NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART'S 56TH CONCERT SEASON

BEGINS OCTOBER 5

AMERICAN FESTIVAL TO INCLUDE GOSPEL ENSEMBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Washington, D. C. - The National Gallery Orchestra, under the direction of music director George Manos, will present the first concert of the 1997-1998 season at the National Gallery of Art on Sunday, October 5. Maestro Manos and the Gallery orchestra will provide a total of nine concerts during the season. In addition to the Orchestra, three other National Gallery resident ensembles will be heard this season: The National Gallery Chamber Players String Quartet plays on June 21, the National Gallery Chamber Players Wind Quintet performs on June 28, and the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble sings a program of songs by American composers on May 10.

The concert series will include music from the American Gospel tradition for the first time in its American Music Festival. The Festival, devoted to music by American composers, has been a tradition at the Gallery since 1944. It will include five concerts, one on each of the Sundays in May 1998. The Gospel concert is scheduled for May 24 and will feature the New England Spiritual Ensemble.

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Fourth Street at Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20565
The Gallery's American Music Festival will place considerable emphasis on vocal music this season. In addition to the New England Spiritual Ensemble and the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble, the Washington Men's Camerata will sing music by American composers on May 31, under the direction of Thomas Beveridge. Instrumental music by American composers will be the focus of the Gallery Orchestra concert on May 3 and the concert by The Upper Valley Duo, violin and piano, on May 17.

Artists of international renown who will be heard at the Gallery next season include: Baritone Håkan Hagegård (January 18), and pianists Paul Badura-Skoda (March 15) and Ursula Oppens (January 25). Gallery audiences will have an opportunity to hear several international virtuoso pianists who have been attracting much attention in recent years, including: Russian-born Alexei Lubimov (October 26), Serbian Kemal Gekić (November 23), Austrian Stefan Vladar (April 19), and Brazilian Nelson Freire (April 26). Music for two pianos, four hands, performed by the Pêlerinage Duo, will be featured on January 11.

Three outstanding young violinists will be presented in the second half of the season: Kolja Blacher on February 15, Christian Tetzlaff on March 8, and Jeffrey Multer on March 29, appearing in a violin-piano duo format with James Tocco. Lovers of chamber music will enjoy concerts by the Kocian Quartet (October 12), the Peabody Trio (November 16), and the Dunsmuir Piano Quartet (December 14), as well as the above mentioned concerts by the National Gallery Chamber Players.

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The traditional Holiday concerts are planned for December 21, 1997, when the guest ensemble will be the Columbia Collegiate Chorale from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, and January 4, 1998, when the National Gallery Orchestra plays its Gala Viennese New Year concert.

Admission to the Gallery concerts is free, and the audience is admitted on a first-come, first-served basis, starting at 6:00 p.m. each Sunday. Monthly listings of the concert programs may be found on the Gallery’s Web site at http://www.nga.gov. Recorded information on the concerts is available by calling 202/842-6941. Concerts are open to the public and will continue every Sunday through June 28, with the exception of April 12, Easter Sunday. A complete schedule follows.

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**CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**

Under the Direction of George Manos

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<td>5 National Gallery Orchestra</td>
<td>Sibelius: <em>Karelia: Overture and Suite</em></td>
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<td>George Manos, <em>conductor</em></td>
<td>Mendelssohn: <em>Symphony No. 3</em></td>
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NOVEMBER 1997
2 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, conductor

9 Jon Humphrey, tenor
Raymond Hanson, pianist

16 The Peabody Trio

23 Kemal Gekić, pianist

30 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, conductor

DECEMBER 1997
7 Todd Crow, pianist

14 Dunsmuir Piano Quartet

and

21 Columbia Collegiate Chorale
James Bingham, conductor

28 Gottlieb Wallisch, pianist

- more -

Brahms: Two Rhapsodies
         Fantasies, Opus 16
Schubert: Impromptus, Opus 9
          "Wanderer" Fantasy

Lieder by Schubert, Schumann,
Brahms, and Hugo Wolf

Kagel: Trio
Dvořák: "Dumky" Trio

Liszt: Six Consolations
       Transcendental Etudes
Chopin: Andante spianato
        and Grande Polonaise

To be announced

Schubert: Sonata, D. 960
Bartók: Dance Suite
Haydn: Sonata in C Major

Brahms: Piano Quartet in G Minor
Haydn: Piano Trio in E Major
Robert Helps: Trio for Piano, Violin, Viola,
             Cello

Christmas concert

Beethoven: Sonata, Opus 81a
Debussy: Estampes
Chopin: Sonata No. 2
JANUARY 1998
4 National Gallery Orchestra
  George Manos, conductor
11 The Pèlerinage Duo
  Music for two pianos, four hands
18 Håkan Hagegård, baritone
  Warren Jones, pianist
25 Ursula Oppens, pianist

FEBRUARY 1998
1 National Gallery Orchestra
  George Manos, conductor
  Rachmaninoff: Suite No. 2
  Schubert: Fantasie in F Minor
  Stravinsky: Sonata
  Milhaud: Scaramouche
  To be announced
8 Hugh Sung, pianist
8 Christian Tetzlaff, violinist
15 Kolja Blacher, violinist
  Jessica Crash, pianist
22 Talich String Quartet

MARCH 1998
1 National Gallery Orchestra
  George Manos, conductor
  Beethoven: Sonata, Opus 90
  Sonatas, Op. 31, No. 2
  Sonata, Opus 101
  Picker: Four Etudes for Ursula
  To be announced
8 J. S. Bach: Partita No. 2
  Sonata No. 3
  Partita No. 3
  -more-
MARCH 1998 (continued)

15 Paul Badura-Skoda, pianist
Mozart: Fantasy in C Minor
Beethoven: Sonata, "Waldstein"
Chopin: 24 Preludes

22 Mark Kosower, cellist
Jee-Won Oh, pianist
Brahms: Sonata in D Major
Francoeur: Sonata in E Major
Schumann: Fantasy Pieces

29 Jeffrey Multer, violinist
James Tocco, pianist
To be announced

APRIL 1998

5 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, conductor
To be announced

12 No Concert

19 Stefan Vladar, pianist
J. S. Bach: Goldberg Variations

27 Nelson Freire, pianist
Brahms: Sonata No. 3
Chopin: Scherzo No. 4, F Minor Fantasy
Schumann: Papillons

MAY 1998

THE FIFTY-FIFTH AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
MAY 3 THROUGH 31, 1998

3 National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, conductor
To be announced

10 National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble
To be announced

17 Upper Valley Duo
Tim Schwarz, violinist
Wm. Grant Still: Suite for Violin and Piano
Dan Weiser, pianist
W. C. Handy: St. Louis Blues
Amy Beach: Sonata for Violin and Piano

-more-
MAY 1998 (continued)
24 New England Spiritual Ensemble
   Vincent Dion Stringer, *artistic director*
   Fredericka King, *pianist*
31 Washington Men's Camerata
   Thomas Beveridge, *conductor*

JUNE 1998
7   National Gallery Orchestra
    George Manos, *conductor*
14  Natsuki Fukasawa, *pianist*
21  National Gallery Chamber
    Players String Quartet
    George Manos, *artistic director*
28  National Gallery Chamber
    Players Woodwind Quintet
    George Manos, *artistic director*

American spirituals
and Gospel songs

To be announced

Schumann: *Fantasy*
Brahms: *Two Choral*
Busoni: *Preludes*
Janáček: *1. X. 1905*
Busoni: *Elégie No. 4*
Busoni: *Frauengemach*
Chopin-Liszt: *Maiden's Wish*
              *Polish Songs*