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NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 23: Dr. José de Azeredo Perdigão, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Kevork Loris Essayan, Member of the Board of the Gulbenkian Foundation, and co-executor with Dr. Perdigão of the Gulbenkian Estate, announced today on behalf of the Foundation that a grant of \$30,000 per annum for three years has been made to the National Gallery of Art for the support of the musical program of the Gallery. Support of musical affairs was one of the interests of the donor of the Foundation, and it is in accordance with this interest that the Trustees have made the grant.

Dr. Perdigão and Mr. Essayan are at present in the United States to study problems of museology in connection with the museum which the Gulbenkian Foundation is planning to build in Portugal, and to arrange for the return to Lisbon

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in the spring of 1960 of the works of art which belonged to Mr. Gulbenkian and which have been on loan at the National Gallery of Art. They will be placed in the new museum when it is completed.

John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, stated, "Our gratitude to the Foundation is two-fold: first of all for the grant to our musical program, which represents the continuation of the splendid philanthropy of the late Mr. Gulbenkian; and secondly for the privilege of having had part of the Gulbenkian Collection on loan pending its permanent installation in Lisbon. It is one of the finest art collections assembled in this century, and we are most thankful to have had the opportunity to exhibit a portion of it in the United States."

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