

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS

THE F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

**National Gallery of Art**

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*1765th Concert*

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NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA

RICHARD BALES, *CONDUCTOR*

Soloist: Beverly Benso, *Contralto*

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Sunday Evening, February 3, 1985 at Seven  
West Building, East Garden Court

VII

New Year's Song

In the land of Shu the Winter cold  
Is like the warmth of Spring at home.  
Already, on the first morning of the turn,  
The early plum puts forth, bent on surprising  
With unexpected petals the stranger from afar,  
For whom another year of exile comes.

VIII

Lines from the Tomb of an Unknown Woman

Mother of pity, hear my prayer!  
That, in the endless round of Birth,  
No more may break my heart on Earth.  
Nor, by the windless waters of the Blest,  
Weary of rest.  
That drifting I abide not anywhere.  
Yet, if by Karma's law I must  
Resume this mantle of the dust;  
Grant me, I pray,  
One dew drop from thy willow spray;  
And, in the Double Lotus, keep  
My hidden heart asleep.

BEVERLY BENSO

NATIONAL GALLERY SUITE NO. 3 (1957)

*First Suite after water-color renderings*

*from the Index of American Design*

Commissioned by the American Institute of  
Architects for its Centennial.

Sign from Black Horse Inn, Saybrook, Connecticut  
Figurehead "Jenny Lind" from the ship, *Nightingale*  
Rag Doll  
Angel Gabriel Weathervane  
Cigar-store Indian  
Whiskey Flask  
Hope Chest  
Baseball Player

*This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.*

## TWO PIECES FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

"Music for Strings" (1940)

*Slowly — Quickly*

"Theme and Variations" (1944)

*Theme (String Quartet)*

*Theme*

*Variation: Andante*

*Variation: Andante con moto*

*Variation: Andante con tenerezza*

*Variation: Allegro con spirito*

*Variation: Adagio*

*Variation Finale: Allegro giocoso*

## SUITE FOR ORCHESTRA (1984)

"The Spirit of Engineering" Commissioned by the National Society of Professional Engineers for the 50th Anniversary of the Society.

*Allegro con brio*

*Scherzo and Waltz*

*Nocturne: "Remembrance"*

*March: "The Spirit of Engineering"*

## INTERMISSION

## SONG CYCLE FOR CONTRALTO AND ORCHESTRA

"A Set of Jade" on Ancient Chinese Poems, Commissioned by the Kindler Foundation. Composed 1964, Orchestrated 1968.

### I

A Bitter Love (Li Po)

How beautiful she looks opening the pearly casement.  
And how quietly she leans, and how troubled her brow is.  
You may see the tears now, tears white on her cheek,  
But not the man she so bitterly loves.

### II

Tears (Wang Seng-Ju — 6th Century A.D.)

High o'er the hill the moon barque steers.  
The lantern lights depart.  
Dead springs are stirring in my heart,  
And there are tears.  
But that which makes my grief more deep  
Is that you know not when I weep.

### III

The River and the Leaf (Po Chü-I — 772-846 A.D.)

Into the night the sounds of luting flow.  
The west wind stirs amid the root crop blue;  
While envious fireflies spoil the twinkling dew.  
And early wild geese stem the dark Kim Ho.  
Now great trees tell their secrets to the sky,  
And, hill on hill, looms in the moon-clear night.  
I watch one leaf upon the river light,  
And, in a dream, go drifting down the Hwai.

### IV

A Feast of Lanterns (Yuan Mei — 1715-97 A.D.)

In Spring, for sheer delight,  
I set the lanterns swinging through the trees,  
Bright as the myriad argosies of night,  
That ride the clouded billows of the sky.  
Red dragons leap and plunge through gold and silver seas.  
And, Oh, my garden, gleaming cold and white,  
Thou hast outshone the far, faint moon on high!

### V

At the Kuang Li Pavilion (Su Tung-P'o — 1036-1101 A.D.)

Red-skirted ladies, robed for fairyland,  
All are flown.  
But my heart to the wail of their long reed pipes  
Lilts on.  
Their clarion songs, mid the wandering clouds, were blown.  
The tiny waisted, dreamily dancing girls are gone.

### VI

Keeping the New Year's Watch at Ch'in Chou  
(Chang Yüeh — 667-730 A.D.)

The Old Year ends with tonight;  
A new round comes with the dawn.  
But the sadness of Autumn  
Still lingers in my heart,  
Like the Dipper's handle turns Northeast,  
Whither I would be, when Spring returns.

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