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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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45th SEASON OF SUNDAY EVENING FREE CONCERTS
TO OPEN OCT. 5, 1986 AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON - The 45th season of National Gallery of Art Sunday evening concerts will open Oct. 5 with a program of orchestral works by Beethoven, Sibelius and Glinka. The concerts are held at 7:00 P.M. each Sunday evening through June 28, 1987 in the East Garden Court of the West Building. Admission is free, with seating available after 6:00 P.M.

The new season will include a variety of solo and chamber music concerts, in addition to regular performances by the National Gallery Orchestra, under the leadership of conductor George Manos. Among the highlights of the upcoming season will be a concert by pianist George Shearing, who will perform with bassist Don Thompson in the first National Gallery concert ever devoted entirely to jazz. Shearing's appearance is part of the Gallery's 44th American Music Festival, the longest running concert series devoted to new and little-known American music. The festival is organized by Manos and is held in April and May of each year.

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An important event in the new concert season will be the first Washington performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's Violin Concerto, Nov. 2. Sarah Johnson will be the featured soloist with the National Gallery Orchestra, under the direction of George Manos. The concert is in honor of Mr. Menotti's 75th birthday and will coincide with a National Gallery exhibition of works by the Spanish painter Francisco de Goya, as well as the world premiere of the composer's new opera Goya, at the Kennedy Center.

Other highlights include: pianist Juliana Osinchuk playing works by Ukrainian composers in honor of the opening of an exhibition of works by the Ukrainian sculptor Alexander Archipenko, Nov. 16; a recital by pianist Gregory Allen, which features compositions written for and dedicated to Arthur Rubinstein, Jan. 18; the annual Christmas program and New Year's Gala "Music of Vienna;" and an all-Chopin program by the distinguished Polish pianist Andrzej Wasowski, Mar. 22.

The National Gallery music program features one of the oldest continuous series of free concerts in the world. Since the first performance in 1941, the Sunday evening concert series has presented many of the world's foremost musicians, including Claudio Arrau, Phillippe Entremont, Aksel Schiotz, Jean Casadesus and Gyorgy Sandor. American pianist Earl Wild performed at the Gallery in 1943 while a member of the U.S. Navy Band. The Julliard String Quartet made one of its first Washington appearances in a Sunday evening concert in 1949, three years after the group was formed.

George Manos will begin his second season as conductor of the National Gallery Orchestra. He succeeded Richard Bales who served as the Orchestra's conductor from its inception in 1941 until his retirement in 1985.

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Manos' distinguished and diverse career has included performances with some of the world's most renowned musical organizations. He 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 American Bicentennial, he conducted the National Symphony in "An Irish Salute to America."

He received formal training at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore; the Julliard School of Music, New York; and the Berkshire Music Center, Tanglewood, where he studied conducting with Leonard Bernstein, Leopold Stokowski, Charles Munch and Dimitri Mitropoulos.

Manos has spent much of his life in Washington, D.C. where he once served as White House pianist for President Harry S. Truman. In 1955 he made his solo piano debut with the National Symphony Orchestra. Manos has been commissioned by the Library of Congress to compose a new chamber work under the auspices of the Kindler Foundation, to be premiered in Spring 1987 at the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress.

The National Gallery concerts are sponsored by bequests from William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin. Through the cooperation of the American Federation of Musicians, the programs are broadcast live in their entirety by WGMS-FM and AM, Washington, D.C. Intermissions feature program notes by Manos and include discussions on music, current exhibitions at the Gallery and works of art in the Gallery's collections.

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