

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TRIBUTE TO DUKE ELLINGTON HIGHLIGHTS 46TH AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Washington, D.C., March 21, 1989 - The National Gallery of Art's 46th American Music Festival includes a tribute to jazz great Duke Ellington with a concert by the Modern Jazz Quartet on April 30, 1989. 1989 marks the 90th anniversary of the birth of Duke Ellington and the 37th year of the Modern Jazz Quartet, one of the longest existing modern jazz groups still performing together.

~~Known for their innovations in structured~~ jazz including classical forms as well as collective improvisation, the quartet under the direction of John Lewis will perform selections from their recent album "For Ellington." TIME magazine said of this performance: "Part homage, part reinvention, this is a ravishing tribute by one of America's premier jazz groups to one of America's greatest composers. The MJQ pay the Duke the ultimate honor: they don't just respect him, they make him swing."

As in the past, the American Music Festival consists of nine Sunday evening concerts at the National Gallery. Between April 2 and May 28 a variety of performing media, from full

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orchestra to chamber ensembles to soloists on violin, viola, and piano will appear.

The festival opens with the National Gallery Orchestra. Music director and conductor George Manos will lead the orchestra in performing American works, including Dominick Argento's Overture to The Boor, Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings, and Henry Cowell's Symphony No. 11.

Three American piano sonatas will be presented: Copland's Sonata, LaMontaine's Sonata, Opus 3, and Roger Sessions' Sonata No. 2. Older American music, including a string quartet attributed to Benjamin Franklin and music by American women composers, will also be featured. The festival concludes on May 28 with the National Gallery Orchestra performing Copland's Billy the Kid.

All concerts take place in the Gallery's West Garden Court, beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. Seating for the free concerts begins at 6:00 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. The concerts are broadcast live on WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.

Details of the American Music Festival concerts are listed on the following page.

AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
<u>April 2</u> National Gallery Orchestra George Manos, conductor	Argento: <u>Overture to The Boor</u> Barber: <u>Adagio for Strings</u> Cowell: <u>Symphony No. 11</u>
<u>April 9</u> Ramon Salvatore, piano	Foote: <u>Five Poems, Opus 41</u> Beach: <u>Five Improvisations</u> LaMontaine: <u>Sonata, Opus 3</u>
<u>April 16</u> The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble  Fax	Billings: <u>Part-Songs</u> Copland: <u>American Folk Songs</u> Songs by Rorem, Waxman, and
<u>April 23</u> Lois Shapiro, piano	Copland: <u>Sonata (1939)</u> Martin Brody: <u>Tesserae (1988)</u> Sessions: <u>Sonata No. 2</u>
<u>April 30</u> John Lewis and The Modern Jazz Quartet	Jazz concert in honor of Duke Ellington
<u>May 7</u> Lynne Edelson Levine, viola Myriam Teie, piano	Creston: <u>Suite, Opus 13</u> Persichetti: <u>Infanta Marina</u> Vivian Rudow: <u>Americana</u> <u>Visited</u>
<u>May 14</u> Elisabeth Small, violin Christina Dahl, piano	Ives: <u>Sonata No. 4</u> Copland: <u>Duo for Violin</u> <u>and Piano</u> Corigliano: <u>Sonata (1963)</u>
<u>May 21</u> Manchester String Quartet	Quartets by Barber and Ives
<u>May 28</u> National Gallery Orchestra George Manos, conductor	Copland: <u>Billy the Kid</u> Diamond: <u>Symphony No. 1</u> Waxman: <u>Overture to Serenade</u> <u>for Orchestra</u>