

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ANNOUNCES NEW ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR FOR MUSIC

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 1, 1985. J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery of Art, announced today the appointment of George Manos, conductor, pianist, and composer, as Assistant to the Director for Music for a one-year term beginning July 22, 1985.

Mr. Manos is Founder, Music Director and Conductor of The Killarney Bach Festival of the Republic of Ireland, an innovative series of concerts which have been presented for one week each July since 1971. During the festivals he conducted the New Irish Chamber Orchestra, RTESO (Radio Television Erin Symphony Orchestra), the Ulster Orchestra, and two well-known Irish groups, the Guinness Choir and Our Ladies Choral Society.

As guest conductor for the Chamber Music Series of the National Symphony Orchestra during the American Bicentennial, Mr. Manos conducted the National Symphony Orchestra in "An Irish Salute to America."

From 1967 to 1971 he was on the faculty of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where he taught graduate courses in piano, piano literature, and conducting. From 1971 to 1974 he was executive director of the Wilmington School of Music, Delaware, where he created a complete music theory department that served the University of Delaware as well. During his tenure at the Wilmington School, Mr. Manos formed and conducted the Wilmington Chamber Orchestra. He was music director of the Arena Stage, Washington, D.C., from

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1960 to 1967, during which time he was also an instructor of music theory at Madeira School, Greenway, Virginia.

Between 1945 and 1952, Mr. Manos studied at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, and in 1946 at the Julliard School of Music, New York. In 1952 at the Berkshire Music Center, Tanglewood, he studied with some of the most respected conductors of our time: Leonard Bernstein, Charles Munch, Ifor Jones, Leopold Stokowski, and Dimitri Mitropoulos. Mr. Manos' training included conducting for both choral groups and orchestras.

Mr. Manos' distinguished and diverse career includes hundreds of performances around the world including appearances with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. In 1955, he made his solo piano debut with the National Symphony with guest conductor Theodore Vavpyiannis of the Athens State Orchestra of Greece, and subsequently appeared with Howard Mitchell, conductor of the National Symphony at that time.

At the age of seventeen, Mr. Manos founded the New Washington Sinfonietta, composed of sixty-five musicians to perform for the Washington Oratorio Society. In 1948 he conducted the Chamber Orchestra of the National Association of American Composers and Conductors in Washington, D.C., and in the 1960s, Mr. Manos was one of the conductors of the National Ballet---the first professional ballet company in Washington, D.C.---for the company's Mexican tour as well as for domestic performances.

From 1955 to 1960 he founded and conducted various area choral groups including the Hellenic Oratorio Society, the Washington Choral Society, and the National Choral Society. Mr. Manos also directed members of the National Symphony Orchestra and the National Gallery Orchestra who accompanied these groups.

One of Mr. Manos' most important compositions of sacred music is Missa Brevis for mixed choir and organ. He also composed a new Greek liturgy in 1956 to celebrate the dedication of Saint Sophia Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Three songs---Poems of Malakasis and Myriantholpoulos, Poems of Milicent Spaulding Eifler, and Poems of Heine and Lienweber--- are among the most important secular compositions. In addition to compositions for voice, chorus, and chamber orchestras, Mr. Manos has written several film scores.

From 1948 to 1952, Mr. Manos served as the White House pianist for President Harry S. Truman. During this time, Mr. Manos often played privately for the President at the White House, on board the Presidential yacht, the Williamsburg, and aboard Truman's 1948 presidential whistle stop tour.

Mr. Manos is an honorary life member of the Friday Morning Music Club, and past president and trustee of the Hans Kindler Foundation, an organization named in honor of the National Symphony Orchestra's founder and first conductor. (The foundation lends financial support each year to one composer by commissioning and producing a new composition.) Mr. Manos serves on the board of the Philadelphia New Music Group, and the Boston University New Music Group.

The first Sunday concert which Mr. Manos will conduct at the Gallery is scheduled for October 6, 1985.

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