

1987

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SEASON OF SUNDAY EVENING FREE CONCERTS
TO RESUME OCT. 4 AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1 - The National Gallery of Art begins its 46th season of Sunday evening concerts on Oct. 4 with George Manos conducting the National Gallery Orchestra in a program of works by Mozart, Beethoven and Prokofiev. The concerts are held at 7:00 P.M. each Sunday evening, October through June, in the West Garden Court of the National Gallery's West Building. Admission is free, with seating available after 6:00 P.M.

The first concert of the season will present the renowned pianist Janis Vakarelis as soloist in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. Mr. Vakarelis has numerous recitals and solo performances to his credit, including appearances with the Royal Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony and the Orchestre National de Lyon. He has been invited to perform concertos under the direction of such conductors as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Kurt Masur, Simon Rattle and Andrew Litton. He has recorded solo piano works of Brahms and Prokofiev for RCA Records, as well the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Royal Philharmonic, directed by Witold Rowicki.

The upcoming season will include ten performances by the National Gallery Orchestra under the leadership of its conductor, George Manos. The orchestra will be featured in the season's second concert on Oct. 11, performing works by Wagner, Ravel and Haydn. The concert will open with an arrangement of the Navy Hymn by Thaddeus Jones in honor of the new Navy Memorial at 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

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A variety of solo and chamber concerts are also scheduled for the new season, including a solo recital on June 19 by the eminent Canadian pianist Louis Lortie. This concert will coincide with a month of celebrations honoring the opening of the new Canadian Embassy in Washington, located on a site across from the National Gallery's West Building on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

Closing out the calendar year will be the Camerata of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, which will present a Christmas choral program on Dec. 20. The National Gallery Orchestra will celebrate the New Year with its traditional Viennese-style gala concert on Jan. 3.

The concerts of April and May will again be devoted to performances of American music, as the National Gallery presents the 45th annual American Music Festival, the longest-running American music presentation of its kind. A special highlight of the festival will be a concert on May 8 by the Billy Taylor Trio, marking the second year that a jazz concert has been included in the American Music Festival. The 1988 festival will also present cellist Norman Fischer, violist Nancy Uscher and three chamber ensembles: The Classical Brass, the Rosewood Chamber Consort and the Ecco Trio.

The opening of "Sweden: A Royal Treasury" will be celebrated with a recital by Swedish pianist Ingrid Lindgren on April 24. "Masterworks from Munich," which opens at the Gallery in June, 1987, will be complemented by the appearance of pianist Klaus Hellwig as soloist with the National Gallery Orchestra in an all-German program.

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Since the first performance in 1941, the National Gallery Sunday evening concert series has presented many of the world's preeminent 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 National Gallery concert in 1949, three years after the ensemble was formed. The series is today recognized as a standard for a growing number of music programs in museums throughout the United States.

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, each concert is broadcast live on WGMS Radio, 103.5 FM and 570 AM. Selected concerts from each season are presented nationwide on National Public Radio. The National Gallery's education department hosts an intermission feature for each program, with notes on the music as well as commentary on collections and current exhibitions at the Gallery.

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