

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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## NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE RECEIVES STUDIO LAUDE AWARD

Washington, D.C., August 30, 1988 - The National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble has returned from a three-week concert tour of Europe with the prestigious Studio Laude Award for most outstanding performance at the summer festival, Musical Evenings in St. Donat's, in Zadar, Yugoslavia. The award is presented each year by the Yugoslav arts magazine Studio. The ensemble's performance of early English and Italian music was chosen best overall by a panel of judges in this year's festival dedicated to fifteenth- through seventeenth- century music. Competition included groups from Eastern and Western Europe, in addition to the best known early music ensembles from Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

"The Gallery has good reason to be proud of its resident ensemble and of George Manos, Assistant to the Director for Music, who founded the group in 1985, and who has brought them to international recognition," said J. Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery. The 1988 tour, which also included concerts in Hanau and Bensheim, Germany, and three concerts in Venice, was supported in part by The Circle of the National Gallery of Art. Soloists for the ensemble included Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano; Beverly Benso, contralto; Samuel Gordon, tenor; and Robert Kennedy, bass; with Francis Conlon as the accompanist.

The Vocal Arts Ensemble has been invited to return to Zadar in 1990 for a retrospective featuring the best performing groups from the first ten years of the festival.

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