

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART BEGINS ITS FIFTY-NINTH CONCERT

SEASON OCTOBER 1, 2000

Washington, D.C. – Washington's oldest free concert series begins its fifty-ninth annual concert season at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, October 1, 2000. The schedule includes thirty-six concerts by acclaimed national and international musicians, who will perform every Sunday through June 24, 2001, except December 24, Christmas Eve; December 31, New Year's Eve; and April 15, Easter Sunday. Gallery concerts are free and open to the public on a first-come, first-seated basis. Seating begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. and concerts are performed in the West Garden Court at 7:00 p.m. Monthly listings of the concert programs can be obtained from the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov or by calling (202) 842-6941.

The New York Chamber soloists will open the concerts on October 1 with quintets by Mozart, Prokofiev, and Brahms. The National Gallery Orchestra, under the direction of music director George Manos, will perform five concerts, beginning with the October 22 concert. The orchestra will be joined on two occasions by internationally renowned soloists. Metropolitan Opera soprano Alessandra Marc will sing the *Four Last Songs* of Richard Strauss on November 19, 2000, and violinist Aaron Rosand will play Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* with the orchestra on June 3, 2001. Two other National Gallery resident ensembles will be heard: the National Gallery Chamber Players Wind Quintet performs on April 1, 2001, and the National Gallery Chamber Players String Quartet plays on June 17, 2001. The program on June 17 will include the Schubert string quartet known as "Death and the Maiden."

Other world-renowned artists who will appear at the Gallery include pianists Gary Graffman (January 14 with the Borromeo String Quartet), Cecile Licad (January 21 in an all-Chopin recital), and Paul Badura-Skoda (June 24). The sensational young American violinist, Leila Josefowicz, will be heard in recital on February 18, 2001, and veteran violinist and chamber musician Ida Kavafian will lead the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center on February 25 in a concert of quartets and quintets by Ned Rorem, Felix Mendelssohn, and Ernest Chausson.

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AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

On May 6, jazz legend Diane Schuur will open the Gallery's award-winning American Music Festival. The month-long festival will also feature the National Men's Chorus, pianist Jeffrey Chappell, and soprano Marilyn Taylor.

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AND PREMIERES

Artists from abroad who will be heard at the Gallery this season include Greek pianist Vinia Tsopele (October 29), French violinist Bernard Zinck (November 5); Swedish cellist Erling Blöndal Bengtsson (November 26); Swedish mezzo-soprano Charlotte Hellekant (December 3); Canadians Shauna Rolston and Bernadene Blaha, cellist and pianist, respectively (December 10); the Osiris Piano Trio from Amsterdam (March 11); Ukrainian pianist Mykola Suk (March 18); the Parisii String Quartet from France (April 8); and Austrian pianists Barbara Moser (April 22) and Paul Badura-Skoda (June 24).

PREMIERES

Several world and Washington premiere performances are in store for Gallery concert audiences, including Dave Brubeck's *Points on Jazz* for two pianos (October 8), Erich Korngold's *Suite for Piano, Left Hand*, and *Strings* (January 14), and two works by Sotireos Vlahopoulos: *Poème* (April 29, performed by flutist Karen Johnson and pianist Brian Ganz) and *Three Paraphrases* (May 20, performed by pianist Jeffrey Chappell). Chappell's May 20 American Festival program will also include the world premiere of one his own works and a work by Rehoboth, Delaware, composer James Grant.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Two traditional holiday concerts are planned. On December 17, 2000, the Columbia Union College Collegiate Chorale will perform, and on January 7 the National Gallery Orchestra will play its traditional Viennese New Year concert.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden, located on the National Mall between Third and Ninth Streets at Constitution Avenue, NW, are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Gallery and its Sculpture Garden are closed on December 25 and January 1. Admission is free. For general information, call (202) 737-4215; call the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176; or visit the National Gallery of Art's Web site at www.nga.gov. To receive the Gallery's free bimonthly Calendar of Events, call (202) 842-6662.

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