

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215/842-6353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 1992

CONTACT: Liz Kimball
(202) 842-6353

NATIONAL GALLERY PRESENTS 49TH AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Washington, D.C. -- George Shearing and the BBC Big Band will inaugurate the National Gallery of Art's 49th annual American Music Festival with a Saturday matinee concert on April 4 at 2:00 p.m. This marks the jazz pianist's third appearance at the American Music Festival since he performed at the Gallery's first jazz concert in 1987. The festival continues on five Sunday evenings through May 3.

England's premiere swing ensemble, the BBC Big Band, conducted by Barry Forgie, will perform at the Gallery as part of its first American tour. The group has been heard every Saturday on BBC Radio 2 since 1979; its Gallery concert will be rebroadcast in England as a part of that series. Vocalist Angela Christian and bassist Neil Swainson will join Shearing and the band on the stage of the East Building Auditorium.

On Sunday, April 5, the National Gallery Orchestra will perform under the baton of George Manos, artistic director of the festival and director of music at the Gallery. The concert will include a performance of Robert Ward's By the Way of Memories, commissioned for the Gallery's fiftieth anniversary celebration, the Latin-American Symphonette of Morton Gould, and Theme and Variations for Strings by Richard Bales, the Gallery's music director emeritus.

-more-

page two . . . american music festival

Among the guest recitalists will be pianist William Wolfram playing Washington premieres of several American piano works, including his own recently completed Work #2, on April 12.

On April 19 the Pennsylvania Wind Quintet, consisting of members of the Penn State University music faculty, will play works by Irving Fine, Jan Bach, and Arthur Berger. On April 26, The Maryland Camerata, conducted by Dr. Samuel Gordon, will perform a program of American choral music. The National Gallery Orchestra will close the festival on May 3, with a program including Daniel Pinkham's Fourth Symphony, also a National Gallery commission from 1991. Maestro Manos and the orchestra will be joined by pianist André-Michel Schub to close the concert and the festival with George Gershwin's energetic Concerto in F.

Established in 1944, the American Music Festival is the longest-running festival dedicated exclusively to the works of American composers. All performances, except the jazz concert, take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays in the West Garden Court of the Gallery's West Building, and are broadcast live on Radio Station WGMS, 103.5 FM. Admission is free, but passes are required for the concerts. Passes will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of two per person.

Passes may be picked up for the Saturday, April 4 concert starting at 10:00 a.m. that day at the East Building pass desk. For all Sunday concerts, passes are available beginning at 4:00 p.m. on the day of the concert in the Art Information Room of the West Building. For further information about the concerts and availability of passes, call 202/842-6941.

CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

THE 49TH AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 4 through Sunday, May 3, 1992

(The April 4 concert is at 2:00 p.m. in the East Building Auditorium;
all other concerts are Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the West Building, West Garden Court)

APRIL

- 4 BBC Big Band Jazz Concert: "Salute to the Age of Swing"
Barry Forgie, conductor
with George Shearing, pianist
Angela Christian, vocalist
Neil Swenson, bassist
- 5 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, Conductor
Richard Bales: Theme and Variations
Robert Ward: By the Way of Memories
John La Montaine: Of Age
Morton Gould: Latin-American Symphonette
- 12 William Wolfram, pianist
Meyer Kupferman: Snow; Twilight Sonata
William Wolfram: Work #2 (1991)
Edward Applebaum: Arioso (1989)
Gershwin: Three Preludes
- 19 Pennsylvania Wind Quintet
Irving Fine: Partita (1946)
Persichetti: Pastoral, Opus 21
Ingolf Dahl: Allegro and Arioso (1942)
Steven Stucky: Serenade for Wind Quintet (1990)
- 26 Maryland Camerata
Samuel Gordon, Conductor
Morten Lauridsen: Italian Madrigals
Samuel Gordon: Songs from the Seventh Ring
Vincent Persichetti: Flower Songs

MAY

- 3 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, Conductor
André-Michel Schub, pianist
Ron Nelson: Savannah River Holiday
Daniel Pinkham: Symphony No. 4
Gershwin: Concerto in F