

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

47th SEASON OF SUNDAY EVENING FREE CONCERTS TO OPEN OCT. 2, 1988 AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Washington, July 18 - The National Gallery of Art begins its 47th season of free concerts for the public on October 2 with Maestro George Manos conducting the National Gallery Orchestra in a concert of works by Rachmaninoff, Mozart, and Richard Bales. The concerts are presented 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 second concert of the season on October 9 will also feature the Gallery Orchestra, with an emphasis on Italian music in honor of the opening that day of the exhibition Michelangelo: Draftsman/Architect. Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances will be featured, along with Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony. The National Gallery Orchestra will perform ten of the season's concerts, including the popular Christmas concert on December 18, with the Maryland Camerata, and the Viennese-style New Year's concert on January 8, 1989.

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In keeping with its tradition of presenting outstanding talent to Washington audiences, the National Gallery series will include many notable soloists. Among them are baritone Sanford Sylvan, soprano Catherine Robbin, cellist Rafael Figueroa, and pianists Rita Bouboulidi, Frederick Moyer, Lawrence Schubert, Thomas Schumacher, and Brian Ganz. Brazilian pianist Ney Salgado will return to perform Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with the Gallery Orchestra on February 12. A program featuring Weekley and Arganbright on June 4 will maintain the tradition of piano duet recitals at the Gallery.

Ensembles will also be well represented in the 1988-1989 season, with chamber music presented by the Ondine Ensemble of London, the Atlanta Chamber Ensemble and Washington's own Continuum Chamber Singers and Manchester String Quartet. The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble will be featured in concerts of vocal chamber music in November and April, and as soloists with the Orchestra in works by Vaughan Williams (Hodie) and Maurice Durufle (Requiem).

In April and May the Gallery will present the 46th annual American Music Festival, the longest-running series of its kind. Highlighted by a jazz concert by John Lewis and the Modern Jazz Quartet on April 30, the American festival will also include pianists Ramon Salvatore and Lois Shapiro, violist Lynne Levine, violinist Elisabeth Small and the National Gallery Orchestra and Vocal Arts Ensemble. The programming will include several world and Washington premiere performances.

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The concerts at the National Gallery, under the direction of George Manos since 1985, have become a standard for a growing number of concert series in museums all over the United States. Each concert is broadcast live locally on radio stations WGMS-FM and AM, and select concerts from the 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.

Since its first performance in 1941, the concert series has presented many of the world's preeminent musicians, including Claudio Arrau, Phillippe Entremont, Aksel Schiotz, and Eugene Istomin. American pianist Earl Wild performed at the Gallery in 1943 while a member of the United States Navy Band. The Juilliard Quartet made one of its first Washington appearances in a National Gallery concert in 1949.

Concerts at the National Gallery of Art are supported by bequests from William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin, with additional support for individual programs from the Music Performance Trust Funds of the American Federation of Musicians.