Translated from German

Dear Professor Nelson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come here today to recognise the commitment of Professor Nelson and to thank him for his dedication and efforts in what is for us Viennese a very important part of our history and of our very identity.

David Nelson has called Vienna the most musical city in the world, where the streets are alive with the spirits of Mozart, Beethoven, and many other great composers, and where music history was written on every corner.

By communicating his knowledge and his enthusiasm to young people, he teaches them not only history, but also one of the fundamental convictions that is an integral part of us who live in this city: that music is one of the most beautiful achievements of our civilisation and – as cliché as it may sound – makes us better human beings.

Looking at the international situation today, the civilising influence of music appears more important than ever.

Therefore it is a great pleasure for me to award Professor David Nelson with the Decoration of Merit in Gold of the Province of Vienna (Goldenes Verdienstzeichen des Landes Wiens) for his efforts in promoting the interests of Vienna. – We would like to thank you and wish you all the best for your future projects. I hope they will have a lot to do with Vienna.