

>> From the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

^M00:00:03

>> Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge: After seven years in Pittsfield my chamber music festivals had grown to such proportions and seemed to me so important that I decided to perpetuate them by placing them under institutional management. Still another chance suggestion led me to consider the Library of Congress as the most desirable, impersonal, and permanent administrator of my cherished project. Dear Carl Engel and the Librarian, Mr. Herbert Putnam, proved deeply sympathetic and enormously helpful in bringing this about, and I was not only very glad to share an increasingly heavy responsibility, but also welcomed the opportunity to establish in the government a little wedge of authority in matters of art. I think I was even kindly accused of a little wangling and perhaps justly, for I could wish for music the same governmental protection that is given to hygiene, education, or public welfare. How wonderful if we could have in the cabinet a Secretary of Fine Arts. I feel that in the course of twenty-six years my concerts have developed and guided my career as much as I have guided them. One idea has evolved another. One event has grown into another. I have followed their direction into paths at first entirely unforeseen, until today I find myself in your midst at this festival feeling the radiation of friendship and beauty which chamber music broadcasts, as I feel the return messages—augmented a thousand-fold—which center in this little auditorium in the Library of Congress.

^M00:01:50

>> This has been a presentation of the Library of Congress. Visit us at loc.gov.