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STANLEY FLEISHMAN (1920-1999)
BARRY A. FISHER*
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July 24, 2012

Rocco Landesman Chairman
Nicki Jacobs Grants, Director
Cheryl T. Schiele, Specialist, Folk & Traditional Arts
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20506

Re: Applicant John Bilezikjian

Dear Chairman Landesman, Director Jacobs, Specialist Schiele:

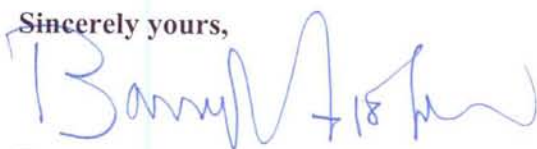
I am an international human rights lawyer working with many world ethnicities whose music I also perform and produce through my group Ellis Island. See attached. It is my distinct honor to write in support of John Bilezikjian for a Folk and Traditional Arts Grant.

I have known John for some half century, first in performance together at UCLA's Ethnomusicology Department and continuing for decades working together as musicians, including internationally, in Armenian traditional music, including as found in many countries of the Armenian diaspora, and also music of peoples whose music influenced and/or drew upon Armenian music. His historical knowledge and performance of the music of the region and the peoples of the Armenian Genocide, including Turkish, Sephardic Jewish, Assyrian, Greek and others is unique.

John is a remarkable musician, a superb singer, and he is particularly impressive as lecturer on Armenian music, its history, influences, and performance. His lecture/concerts have been especially important in introducing Armenian related folk tradition and raising historical and Armenian arts consciousness to the people of Los Angeles and elsewhere in the world where he has performed. Places I have performed with him involving his discussions include UCLA Royce and Schoenberg Halls, the Los Angeles Grand Performances series, the Museum of Jurassic Technology and elsewhere.

I enthusiastically recommend John for a Folk and Traditional Arts Grant without reservation.

Sincerely yours,



Barry A. Fisher

BARRY A. FISHER

Partner, Fleishman & Fisher. The firm's practice emphasizes national and international public interest law including creative strategies regarding the rights of ethnic, racial, religious, and political minorities world-wide. Mr. Fisher has assisted the drafting of constitutions and legislation for Romania, Moldova, Albania, Bosnia, and Belarus, and has consulted on rights in many countries, including China, North/South Korea, Russia, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, Canada, Germany, and England. Mr. Fisher serves as a mediator/arbitrator in U.S. financial industries disputes and a receiver for victims in major security fraud cases for the SEC and CFTC. He has been a leading attorney in land use and environmental law, and expert appellate counsel.

Mr. Fisher served on the multinational negotiation teams and as counsel in the German and Austrian Holocaust settlements, as well as court-appointed class counsel on the Swiss Banks Holocaust cases. Mr. Fisher is a signatory to the resulting multinational treaties with Germany and Austria. He serves as counsel on behalf of Chinese, Korean and other Asian victims of the sexual slavery and slave labor systems of wartime Japan. Mr. Fisher helped organize a now decade old council including representatives from China, South and North Korea, Philippines, Holland working to settle unresolved claims with Japan concerning wartime slave labor, "Comfort Women" and other issues. He was a delegate to the 44 nation State Department hearing on World War II unresolved claims. Washington Conference on Holocaust-era Assets.

Recipient, Nogunri Peace Prize (Seoul ROKorea Nov.2008); Recipient Amicus Poloniae Award (Gov. of Poland 1997); Recipient, Office of Chief Prosecutor, Certificate of Appreciation, U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (The Hague, Netherlands 1995); Previously served as Vice President, Human Rights Advocates International, Chairman, World Jurist Association Religion Rights Committee, Consultant, Central and East European Law Institution (CEELI), American Bar Association, General Counsel, International Federation of Festival Organizations (FIDOF); composer member ASCAP, film and TV credits, world music performer B.A., Juris D. UCLA, Univ. Penn. Law School R. Heber Smith Fellowship.

Speaker, Turkey EU membership accession/Kurds (Euro Parliament Brussels. June 2012); Author, Notes From The WWII Redress Trenches: The Disparate Treatment of Victims East and West (32 Loy. L.A. Int. & Comp. L. Rev. 93 (2010)); Author, Comfort Women and the Courts: Coordinating Legal Strategies, in Erzwungene Prostitution in Kriegs- und Friedenszeiten: Sexuelle Gewalt gegen Frauen und Mädchen (Barbara Drinck & Chung-Noh Gross eds., Kleine Verlag, Bielefeld (Germany), 2007) (Wissenschaftlicher Reihe, Band 160). Author, Roma in 3 Human Rights Encyclopedia 876 (James R. Lewis & Carl Skutsch eds., Sharpe Publ'g 2001); Author, The Victims of Nazi Persecution: Will The Holocaust-Era Litigation Answer the Questions of History?, in Anatomy of Genocide: State-Sponsored Mass Killings in the Twentieth Century 111 (Alexandre Kimeny & Otis L. Scott eds., Edwin Mellen Press 2001); Author and Symposium speaker, "No Roads Lead to Rom: The Fate of the Romani People Under the Nazi and Post War Restitution," Symposium on Nazi Gold, Assets of the Holocaust 20 Whittier L. Rev. 513 (1999).