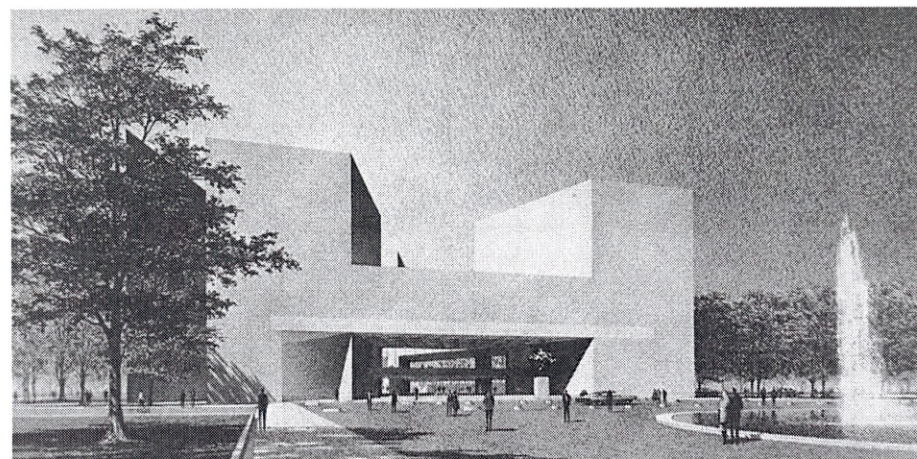


The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Music Department  
National Gallery of Art  
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC

[www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov)



The Seventieth Season of  
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin  
**Concerts**

National Gallery of Art  
2,864th Concert

**Menahe Pressler, pianist**

December 16, 2011  
Friday, 12:10 pm  
East Building Auditorium

*Admission free*

COVER: Paul Stevenson Oles, *Sketch of the East Building Exterior*, 1971,  
National Gallery of Art Archives, Gift of I. M. Pei and Partners

## Program

“Beethoven and Birthdays”

A Colloquium

Music to include

Ludwig van Beethoven (December 16, 1770–March 26, 1827)

*Sonata in A-flat Major, op. 110* (1821–1822)

## The Musician

A founding member and the pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio for all of its fifty-one years, Menahem Pressler ranks among the world’s most distinguished and honored musicians, with a career that spans more than six decades. Having played his National Gallery of Art debut in 1953, he became a familiar figure for the next three generations of Washington, DC, concert audiences, thanks to the Beaux Arts Trio’s regular appearances at the Library of Congress and Pressler’s return engagements at the Gallery in 1991, 2000, 2005, and 2009. Outstanding both as a chamber musician and a solo performer, Pressler has been heard in all of the world’s major venues, and the Gallery is pleased and proud to welcome him back for the fifth time on the occasion of his eighty-eighth birthday.

Born in Magdeburg, Germany, on December 16, 1923, Menahem Pressler and his family escaped Nazi Germany and immigrated to Israel in 1939, where the young pianist received most of his musical training. His career was launched when he won first prize at the Debussy International Piano Competition in San Francisco in 1946. This was followed by his successful American debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, under the baton of Eugene Ormandy, and appearances with the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Chicago, Pittsburgh, London, National, and Paris symphony orchestras. In 1955 Pressler cofounded the Beaux Arts Trio with violinist Daniel Guillet and cellist Bernard Greenhouse. Considered one of the most enduring

and widely acclaimed chamber music ensembles in history, the Beaux Arts has been credited with giving rise to the present-day popularity of the piano trio repertoire. In 1994 Pressler was honored with Chamber Music America’s Distinguished Service Award, and in 1998 he received the prestigious Gramophone Lifetime Achievement Award. Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2000, he has received England’s Record of the Year Award, four Grammy nominations, France’s Commander of Arts and Letters, Germany’s Federal Cross of Merit, and the German Recording Award. Earlier this year he was honored by International Classical Music Awards with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

In addition to his collaboration with the Beaux Arts Trio, which resulted in more than fifty recordings, Pressler has worked with the American, Cleveland, Emerson, Guarneri, Juilliard, and Pacifica string quartets and has made more than thirty piano solo recordings.

His incredible experience with piano and chamber music literature and his wisdom in the area of interpretation have earned him an international reputation as a teacher. When not on tour or teaching master classes, he can be found in his studio at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he holds the rank of distinguished professor.

Menahem Pressler appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Melvin Kaplan, Inc., [www.melkap.com](http://www.melkap.com)

Next week at the National Gallery of Art

**Thomas Fallon, countertenor**

“A Countertenor Christmas”

Music by Adam, J.S. Bach, Corelli, and other composers

December 18, 2011

Sunday, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court