

Entertainment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1974

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

President and Mrs. Ford have invited Meyer Davis and His Orchestra to entertain in the East Room of the White House at a white-tie Diplomatic Corps Reception on Saturday, October 5, 1974 at 9:00 p.m.

Meyer Davis has conducted for more than 50 years and remains one of the most enthusiastic, timeless, and contemporary men on the musical scene. Even though he played for President Harding's inauguration in 1921 and for every U.S. president's inaugural ball since, he is still what younger fans would call, "with it." He has watched many dance fads come and go in five decades, but the one, he says, which has lasted all the way through is the Charleston, which he still plays at least twice every evening.

Meyer Davis has 1,000 musicians on his payroll, playing in some 45 Davis bands that are booked out of New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Palm Beach, Florida. Meyer Davis feels "our emphasis is on the melody and the beat. We try to make people get up and dance. If the floor isn't full we consider we are a flop." This band leader has played the White House at least 45 times.

Mr. Davis assembled his first band during high school days in Washington, D.C. By the time he was in his second year of law school at George Washington University, he decided his future was in music and went professional with his band. In a short time he had bands in all the major hotels and was himself playing the capitol's biggest parties.

Meyer Davis and his orchestra made musical history June 29, 1972 playing at the gala ball given by United States Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg. It was the first time on record that an American orchestra had been flown overseas to play at an American embassy.

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