

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY'S FIFTY-SECOND AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEATURES BLUEGRASS, CLASSICAL, AND JAZZ

APRIL 23 THROUGH MAY 21, 1995

Washington, D.C. -- This year, the National Gallery of Art's American Music Festival will feature bluegrass music for the first time in its 52-year history. In its opening concert on April 23, Charlie Waller and the Country Gentlemen will sing and play traditional bluegrass songs and ballads. The festival will continue every Sunday through May 21 with performances of classical music and jazz.

Under the direction of Gallery music director George Manos since 1985, the American Music Festival is the longest-running festival devoted to the music of American composers. Maestro Manos and the National Gallery Orchestra will present the second concert of the festival on April 30, performing works by Copland, Barber, and Sotireos Vlahopoulos. That concert will also include the world premiere of a new work by the National Gallery's former music director and founder of the festival, Richard Bales.

The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble will appear on May 7, singing music by Gershwin, Morten Lauridsen, Allen Trubitt, and Lori Laitman. Another ensemble that is sure to appeal to a

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music festival...page 2

wide audience at this year's festival is the ground-breaking crossover string quartet, the Uptown String Quartet. They will present their special blend of jazz and classical styles on May 14. The festival will end on May 21 with a salute to Aaron Copland, in the form of a recital of his works for solo piano by pianist Ramon Salvatore. The National Gallery was selected by Mr. Salvatore as the site for the world premiere of a Copland work that has never before been played in public, the Sonata in G Major.

Founded in 1944, the American Music Festival has been the occasion of more than 150 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 subsequent hearing for works worth repeating that are seldom, if ever, performed.

Concerts at the National Gallery of Art take place on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the West Garden Court of the Gallery's West Building, with the exception of the April 23 bluegrass concert, which will be presented at 3:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. in the East Building auditorium. Concertgoers are admitted on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning one hour before the performance. For further information about the concerts, call 202/842-6941.

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FIFTY-SECOND AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

April 23 - May 21, 1995

APRIL

PROGRAM TO INCLUDE

- 23 The Country Gentlemen
(Presented in the East Building
Auditorium at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.) Bluegrass concert
- 30 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, *Conductor* Works by Copland, Barber,
Sotireos Vlahopoulos, and
Richard Bales

MAY

- 7 National Gallery Vocal Arts
Ensemble
George Manos,
Artistic Director Songs and part-songs by
Gershwin, Morten Lauridsen,
Allen Trubit, and Lori Laitman
- 14 The Uptown String Quartet
Diane Monroe, *violin*
Lesia Terry, *violin*
Maxine Roach, *viola*
Eileen Folsom, *cello* Jazz concert
- 21 Ramon Salvatore, *pianist* Aaron Copland: *Three Moods*,
Sonnet II, *Passacaglia*, *Sonata*
in G, and other works

Concerts from the National Gallery are open to the public, free of charge, and are broadcast in their entirety at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays on radio station WGTS, 91.9 FM, four weeks after the live performance. The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.