Sunday Evening, February 3, 1985 at Seven
West Building, East Garden Court

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS
THE F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art

1765th Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA
RICHARD BALES, CONDUCTOR
Soloist: Beverly Benso, Contralto

Sunday Evening, February 3, 1985 at Seven
West Building, East Garden Court
New Year's Song

In the land of Shu the Winter cold
Is like the warmth of Spring at home.
Already, on the first morning of the turn,
The early plum puts forth, bent on surprising
With unexpected petals the stranger from afar,
For whom another year of exile comes.

Lines from the Tomb of an Unknown Woman

Mother of pity, hear my prayer!
That, in the endless round of Birth,
No more may break my heart on Earth.
Nor, by the windless waters of the Blest,
Weary of rest.
That drifting I abide not anywhere.
Yet, if by Karma's law I must
Resume this mantle of the dust;
Grant me, I pray,
One dew drop from thy willow spray;
And, in the Double Lotus, keep
My hidden heart asleep.

BEVERLY BENSO

NATIONAL GALLERY SUITE NO. 3 (1957)
First Suite after water-color renderings
from the Index of American Design
Commissioned by the American Institute of Architects for its Centennial.

Sign from Black Horse Inn, Saybrook, Connecticut
Figurehead "Jenny Lind" from the ship, Nightingale
Rag Doll
Angel Gabriel Weathervane
Cigar-store Indian
Whiskey Flask
Hope Chest
Baseball Player

This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS 570 AM and 103.5 FM.
TWO PIECES FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

“Music for Strings” (1940)

Slowly — Quickly

“Theme and Variations” (1944)

Theme (String Quartet)

Theme

Variation: Andante
Variation: Andante con moto
Variation: Andante con tenerezza
Variation: Allegro con spirito
Variation: Adagio
Variation Finale: Allegro giocoso

SUITE FOR ORCHESTRA (1984)

“The Spirit of Engineering” Commissioned by the National Society of Professional Engineers for the 50th Anniversary of the Society.

Allegro con brio
Scherzo and Waltz
Nocturne: “Remembrance”
March: “The Spirit of Engineering”

INTERMISSION

SONG CYCLE FOR CONTRALTO AND ORCHESTRA


I

A Bitter Love (Li Po)
How beautiful she looks opening the pearly casement.
And how quietly she leans, and how troubled her brow is.
You may see the tears now, tears white on her cheek,
But not the man she so bitterly loves.

II

Tears (Wang Seng-Ju — 6th Century A.D.)
High o’er the hill the moon barque steers.
The lantern lights depart.
Dead springs are stirring in my heart,
And there are tears.
But that which makes my grief more deep
Is that you know not when I weep.

III

The River and the Leaf (Po Chü-i — 772-846 A.D.)
Into the night the sounds of luting flow.
The west wind stirs amid the root crop blue;
While envious fireflies spoil the twinkling dew.
And early wild geese stem the dark Kim Ho.
Now great trees tell their secrets to the sky,
And, hill on hill, looms in the moon-clear night.
I watch one leaf upon the river light.
And, in a dream, go drifting down the Hwai.

IV

A Feast of Lanterns (Yuan Mei — 1715-97 A.D.)
In Spring, for sheer delight,
I set the lanterns swinging through the trees,
Bright as the myriad argosies of night,
That ride the clouded billows of the sky.
Red dragons leap and plunge through gold and silver seas.
And, Oh, my garden, gleaming cold and white,
Thou hast outshone the far, faint moon on high!

V

At the Kuang Li Pavilion (Su Tung-P’o — 1036-1101 A.D.)
Red-skirted ladies, robed for fairyland,
All are flown.
But my heart to the wail of their long reed pipes
Lilts on.
Their clarion songs, mid the wandering clouds, were blown.
The tiny waisted, dreamily dancing girls are gone.

VI

Keeping the New Year’s Watch at Chi’in Chou
(Chang Yueh — 667-730 A.D.)
The Old Year ends with tonight;
A new round comes with the dawn.
But the sadness of Autumn
Still lingers in my heart,
Like the Dipper’s handle turns Northeast,
Whither I would be, when Spring returns.
VII

New Year's Song
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Is like the warmth of Spring at home.
Already, on the first morning of the turn,
The early plum puts forth, bent on surprising
With unexpected petals the stranger from afar,
For whom another year of exile comes.

VIII

Lines from the Tomb of an Unknown Woman
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