

National Gallery of Art

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Washington, D.C. 20565

NATIONAL GALLERY VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE TO SING IN EUROPEAN FESTIVALS

Washington - June 29. The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble, founded by Gallery Music Director George Manos in 1985, will be featured in two of Europe's major chamber music festivals in July and August as part of a summer concert tour. The ensemble, consisting of four of Washington's outstanding vocal soloists and a pianist, has been invited to sing three concerts in the context of Venice's Festa La Fenice and to sing the opening concert in Yugoslavia's prestigious International Festival of Early Music in Zadar.

The tour will begin on July 18 with three concerts in the West German state of Hesse, followed by a concert in Munich on July 26. The three concerts in Venice will take place on July 27, 28 and 29 and the concert in Zadar on August 1.

The vocalists, all of whom have been with the Ensemble since its inception, are Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano, Beverly Benso, contralto, Samuel Gordon, tenor and Robert Kennedy, baritone. Francis Conlon will be the guest accompanist for the tour. The programs will include music by Monteverdi, Vecchi, Scarlatti, Handl and Caldara in the Early Music Festival, and in the other concerts music by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Ives and Vaughan Williams.

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Baltimore area concertgoers will have an opportunity to preview the Vocal Arts Ensemble's tour repertoire on two occasions: On July 10 and 12, both at 8:00 p.m., the Ensemble will present selections from the tour programs at concerts in Charlestown Chapel, Maidenchoice Lane and Wilkins Avenue. The programs, both of which will feature different repertoire, will be open to the public, free of charge.

Washingtonians will have an opportunity to hear portions of the Vocal Arts Ensemble's tour repertoire when it performs its next concert at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. The weekly Sunday evening concerts at the Gallery, which have been in continuous existence since 1942, are also open to the public, free of charge.

The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble goes on tour again in November, with concerts planned in southern Virginia and North Carolina.