



## Listen to President Obama Speak at the 2012 Kennedy Center Honors Reception

Dec 27, 2012

Listen to President Barack Obama's speech at the 2012 Kennedy Center Honors on December 26. He spoke to the talents of Buddy Guy, Dustin Hoffman, David Letterman, Natalia Makarova and Led Zeppelin, to the range of performing artists being honored, and said:

"each of us can remember a moment when the people on this stage touched our lives. Maybe they didn't lead us to become performers ourselves. But maybe they inspired us to see things in a new way, to hear things differently, to discover something within us or to appreciate how much beauty there is in the world. It's that unique power that makes the arts so important.

**"We may not always think about the importance of music or dance or laughter to the life of this nation, but who would want to imagine America without it?"**

Watch [the speech](#):

Read [the transcript](#)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2012/12/02/president-obama-speaks-2012-kennedy-center-honors-reception>