

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART CONCERTS

February, March, April, 1988

February

- 7 Chrissellene Petropolous, *soprano*
William Bloomquist, *piano*
Works by Mozart, Bellini, Schubert *and* Constantinides
- 14 Christopher Trakas, *baritone*, Steven Blier, *piano*
Schubert: *Winterreise*
- 21 Timothy Woolsey, *piano*
Works by Schubert, Rachmaninoff *and* Liszt
- 28 Earl Carlyss, *violin*, Anne Schein, *piano*
Works by Grieg, Mozart *and* Schurmann

March

- 6 National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble
George Manos, *Director*
Works by Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Villa-Lobos *and* Santoro
- 13 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, *Conductor*
Works by Prokofiev *and* Brahms
- 20 UMBC Camerata
Samuel Gordon, *Conductor*
Works by Dvorak, Schubert, Poulenc, Cole Porter
- 27 Margaret Mills, *pianist*
Works by Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Newman *and* Schonthal

April

- 3 Thomas Beveridge, *baritone*, William Huckaby, *piano*
Works by Purcell, Thomson, Dvorak, Beveridge, Tchaikovsky

45th American Music Festival

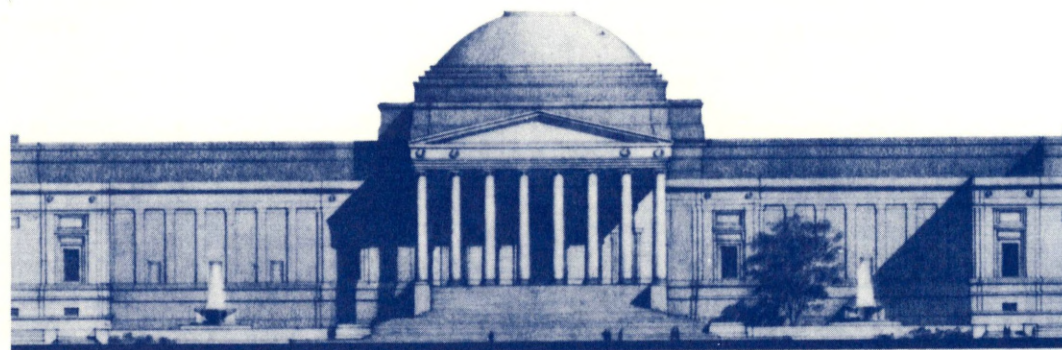
- 10 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, *Conductor*
Works by Bales, Waxman, Cowell
- 17 Norman Fischer, *cello*, Jeanne Kierman Fischer, *piano*
Works by Rothberg, Sirota, Herbert, Carter
- 24 Ingrid Lindgren, *piano*
Works by Seegar, Harris, Barber, Meyers

Concerts are open to the public, free of charge.

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art

1883rd Concert



CHRISTOPHER TRAKAS, *baritone*
STEPHEN BLIER, *piano*

Sunday Evening, February 14, 1988
at Seven O'clock
West Building, East Garden Court

PROGRAM

Franz Schubert Die Winterreise
(1797-1828) Opus 89 (1827)

Book I

Gute Nacht	Auf dem Flüsse
Die Wetterfahne	Rückblick
Gefror'ne Tränen	Irrlicht
Erstarrung	Rast
Der Lindenbaum	Frühlingstraum
Wasserflut	Einsamkeit

INTERMISSION
Twelve minutes

Book II

Die Post	Täuschung
Der greise Kopf	Der Wegweiser
Die Krähe	Das Wirthaus
Letzte Hoffnung	Mut
Im Dorfe	Die Nebensonnen
Der stürmische Morgen	Der Leiermann

The overwhelming somberness and symbolism of death that pervades the *Winterreise* song cycle has give rise to the legend that it constitutes Schubert's last testament in music. As a matter of fact, most of the songs were completed before his last illness had manifested itself, and it is most likely that the spiritual depth of these songs is simply the response of a musical genius to the moods of Wilhelm Müller's poems. They were published in two books in 1823 and 1824, and are one of the few collections Schubert chose to set to music in its entirety. The composer himself sang the first performance of the *Winterreise* for his friends in the summer of 1827. The cycle was not well received by them at first, probably because no one expected or really appreciated such prolonged gloom from the usually sunny "Schwammerl", as they lovingly called him.

This journey through the depths of winter is actually a journey into the depths of the human heart. The vocal lines are hauntingly simple and sincere, with the depiction and narrative drama given most often to the piano. In the midst of Schubert's deep statements on love, commitment, death and despair, there are a few well-placed moments of consolation, as in the change to major key for the last stanza of "Gute Nacht", or the great broad phrases in the middle section of "Erstarrung". The terrifying final song, "Der Leiermann", does not provide the listener with a conclusion, but rather a gaze into the void. Neither music nor text reveals what becomes of the betrayed lover; the narrative ends because the narrator is exhausted.

Greek-American baritone CHRISTOPHER TRAKAS is a recent winner of two prestigious competitions, the Young Artists International Auditions and the 1985 Naumburg International Vocal Competition. He was also selected by the National Endowment for the Arts to receive a Solo Recitalist Grant. He has appeared for three consecutive summers at the Newport Festival in Rhode Island, where he has also sung the *Winterreise*. He has appeared frequently on the operatic stage, with performances including a London performance of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* with Tatiana Troyanos and Benita Valente, the Aspen and San Diego productions of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* and the world premiere of Mollicone's *Starbird* at the Kennedy Center.

Mr. Trakas was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and lived in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he attended Eckerd College. It was after he had already earned a bachelor's degree in organ and music history that he discovered his potential as a singer and went on to study voice with Thomas LoMonaco, Elena Nikolaidi and Jan DeGaetani.

*These Concerts are broadcast live by Radio Station
WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.*