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Poland: Jazz, "To my dear friends in Poland" p. 9

Dave Brubeck

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Posnan, Poland
March 18, 1958

To my dear friends in Poland:

The past two weeks within the borders of Poland have been filled with many pleasant surprises, many happy experiences, and hours of good music by your own Polish musicians.

Many people in your country have been kind enough to say to me that the appearance of our Quartet in Poland is an event they will long remember. May I say to all the people of Poland, that having been a guest in your warm-hearted, hospitable country has been unforgettable for me. I feel that many of you have become personal friends. I have learned a great deal about your country that a textbook could never tell me. And I believe that the future for jazz in Poland is a bright one.

Wherever you find such a group of young, eager and talented musicians as I have heard in Warsaw and Krakow and other cities, you know there is a vital force which must be and will be expressed. The proof of this vitality is the number of sincere and devoted men who spend their lives in helping jazz.

Erik Satie, the French composer, once said about American jazz, "Jazz cries out its soul and nobody cares." That is no longer true of America. Nor is it true any longer in Poland. We all care. Jazz is a contemporary, vital, immediate expression of the soul of the people. Therefore, we care.

To all whom we have met, to all who have attended our concerts, to all who have greeted us with such kindness in Poland, we say "Thank you" and God be with you.

Sincerely,

Dave Brubeck