

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

CONCERT TO COMMEMORATE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 2, 1971. The National Gallery of Art will commemorate its thirtieth anniversary by a concert of American music on Sunday March 14 by the National Gallery Orchestra under the direction of Richard Bales.

The performance, the 1,223 evening concert presented by the Gallery, will consist of three works by American composers: "Symphony No. 2" by the late Charles Ives, "'A Buoyant Music' (Overture No. 2)" by David Diamond and "Cello Concerto No. 2" by Robert Evett. The latter two works, especially composed for this concert, will receive world premieres that evening.

Music came to the National Gallery not long after it opened on March 17, 1941. The first concert took place on Memorial Day of the following year. In July, 1943 Richard Bales joined the Gallery to take charge of its musical programs. He organized the weekly concerts and assembled the National Gallery Orchestra. These Sunday evening concert programs have continued without interruption except for the traditional summer recess.

The first work to be performed during the anniversary concert will be "'A Buoyant Music' (Overture No. 2)" by David Diamond. It is dedicated to Richard Bales and was inspired by the words of the

(MORE)

poet Swinburne: "...the radiant and buoyant music of luminous motion, the simplicity and equality of passion and of power...." The score was sketched and completed during 1970.

David Diamond was born in 1915 in Rochester, New York where he now lives. As a composer he has enjoyed an international career, spending much of his life in Europe. He has received many important commissions and his music has been played by leading orchestras and recitalists.

The second premiere, "Cello Concerto No. 2" by the Washington composer, Robert Evett, was composed with cellist Luis Leguiá in mind. Mr. Leguiá, a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, will be the soloist for the March 14 performance.

Mr. Evett's concerto, in three movements, was sketched during the autumn of 1970 and completed in the early part of 1971. He was born in Colorado in 1922 and has lived in Washington for many years. His compositions have been widely performed throughout the United States. Mr. Evett is a distinguished writer as well and has appeared frequently in leading magazines such as the Atlantic Monthly and the New Republic. He also writes music criticism for the Washington Evening Star.

"Symphony No. 2" (1902) by Charles Ives (1874-1954), possibly America's greatest composer, will complete the program. The symphony is a landmark in American music and received its Washington premiere at the National Gallery on May 2, 1954. Mr. Ives' music was played as early as 1946 at the Gallery. Several of his works received their first performances there, including his now popular "Symphony No. 1" (1898) which Mr. Bales premiered on April 26, 1953.

(MORE)

Concerts at the National Gallery have been made possible by private funds given by The A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust, Chester Dale, The Gulbenkian Foundation, The J. I. Foundation, Inc., William Nelson Cromwell, F. Lamot Belin, The Music Performance Trust Fund of The Recording Industry, and several anonymous donors.

Over the years Mr. Bales has put special emphasis on American music. He inaugurated the American Music Festival in 1944 which has been an annual Gallery event ever since. At the American Music Festivals and other Sunday Gallery concerts, many works have been premiered by such noted American composers as Esther Ballou, Wayne Barlow, David Diamond, Cecil Effinger, Robert Evett, Mark Fax, Howard Hanson, Mary Howe, Charles Ives, Ulysses Kay, George Kleinsinger, Dai-Keong Lee, Normand Lockwood, Leo Sowerby, Emerson Meyers, John Jacob Niles, Robert Palmer, Robert Parris, Burrill Phillips, Quincy Porter, Gardner Read, Ned Rorem, Russell Smith, Robert Ward, Ben Weber, Russell Woollen, John Work, and Charles Wuorinen. More than forty compositions and transcriptions heard at these concerts have been the work of Richard Bales.

END