

counting on continued US support for our way towards the EU and NATO. And, we feel that it's important to continue with this strategic partnership and the excellent relations we have been enjoying so far.

View the State Department [video](#) of their remarks.

RIGA DOM BOYS' CHOIR PERFORMS AT THE WHITE HOUSE



Official White House photo by Pete Souza

At the beginning of June, the Riga Dom Boys' Choir visited New York, Washington, DC and Philadelphia. The highlight of their visit was performing at the White House on Sunday afternoon, June 6. The choir, conducted by Martins Klisans, performed at the Ford's Theater Annual Gala, held at the East Room of the White House. The high point of the afternoon was their opportunity to meet US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, who greeted the choir and expressed appreciation for their professionalism and accomplishments. The Boys' Choir performed five pieces at the black-tie event, including Latvian folk songs and works by contemporary Latvian composers.

This is the first time a choir from Latvia has met with a US President and performed at such a high-profile event at the White House. The opportunity to perform at the White House in front of 400 guests, Ambassador Pildegovics stated, "is a strong, emotional gesture of friendship, affirming how highly the US President regards Latvia and its culture." The event was attended by honorees, celebrities and patrons of the arts, among them

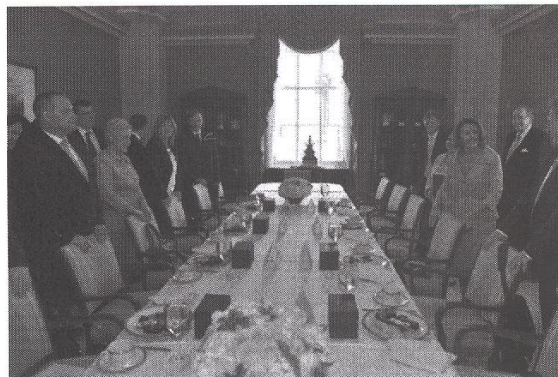
Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, singers Lionel Richie and Kelly Clarkson.



Photo by Peteris Alunans

The choir also visited the Embassy of Latvia, performed at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage ([view video](#)), and in Rockville, Maryland. The Embassy would like to express its gratitude to the Latvian Choir of New York for organizing the Choir's US tour in celebration of the Riga Dom Boys' Choir's 60th anniversary.

LATVIAN PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER VISITS WASHINGTON



From May 24 to 27, Gundars Daudze, Chairman of the Latvian Saeima, visited Washington as part of a delegation of Speakers of the Nordic and the Baltic Parliaments. They met with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Howard Berman and the Chairman of the House European Affairs