

National Gallery of Art News Release



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50th SEASON OF FREE SUNDAY EVENING CONCERTS

AT NATIONAL GALLERY TO BEGIN OCTOBER 6, 1991

Washington, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art begins its 50th consecutive season of free concerts for the public on October 6, 1991, at 7:00 p.m., with George Manos conducting the National Gallery Orchestra in a concert of works by Beethoven, Sibelius, and Grieg. Throughout the season, which extends through June 1992, many of the Gallery's exhibitions will be complemented by related music.

The second concert, on October 13, honors the opening of the gala exhibition Circa 1492: Art in the Age of Exploration. In a program dedicated to music of Spain and the New World in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble performs with the early music ensemble Hesperus. In addition, a recital on November 10 by Portuguese baritone Jorge Chaminé features songs by Iberian composers in the performer's Washington debut.

The opening of the Gallery's exhibition Albert Bierstadt: Art & Enterprise will be celebrated with a performance on November 3 by the National Gallery Orchestra, highlighting music by Edward MacDowell and German composers contemporary with the artist. On March 1, The National Gallery Orchestra performs music by Manuel da Falla and other contemporaries of American artist John Singer Sargent, coinciding with the presentation of his masterpiece "El Jaleo," in the East Building.

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In honor of the world-wide observance of the anniversary of Mozart's death, the first two concerts in December will be devoted entirely to his music and complement the Woodrow Wilson Center's symposium at the Gallery: Mozart and the Riddle of Creativity. Maestro Manos leads the National Gallery Orchestra on December 1, in an all-Mozart concert, which includes his renowned Symphony No. 39 and his Violin Concerto in A Major, with Ricardo Cyncynates as soloist. On December 8, the Gallery hosts a concert performance of Mozart's Singspiel opera, Bastien und Bastienne. This year's traditional seasonal concerts include the Maryland Camerata on December 15, the Washington Men's Camerata on December 22, and the popular Viennese-style New Year's Concert on December 29.

Other special highlights of the 50th concert season feature appearances by several outstanding performers from overseas, such as German pianist Klaus Hellwig, Canada's Lafayette String Quartet, British guitarist Paul Galbraith, and The Vienna Trio, composed of members from the Vienna Symphony.

The 49th annual American Music Festival, from April 4 through May 3, 1992, opens on an exciting note when special guest soloist George Shearing joins the BBC Big Band in a jazz concert on April 4. The only concert of the season to take place on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., it will be broadcast live throughout England by BBC Radio.

Established in 1941 and under the direction of George Manos since 1985, concerts at the National Gallery have become the standard for a growing number of similar series in museums across the United States. Each concert is broadcast live locally on radio station WGMS-FM at 103.5 on the dial, and select concerts are rebroadcast nationwide on National Public Radio. The 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.

Concerts at the Gallery take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings and are open to the public, free of charge. Due to the popularity of these events, free passes are required, which are distributed in the West Building beginning at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the concert. A maximum of two passes per person are issued. Persons holding passes will be allowed to claim seats in the West Garden court on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For recorded information on the concerts and the availability of passes, call 202/842-6941.

The enclosed brochure lists the complete 1991-1992 concert schedule.

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