

Mr. Cairns

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 12: Early American music of Washington's time will be played on Washington's birthday, February 22nd, by the National Gallery Orchestra, conducted by Richard Bales, it was announced today by David E. Finley, Director of the Gallery.

A feature of the program will be a Suite of music by Colonial composers arranged by Mr. Bales. This consists of works which, on the basis of contemporary records, are known to have been heard by General Washington. The concert is at 8:00 P.M.

At the same time, it was announced that the 300th public concert at the National Gallery will be held next month, on March 21st. At this concert, a milestone in the music program at the Gallery, Luigi Silva, cellist, will be heard in a program of classic and contemporary composers.

"This," said Mr. Bales, "will mark the Washington debut of this distinguished artist, who is on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music, in Rochester."

This 300th concert finds the National Gallery's program a popular feature of the Washington music world. Originated in the early war years principally for the benefit of people in the armed services and war workers, these concerts are given every Sunday evening in the East Garden Court. They are open to the public without charge, and attract capacity audiences. The annual attendance is approximately 50,000 and would exceed this figure if additional accommodations were available.

Of national significance in the music world is the Gallery's annual American Music Festival, held one month each year, and consisting of concerts of orchestral and chamber music by American composers. Formerly scheduled in March, the Festival this year has been planned for May.

Many leading musicians have appeared as guest artists at the Gallery, but special emphasis is placed on younger artists, many of whom have been presented to the music world in this way. During the war numerous concerts were given by artists in the armed services. The Gallery also has its own Orchestra, with Richard Bales as conductor, and is composed of thirty players.

Concert programs at the Gallery often feature the works of contemporary composers. More than 100 works have been played at the Gallery for the first time in Washington, thus providing a unique opportunity for the study of trends and achievements of contemporary music, and particularly music by American composers.