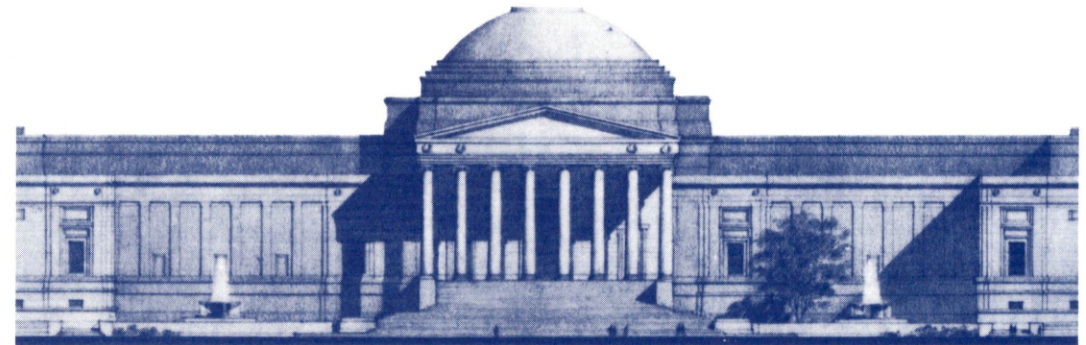


The Fifty-seventh Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2295th Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE

ROSA LAMOREAUX, *soprano*
BEVERLY BENSO, *contralto*
SAMUEL GORDON, *tenor*
ROBERT KENNEDY, *baritone*
FRANCIS CONLON, *pianist*
GEORGE MANOS, *artistic director*

Sunday Evening, January 24, 1999
Seven O'clock
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Contralto **Beverly Benso** is a uniquely gifted singer in her range. Prior to her 1990 debut at Carnegie Hall, Ms. Benso had already established an international reputation through her performances in the Bach Tricentennial in Leipzig, the 1989 Salzburg and Rheingau Festivals, and the 1986 Mahler Festival in Canada.

Tenor **Samuel Gordon** is professor of music at the University of Akron, Ohio. He is an award-winning conductor and composer as well as a singer. A number of Dr. Gordon's original compositions and arrangements of American spirituals are in the quartet's standing repertoire.

Baritone **Robert Kennedy** is also much in demand as a soloist, both as a recitalist and for his interpretations of opera and oratorio roles. He has been heard as Colas in the National Gallery's concert production of Mozart's *Bastien und Bastienne*, which was presented in the context of the 1991 Washington Mozart Festival, and more recently in the role of Herr Schlendrian in Bach's *Coffee Cantata*.

Pianist **Francis Conlon** is one of the most sought-after ensemble musicians in the greater Washington area, and he is on stage virtually every week of the year. His numerous concert tours have included Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Japan. He has been a winner of the National Society of Arts and Letters Competition and the Jordan Awards Contest here in Washington, as well as the Brewster-Allison Competition in Austin, Texas. A member of the music faculty at George Washington University, Conlon is the director of music at the Church of the Annunciation in Washington and Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia.

National Gallery music director **George Manos** founded the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble in the first year of his tenure, recognizing the potential and appropriateness of such a resident ensemble as part of the Gallery's offering to the public. Since then, he has also founded the National Gallery Chamber Players String Quartet and the National Gallery Chamber Players Wind Quintet. In addition to artistic direction of these groups and direction of the National Gallery Orchestra, Manos has introduced innovations to the Gallery's American Music Festival in the form of jazz, bluegrass, and gospel concerts.

PROGRAM

1. Francis Pilkington (1562–1638) Four Madrigals
 Now Let Her Change
 Rest, Sweet Nymphs
 Climb, O Heart
 The Messenger of the Delightful Spring

2. John Eccles (c. 1668–1735) Ah, How Lovely
 (Tenor and soprano)

John Blow (1649–1708) Ah, Heaven, What Is't I Hear
 (Soprano and contralto)

If I My Celia
 (Tenor and baritone)

3. Morton Lauridsen (b. 1945) Mid-winter Songs
 (1980)
 Mid-winter Waking
 She Tells Her Love
 Intercession in Late October
 Like Snow

INTERMISSION

4. Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924) Pavane
 Pleurs d'or
 (Contralto and baritone)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) Puisque ici-bas tout ame
 (Soprano and tenor)

Francis Poulenc (1899–1963) Ah! Mon beau laboureur
 Belle et ressemblante
 Margoton va t'a l'iau

Fauré Madrigal

5. Allen Trubitt (b. 1931) Three Songs on the Shortness of Life

Injurious Hours
 Life Is a Poet's Fable
 Our Hasty Life

6. (Arr. Phil Mattson) Londonderry Air

(Arr. André Ellefeuille) The Last Rose of Summer

(Arr. Margaret Vance) What Love Can Do

(Arr. Maurice Gardner) Every Night, When the Sun Goes Down

(Arr. David Düsing) Frog Went a'Courtin'

The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble was founded in 1986 as a resident ensemble of the National Gallery of Art by the Gallery's music director, George Manos. Since then the ensemble has appeared at the National Gallery twenty-one times and presented numerous concerts in other venues, including the Louvre Museum in Paris, Germany's Rheingau Festival, and the 1989 Salzburg Festival. From each of its six concert tours of Europe the ensemble has brought home rave reviews, as well as first prize from the 1988 "Music at Saint Donat's" Festival in the former Yugoslavia. The ensemble has presented vocal music as an enhancement to a number of exhibitions at the Gallery, including *The Glory of Venice: Art in the Eighteenth Century* and *The Touch of the Artist: Master Drawings from the Woodner Collections*.

The quartet's soprano, **Rosa Lamoreaux**, is well known to Washington audiences through her many appearances at the Smithsonian Concert Series, the Kennedy Center, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the National Gallery. In November of 1998, she was the soprano soloist for the world premiere performance at the Library of Congress of Herman Berlinski's cantata, *Maskir Neshamoth (In Remembrance of a Soul)*.