

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BICENTENNIAL MUSICAL PROGRAMS AT GALLERY

BEGIN THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 11, 1976. A program of music such as might have been performed at Monticello in Thomas Jefferson's time will be given free to the public on Sunday, June 6th, as one of several of the National Gallery's musical celebrations for the Bicentennial. The Monticello program will be among the opening events of the Gallery's major Bicentennial exhibition The Eye of Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson was an avid lover of music and his excellence as a violinist was one of his prized accomplishments. His musical library reflects a sophisticated taste, and he chose for his personal collection the violin compositions of many great composers of his day.

The Jefferson violin concert will be held in the Gallery's East Garden Court. It will feature an eighteenth-century violin, an Italian instrument made during Jefferson's lifetime and similar to one he owned.

Works which will be performed include The New President's March by Alexander Reinagle, which was composed for Jefferson's inauguration; Sonata No.2 for Violin and Harpsichord by Carlo A. Campioni, Jefferson's favorite composer for the violin; Pièces de

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Claveçin by Claude Balbastre, who was Martha Jefferson's harpsichord teacher during the family's stay in Paris; Sonata in D Major by Arcangelo Corelli and Trio in G Major by Mozart, both pieces of which were in Jefferson's personal music library; and Duo for Violin and Violoncello by Friedrich Schwindl, another of Jefferson's favorite composers.

The performers will be Donna Lerew, Violinist; Thea Copper, Cellist; and Neil Tilkens, Harpsichord and Pianist.

Jefferson and his cultural pursuits is the subject of the Gallery's major Bicentennial exhibition The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, on view June 5 through September 6. Among the 550 objects in the exhibition will be a folding music stand most certainly designed by Jefferson and made in his cabinet shop at Monticello; an eighteenth-century English harpsichord made by the same London firm which made the two Jefferson purchased for his daughters; and an English guitar, which was a popular instrument in Virginia and is similiar to one most likely a part of the Jefferson household.

March 14th opens the 33rd annual American Music Festival with The Washington Brass Quintet playing nine works, including Randall Faust's "Gallery Music," composed especially for this concert. This year, the Festival has been extended to twelve weeks in honor of the Bicentennial. The series, which runs through May 30th, will feature performances of American music from colonial times to the present, and will include world premieres and first Washington performances. Held in the

Gallery's East Garden Court every Sunday at 7:00 p.m., the concerts are given by the National Gallery Orchestra, Richard Bales, Conductor, and guest artists.

The two final concerts of the Gallery's season, June 13th and June 20th, will also feature American music, such as Sousa marches and other patriotic pieces. Of special interest will be works composed by Richard Bales, including the Blue and Gray Quadrille.

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Pamela Jenkinson, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. 20565, area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.