

**THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME REMARKS AT THE CHOPIN MUSIC CONCERT,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY 26TH NOVEMBER 2010**

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- **Members of Management, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department**
 - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this celebration of 200years of a great Polish Composer, Virtuoso Pianist and music teacher, Francois Fryderyk Chopin.

Chopin's story is one of true musical genius! Although his being born into a musical family with a Father who played the flute and violin and a mother who played a piano might have contributed to this, his passion was evident right from an early age. As a child, he wept with emotion when his mother played the piano and by age six, he was already trying to reproduce what he heard or make up new melodies. These indeed were the makings of a true child prodigy. The fact that over 230 of Chopin's works survive is awe inspiring.

Makerere University as indicated in her 10year strategic plan (2008/09 – 2010/19) has at the core of its decision making, Quality Assurance, Gender Mainstreaming and Internationalization. Therefore, it is with great pride that Makerere University joins other international universities like the University of Michigan, who have previously hosted such concerts, to participate in this vehicle of artistic expression, The Chopin Project.

As an institution that is increasingly becoming conscious of the importance of integrating internationalization in her core functions of teaching; research; and knowledge transfer partnerships and networking, we are truly proud to be the pioneers not only in Uganda, but in the East African region to participate in this project.

I would like to commend the Quality Assurance Directorate and the Department of Music Dance and Drama for not only embracing the University's strategic vision but also using this platform to bring together some of Uganda's distinguished pianists. I believe that their

performances will pay homage to a true celebration of 200 years of the musical life of Francois Fryderyk Chopin.

I wish you all a great evening of musical enchantment, as we build for the future.

Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba, Ag. Vice Chancellor.