House, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the Roosevelt Memorial. By the time we got back to the hotel I dropped into bed exhausted, but extremely happy.

The White House November 4, 2000

The morning started out great with our huge breakfast at the hotel.

This morning we had the great opportunity to go up to the top of the Washington Monument. As the elevator went up my ears started to pop while watching the bricks of the monument go by.

At the top you could see the whole city around you through the little windows. The view was breathtaking.

Next we got in the shuttle to go to one of the Smithsonian Museums. We chose to go to the American History one. My favorite exhibit was the one with the First Lady's dresses. All of them were so refined and elegant.

After having lunch at the Stars and Stripes Café, we were off to the White House!

After we went through security to the White House, we had to wait for a while. I had just turned around and saw Kal Penn walking into the White House! I later found out that he quit acting to come work for President Obama at the White House!

When we were let in, I was so amazed to actually be in the White House and to look at all the history around me and all the brilliant men who had walked these halls before me.

We then went off to different rooms for the master classes. Since I play violin, I went to Joshua Bell's class. He was very informal and made the class so much more enjoyable with his easy-going manner.

Talking about his past violin experiences really helped me see that he once struggled with practicing and difficult pieces, too. At the end I actually got to shake his hand and talk to him for a minute!

Then they ushered us into the East Room for the big concert. Joshua Bell and Awadagin Pratt, along with two other musicians, were there and played with passion.

It was such an honor to see these great masters play. Also to everyone's delight, the First Lady was there to watch and listen to the concert with us.

When we walked out of the White House and onto the shuttle I thought back to the last few hours. It had all been so wonderfully amazing.

I wouldn't have traded this experience for anything in the world. It was a once in a lifetime experience I will remember forever.

PIPPINS, REYHANA

12th grade. 3rd year piano.

Elterich Family Music Scholarship

Going to Washington, Nov. 3, 2009

The Send off!

Today is the day that we go to Washington! This morning I woke up really excited, but also nervous. I got my bags and loaded them in my car.

When I got to the airport there was a TON of people there with signs and banners. I got even more nervous as I realized how big this actually was.

It took a while for us to get through all the pictures, but it was fun. The cookies (musical note cookies) were amazing.

It came time for us to go through security. I went to hug all of my family that came. When I hugged my Mom she started crying. But it was only two days! I reassuringly hugged her again.

Once my tearful Mom and family was out of sight, and I got to my gate, the nervousness kicked back in.

Mrs. Vogt handed us an envelope with our names on it. I started reading the notes as the plane began its take off. The cards went somewhere along the lines of how we, the Pratt Scholars, are representing Blm/Normal, IWU and the Pratt Foundation, but most importantly that we owed all of this to the lot of people who sponsored us and made this possible. My mind began to soar trying to figure out who the generous and music loving sponsors were.

Then I read the other card that said we needed to think of something to say to Awadagin when we saw him. I still couldn't fathom that we could be meeting Mr. Pratt!!

I fell asleep on the plane, only to be awakened by hunger, and I ate my AWESOME roast beef sandwich lunch!

We landed in an already dark D.C. I was completely stunned when our limo pulled up. It was a Hummer limo! It was one of the most shiny black limos I have ever seen!

Reality sunk in, and I once again realized how many sponsors must have donated money to make this possible. Everyone whipped out their cameras to take a picture of the gorgeous car, although no one got a decent shot since it was so huge and it was night.

We headed to the hotel, dropped our bags off and headed out for our three-hour tour of Washington, D.C., with Tim, our limo driver, and Dave, our tour guide.

The first place we stopped at was at Lafayette Park to go to the White House.

Dave, our tour guide, said we were lucky to have a night tour because it made everything amazing.

We gawked at the "live by bombs, die by bombs" protestor camped out on the back of the White House.

The outside of the White House looked smaller than I thought it would.

We headed off to our next destination. We then went to the World War II Memorial. I was awestruck at the beautiful sadness. The fountains were lit up and everything had an ethereal glow to it. As I listened to Dave explain how over 400,000 men and women gave their lives for us to be free, I felt eternally grateful and sobered at the same time.

Dave went on to explain how Congress did not want to build a memorial to WWII. I was angered and dumbstruck that there would even be the slightest hesitation to build a memorial. The WWII generation was perhaps the bravest generation. What they sacrificed for us and others I can not fathom. This memorial was by far the best one. This was my favorite site in Washington, D.C.

We then visited the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, The Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Capitol Building, the FDR Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial.

The Lincoln Memorial was the 2nd best. It was awe-inspiring. There was a good feeling to stand at the base of the Lincoln's feet and look out at the Washington Monument and the reflecting pool. It was a gorgeous night.

After the tour we headed back to the hotel. In our rooms I really bonded with the other girls, laughing at TV shows and talking about what would happen tomorrow.

At The White House 11/04/09

Today we got up super early at 6:00 a.m. to get ready. We ate breakfast and then went to the Washington Monument to actually go inside. We went up to the 500 floors. The view of all the major memorials and buildings was incredible.

After this we went to the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian. My two favorite parts were the First Ladies dresses and the Music Room there.

Once there we were given name tags and had to check in with the Secret Service, who all wore sunglasses and ear pieces like in the movies!!

While we were waiting to go into the White House, the actresses Allie Woodard and Carrie Washington walked by us!! Allie said hi to us!!! Then all of a sudden Kal Penn, the actor who quit the show *House* to work for Obama walked by!!!! Me, Morgan and Tess started to freak out! Especially Morgan, who loves Kal Penn!!

We were then escorted into the White House. It was HUGE on the inside!

We were divided up by our instruments and I along with Morgan, Ryan and Powers, Mr. Mulliken and Mrs. Vogt went into the piano room.

There was Awadagin playing at the most beautiful piano I have ever seen! He stood up and shook our hands one by one. I introduced myself and said thank you. But then other students began to come in and he went to greet them as well.

The master class went by and there were some amazing piano players from Detroit.

Then Awadagin opened the class up for questions. I received some very good advice: How to transpose from key to key. I learned that Awadagin does compose some music, and that the (perhaps) best way to memorize was to work backwards at the end or randomly. This is what Ms. Sarah told me as well!

Then, I timidly raised my hand. I asked Awadagin what he visualizes or sees when he closes his eyes while he plays. He said that he wasn't visualizing, but rather thinking. He said sometimes your eyes can trip you up and make you stumble. He said, "You know the piece, just close your eyes and play." This I found to be true, because I find myself watching my fingers frequently and sometimes I stumble on a piece I already memorized!

A lot of things connected. And I realized I love to hear piano just as much as I like to play it. I felt like I was in a trance listening to Awadagin play.

Once the class was over, all of the other musicians came in for the performances. An official looking lady said she needed my seat so I got up. Soon in walks MICHELLE OBAMA!!! She sat in my seat!

She (the First Lady) introduced the four musicians and they began. My favorites were when the 8 yr. old cellist played with the cello performer. The cello performer was absolutely riveting. Her emotion that she showed, and the passion she has, made me feel like I was living the music. It was simply beautiful.

Joshua Bell was among my favorites. He was so into his performance that he broke some strings on his bow! I loved the Paganini song he played.

Joshua Bell also messed up in his first piece (he completely skilled 2 lines) and I realized even the greats make mistakes while playing.

As always Awadagin beautifully conquered the piano.

Today I realized how much music, especially classical music, is a part of me. I can't live without it.

Seeing everything today made me want to go home and practice for the rest of the day. I want to be able to play that beautifully someday.

This trip was a miracle. It has defined and made bolder my love for classical music. I will never forget this. I am eternally grateful.

Signed: Reyhana Pippins, November 04, 2009

Post script: I felt very emotional, moved, and tearful while listening to the performances. Classical music is amazing how it tells stories without words.

POWERS, ANDREW

10th grade. 6th year piano.

Pratt-Clarke Music Scholarship

Introduction

This month I was offered the rare privilege to go on an all-expense-paid trip to the White House for “Classical Music Education Day.” This offer was given because I am a Pratt Scholar, which means my classical piano lessons at Illinois Wesleyan University are provided through the Pratt Music Foundation. I recognized the trip to the White House as a once in a lifetime opportunity and gladly accepted.

11/3/09

Twelve scholars met at the Bloomington Airport. We were surprised by the Pratt Foundation with a wonderful send-off. There were probably around 100 people there, many waving encouraging signs. After walking through rows of well-wishers, we boarded an Air Tran jet to Atlanta, Georgia. From Atlanta, we boarded a flight to Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Today I enjoyed going on a night tour of D.C. in a Hummer limousine. What an experience! I got to get out and walk through the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, The World War II memorial, and got to look at the White House and Washington Monument with the spotlights on them in the dark.

11/4/09

Today I got to go up the Washington Monument and look down on the city. It was really cool.

Then we went to the Smithsonian museum of American History, and I got to see lots of old instruments and some props from movies.

Then we went into the White House. Altogether there were over 100 students. I play the piano; consequently I was with the group that listened to a short workshop about classical piano music by Awadagin Pratt. He gave advice to the scholars in our group, and played a little for us, too. He talked

to us about playing the piano with feeling, which has helped me in my own practicing.

The rest of the music students and their sponsors joined us in the room with the grand piano. I was in the front row. A White House employee asked two of the piano scholars in my row to move. One of the other Pratt scholars joked that it would be funny if Michelle Obama came and sat there. Soon the employee came back and placed a paper on the seat that said, “Mrs. Obama.” I sat in the same row as the First Lady. She leaned over and shook our hands. It was quite an honor to shake the hand of the President’s wife. Michelle Obama stood and gave a short speech.

Then the concert started! We were able to hear Awadagin play, and also classical guitarist Sharon Isbin, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, and violinist Joshua Bell. I was amazed at how well they played. The concert has inspired me to become a better pianist myself.

I am extremely grateful to the Pratt Music Foundation for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I realize that on that trip I was able to do many things that most people have never done in their lives. I very much enjoyed my time in the White House.

PRICE-HUTCHERSON, MIKHAYLA

11th grade. 2nd year violin.

Sam’s Club Classical Music Scholarship

11-3-09 Leaving

On my way to the airport I was so jittery. I could barely contain myself. I was so nervous when I got interviewed by the news because I had never been on TV before.

It was really cool when they cheered for us when we were going through security.

11-3-09 Arrival

I was so excited when we arrived in Washington, D.C. The city was so beautiful and bright from a bird’s-eye view.

It was really cool riding around in the Hummer-limousine. The monuments and memorials were really pretty at night. My favorite monument was of the Korean War. I also really liked the WWII memorial. My favorite monument was the Lincoln and the Jefferson. I really enjoyed the Lincoln because of the writing and the way he looked.

11-4-09 The White House

I was so excited.

Before we went to the White House, we went to the Washington Monument and that was really cool looking down on the city.

Then we went to the Smithsonian and my favorite part was the room of the First Ladies. They had a lot of pretty dresses and accessories there.

Then we were off to the White House. I couldn't believe it when we walked in and it felt like a dream. It was so pretty on the inside, not to mention that I saw some really famous (people) and that Michelle Obama was like a row away from me.

Joshua Bell looks a lot different than I imagined. He had great stories to tell us.

I also learned that guitars were a part of the classical music. I wish I would have been one of the students to get to play with one of the musicians.

SCHAUB, MORGAN

11th grade. 9th year piano.

Awadagin Pratt Piano Scholarship

Tuesday, November 3, 09

I got to the airport and everyone was already there holding signs and banners wishing us a safe trip and congratulating us. I was really surprised at that.

A news crew was even there interviewing some scholars.

We arrived in D.C. around 6 on Tuesday night I think. A Hummer stretch limo picked us up right in front of the airport! The limo was soo nice!

The driver took us to our hotel to check in and then we took a guided tour of the city in our limo.

We stopped at the White House first and just looked from the front gate. Across from the White House there was a war protestor who has lived in the tent for like 40 years. I just really made me think about how dedicated she is to have lived almost all her whole life in that tent.

Then we went to the Washington Monument, Capitol Building, Jefferson Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and there were probably others that I can't remember...Oh yeah, and the Lincoln Memorial.

I'm so glad that we got to take our tour at night instead of during the day though. The lights were beautiful at night.

My favorite was the WWII memorial. It was just an amazing sight, and the fountains were beautiful. The Lincoln Memorial was really cool too. Our tour guide told us a lot of really interesting information about all of the sites. We stayed out sightseeing until almost 11 at night!

The White House! November 4, 2009

We got up bright and early to get ready for the White House. We left the hotel around 9 (a.m.) and then went to the Washington Monument. This time I was actually able to go inside the monument. The view at the top overlooking the reflecting pool and the Lincoln Memorial was really gorgeous.

After that we went to the Smithsonian. I visited the First Ladies exhibit where they had some of the famous dresses some of the First Ladies wore. They were so pretty!

We looked at (the) musical instruments exhibit, too. Then we ate lunch there and then left and went to the White House.

Then we walked into the White House and separated into rooms of the different instruments.

Three students from Cincinnati, I think, performed amazing pieces. They were so talented. Then Awadagin performed for us and answered some of our questions.

When we were all done with that, the other students came and joined us.

Then a lady came up to me and told me that I'd have to move seats for this. I was sitting in the front row and at the end of the row. So I moved to the right and sat at the end of the row across the aisle.

The person who needed my seat was Michelle Obama! Then she gave a speech.

The first performer was the guitarist.

TOOHILL, HADEN

10th grade. 2nd year violin.

Joslin Family Classical Music Scholarship

11/03/09 16:30 (military time)

Getting ready to land. Can see Washington out the window!

11/04/09 22:38

Ok, so I haven't really had time to write in here, I'm doing it on the plane.

The trip went by so fast and we were always doing something.

I still can't believe I was actually there! Talking with Joshua Bell was awesome. I really enjoyed the concert.

It all happened so fast and I can't believe we are flying back already! I'm listening to the World Series on the plane right now.

Folder: Pratt Music Foundation

File: Excerpts from White House Trip Logs, Pratt Music Scholars