

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1962. John Walker, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today that the National Gallery of Art was given the Special Award of Merit in the 1962 Parade of American Music under the sponsorship of the National Federation of Music Clubs. This Award was received from Mrs. Dorothy Dann Bullock, National President, and comes to the Gallery at the conclusion of its Nineteenth American Music Festival which took place between May 6th and June 3rd, 1962.

Since the beginning of the National Gallery Concerts in 1942, the performance of American music has occupied an important place on its concert programs, and since that time more than a hundred world premieres including over a thousand Washington performances of works by American composers have taken place.

The concerts, which take place on Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the East Garden Court, have been heard by half a million persons since 1942 and by millions over the radio.

During the past two seasons the National Gallery of Art Concerts have been presented under grants from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation of Lisbon, Portugal, established by the late international financier and philanthropist, Calouste Gulbenkian. This support by the Foundation has continued the steady improvement and increasing interest in the Concerts

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which have culminated in the Award of Merit. The Concerts are in their twentieth year and when this season's final program is presented on Sunday, June 24th, eight hundred and eighty-four Sunday concerts will have been played since music was added to the Gallery's program of public service.

The concerts since 1943 have been under the direction of Richard Bales, Conductor of the National Gallery Orchestra.

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