

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'A SCARLATTI' CONCERT TO MARK CLOSING DAY OF
NATIONAL GALLERY'S BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON, D.C. August 27, 1976. The Alessandro Scarlatti Orchestra of Naples and the Chamber Chorus of Italian Radio and Television (RAI) will present a concert of music admired by Thomas Jefferson on Monday, September 6, the final day of The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, the National Gallery of Art's major Bicentennial exhibition.

The concert, to be given in the Gallery's East Garden Court at 7 p.m., is offered as a Bicentennial contribution by the Italian Government, which also facilitated the loan of the famous Venus de' Medici sculpture to the exhibition from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. The wife of the President of the Italian Republic, Donna Vittoria Leone, will attend the concert.

The Orchestra, conducted by Franco Caracciolo, and the Chorus, directed by Nino Antonellini, will perform works by Andrea Gabrieli and Antonio Vivaldi, one of the outstanding Italian composers of the eighteenth century. Included will be Vivaldi's Beatus Vir, Psalm 111 for chorus and orchestra.

Jefferson's love of music, as well as his deep interest in the visual arts, continued throughout his life. He was a devoted violinist,

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participating in chamber concerts until a wrist injury in 1786 hampered his ability to play. In 1778, he wrote to an Italian correspondent, "If there is a gratification which I envy any people in the world, it is to your country its music."

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