

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## NATIONAL GALLERY'S FIFTY-FIRST AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

BEGINS APRIL 10, 1994

Washington, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art inaugurates its fifty-first annual American Music Festival with the Washington premiere of two works: George Gershwin's *Promenade* and Howard Hanson's *Mosaics*, both composed in the 1930s. The opening concert will feature the National Gallery Orchestra conducted by George Manos, Gallery music director, on Sunday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. The festival continues every Sunday through May 8.

Under the artistic direction of Manos since 1985, the American Music Festival is the longest running festival specializing in the music of American composers. This year's opening concert will include the newly revised version of *Three Waltzes* by Gordon Getty and the *Eleventh Symphony* of Henry Cowell.

Among the guest recitalists in the festival are violinist Eugene Gratovich, who will appear April 24 with pianist Sylvia Golman in a recital including works by Charles Ives, Ralph Shapey, and Lukas Foss; and baritone Richard Lalli, performing May 8 with pianist Gary Chapman in a program of songs by Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Harold Arlen, and Cole Porter, among others.

Two trios will be featured in festival concerts. The

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Monticello Trio, ensemble-in-residence at the University of Virginia, will play the Washington premieres of works by David Lang and Barbara Kolb, along with pieces by Charles Ives and Judith Shatin on April 17.

This year's jazz concert will feature the Stanley Cowell Trio on May 1. Cowell and accompanying musicians--bassist Cheyney Thomas and drummer Wardell Thomas, Jr.--are all residents of the Washington area. Cowell's distinguished career before moving to Washington in 1988 included twenty-two years working in New York City with such jazz legends as Max Roach, Herbie Mann, Miles Davis, and Stan Getz. Cowell retains a tenured professorship in music at the City University of New York's (CUNY) Herbert Lehman College in Bronx, New York.

Founded in 1944, the American Music Festival has been the scene of more than three hundred world premiere performances. Some of these works have continued to attract attention, such as Charles Ives' *Symphony No. 1* and Daniel Pinkham's *Symphony No. 4*. In addition to providing a showcase for new music by American composers, the festival offers a second hearing for works worth repeating that are seldom, if ever, performed. Among those rescued from oblivion on the shelf in recent festivals have been *Four Songs of the Seasons* by Donald Waxman, given its second performance by the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble in the 1989 American Festival; and Gian Carlo Menotti's rarely heard *Suite from the Ballet: Sebastian*, revived by Manos and the Gallery Orchestra in the 1993 Festival.

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Concerts at the National Gallery of Art take place in the East Garden Court of the Gallery's West Building and are open to the public free of charge. Concertgoers are admitted on a first come, first served basis, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For further information about the concerts, call 202/842-6941.

**FIFTY-FIRST AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

April 10 - May 8, 1994

**APRIL**

**PROGRAM TO INCLUDE**

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|----|--|--|
| 10 | National Gallery Orchestra<br>George Manos, <i>Conductor</i>   | Works by Henry Cowell,<br>George Gershwin,<br>Gordon Getty, and<br>Howard Hanson   |
| 17 | The Monticello Trio<br>Mark Rush, <i>violin</i><br>Tannis Gibson, <i>piano</i><br>Mathias Wexler, <i>cello</i> | Barbara Kolb: <i>Monticello<br/>Trio (1911)</i><br>Judith Shatin: <i>Ignotu<br/>numine</i><br>David Lang: <i>Burn Notice</i> |
| 24 | Eugene Gratovich, <i>violinist</i><br>Sylvia Golman, <i>pianist</i>  | Henry Cowell: <i>Sonata</i><br>Charles Ives: <i>Pre-first<br/>Sonata</i><br>John Cage: <i>Six Melodies</i>                   |

**MAY**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | The Stanley Cowell Trio  | Jazz Concert   |
| 8 | Richard Lalli, <i>baritone</i><br>Gary Chapman, <i>pianist</i> | Songs by Gershwin, Harold<br>Arlen, Kurt Weill, Charles<br>Ives, Samuel Barber, and<br>Leonard Bernstein |

Concerts are broadcast in their entirety on a one-month delayed basis every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on radio station WGTS/FM 91.9. The use of cameras or recording equipment is not permitted.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café in the West Building remains open until 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings.

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