FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRIBUTE TO DUKE ELLINGTON HIGHLIGHTS
46TH AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Washington, D.C., March 21, 1989 - The National Gallery of Art's 46th American Music Festival includes a tribute to jazz great Duke Ellington with a concert by the Modern Jazz Quartet on April 30, 1989. 1989 marks the 90th anniversary of the birth of Duke Ellington and the 37th year of the Modern Jazz Quartet, one of the longest existing modern jazz groups still performing together.

Known for their innovations in structured jazz including classical forms as well as collective improvisation, the quartet under the direction of John Lewis will perform selections from their recent album "For Ellington." TIME magazine said of this performance: "Part homage, part reinvention, this is a ravishing tribute by one of America's premier jazz groups to one of America's greatest composers. The MJQ pay the Duke the ultimate honor: they don't just respect him, they make him swing."

As in the past, the American Music Festival consists of nine Sunday evening concerts at the National Gallery. Between April 2 and May 28 a variety of performing media, from full
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orchestra to chamber ensembles to soloists on violin, viola, and piano will appear.

The festival opens with the National Gallery Orchestra. Music director and conductor George Manos will lead the orchestra in performing American works, including Dominick Argento’s Overture to The Boor, Samuel Barber’s Adagio for Strings, and Henry Cowell’s Symphony No. 11.

Three American piano sonatas will be presented: Copland’s Sonata, LaMontaine’s Sonata, Opus 3, and Roger Sessions’ Sonata No. 2. Older American music, including a string quartet attributed to Benjamin Franklin and music by American women composers, will also be featured. The festival concludes on May 28 with the National Gallery Orchestra performing Copland’s Billy the Kid.

All concerts take place in the Gallery’s West Garden Court, beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. Seating for the free concerts begins at 6:00 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. The concerts are broadcast live on WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.

Details of the American Music Festival concerts are listed on the following page.
AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DATE

April 2
National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, conductor

April 9
Ramon Salvatore, piano

April 16
The National Gallery
Vocal Arts Ensemble
Fax

April 23
Lois Shapiro, piano

April 30
John Lewis and The
Modern Jazz Quartet

May 7
Lynne Edelson Levine, viola
Myriam Teie, piano

May 14
Elisabeth Small, violin
Christina Dahl, piano

May 21
Manchester String Quartet

May 28
National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, conductor

PROGRAM

Argento: Overture to The Boor
Barber: Adagio for Strings
Cowell: Symphony No. 11

Foote: Five Poems, Opus 41
Beach: Five Improvisations
LaMontaine: Sonata, Opus 3

Billings: Part-Songs
Copland: American Folk Songs
Songs by Rorem, Waxman, and

Copland: Sonata (1939)
Martin Brody: Tesserae (1988)
Sessions: Sonata No. 2

Jazz concert in honor of
Duke Ellington

Creston: Suite, Opus 13
Persichetti: Infanta Marina
Vivian Rudow: Americana
Visited

Ives: Sonata No. 4
Copland: Duo for Violin
and Piano
Corigliano: Sonata (1963)

Quartets by Barber and Ives

Copland: Billy the Kid
Diamond: Symphony No. 1
Waxman: Overture to Serenade
for Orchestra

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