

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 1997

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MARIAN MCPARTLAND TRIO AMONG PERFORMERS

IN 54th AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

FREE ADMISSION, SUNDAY EVENINGS, APRIL 6 - APRIL 27, 1997

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The National Gallery of Art begins its 54th American Music Festival on April 6 with a concert of American composers' orchestral music conducted by Gallery music director George Manos. The program will also include Robert Ward's *By the Way of Memories* commissioned for the Gallery's 50th anniversary celebration in 1991. Also featured will be contralto soloist Beverly Benso performing *A Set of Jade* written by the Gallery's former music director, Richard Bales, for contralto and orchestra.

A jazz concert has become one of the highlights of the festival since 1986, and this year the popular Marian McPartland Trio will perform on April 20. Known as the "grande dame" of jazz, Marian McPartland has been at the forefront of the jazz scene for much of the last fifty years. Appearing with her will be bassist Gary Mazzaroppi and percussionist Glenn Davis.

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Other concerts that will be a part of this year's festival include:

- April 13: pianist Martin David Jones and the world premiere of a new work by Michael Nathaniel Hersch
- April 27: the Colorado String Quartet and music by Ruth Crawford Seeger, Karel Husa, and Charles Ives.

Under the direction of Gallery music director George Manos since 1985, the American Music Festival was founded in 1944 and is the longest-running festival specializing in the music of American composers. It has also been the scene of more than three hundred world premiere performances, including 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 chance to hear works that are seldom, if ever, performed.

The festival concerts at the National Gallery of Art take place each Sunday evening, April 6 - 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Garden Court of the West Building. Admission is free and concertgoers are admitted on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For further information call 202/842-6941.

(Listing of programs follows)

FIFTY-FOURTH AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

April 6 - 27, 1997

APRIL

PROGRAM

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 6 | National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, <i>conductor</i>
Beverly Benso, <i>contralto</i> | Copland: <i>Letter from Home</i>
Richard Bales: <i>A Set of Jade</i>
Robert Ward: <i>By the Way of
Memories</i>
Howard Hanson: <i>Sinfonia sacra</i> |
| 13 | Martin David Jones, pianist | Griffes: <i>Roman Sketches</i>
Elliott Carter: <i>Piano Sonata</i>
Michael N. Hersch: <i>Largo for
Solo Piano</i> |
| 20 | The Marian McPartland Trio | <i>Jazz concert</i> |
| 27 | Colorado String Quartet
Deborah Redding, <i>violin</i>
Julie Rosenfeld, <i>violin</i>
Francesca Martin Silos, <i>viola</i>
Diane Chaplin, <i>cello</i> | Ruth Crawford: <i>Quartet (1931)</i>
Karel Husa: <i>Quartet #4 (1990)</i>
Charles Ives: <i>Quartet #1</i> |

Concerts from the National Gallery 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 West Building Garden Café at 6th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, remains open until 6:30 p.m.