

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART CONCERTS

January and February, 1990

January

- 14 National Gallery Orchestra  
George Manos, *Conductor*  
*Works by* Mozart, Borodin and Ravel
- 21 Coleman Blumfield, *piano*  
*Works by* Schubert, Mussorgsky and Babin
- 28 The Charleston String Quartet  
*Works by* Mozart, Castaldo and Schumann

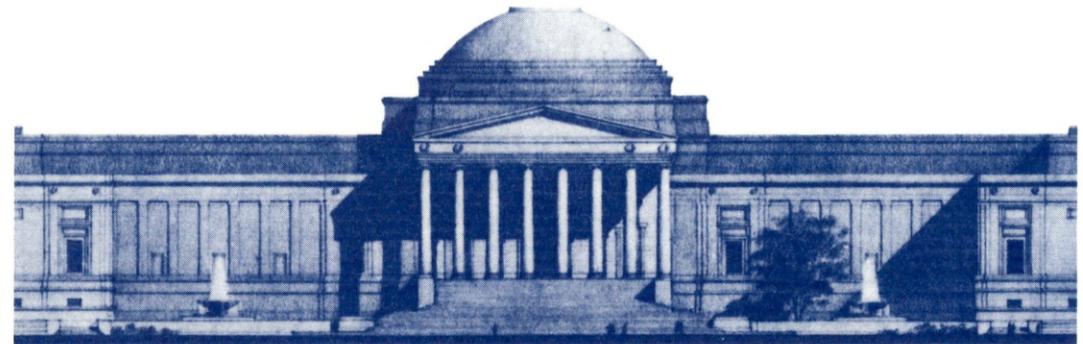
February

- 4 National Gallery Orchestra  
George Manos, *Conductor*  
*Concert in honor of Richard Bales' 75th birthday*  
*Works by* Bales, Franck and Debussy
- 11 Ben Holt, *baritone*  
John Keene, *piano*  
*Works by* Spohr, Ravel, Nathaniel Dett and Hall Johnson
- 18 Dmitry Feofanov, *piano*  
*Works by* Sergey Prokofiev
- 25 National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble  
*Works by* Hindemith, Debussy and Ravel

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS

**National Gallery of Art**

*1954th Concert*



COLEMAN BLUMFIELD, *pianist*

*Concerts at the National Gallery are open to the public, free of charge.*

*The use of cameras or recording devices during the performance  
is not allowed.*

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Sunday Evening, January 21, 1990  
at Seven O'clock  
West Building, East Garden Court

PROGRAM

*In memoriam Vladimir Horowitz*

Domenico Scarlatti ..... Three Sonatas  
(1685-1757)

Sonata in E Major, L. 23  
Sonata in E-flat Major, L. 203  
Sonata in E Major, L. 164

Franz Schubert ..... Impromptu in G-flat Major, Opus 90, No. 3  
(1797-1828) (1827)

Modest Mussorgsky ..... Pictures at an Exhibition  
(1839-1881) (1874)

Promenade	Promenade
The Gnome	Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks
Promenade	Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle
The Old Castle	Limoges — The Market
Promenade	Sepulchrum romanum — Catacombs
Tuileries	(Con mortuis in lingua mortua)
(Children Quarreling	The Hut on Chicken's Legs
at Play)	The Great Gate of Kiev
Bydlo	

INTERMISSION  
(*Twelve minutes*)

Stanley Babin ..... Five Preludes  
(1981)

C Major  
A Minor  
G Major  
D Major  
G Minor

Toccata

*Washington Premiere Performance*

Frédéric Chopin ..... Etude in C-sharp Minor, Opus 25, No. 7  
(1810-1849)

Ballade in G Minor, Opus 23

*These concerts are broadcast live on Radio Station WGMS, 103.5 FM.*

Pianist COLEMAN BLUMFIELD continues the historic tradition of the Romantic piano virtuosi, a legacy that stretches back more than one hundred-fifty years to Franz Liszt. From his early training in Chicago and advanced studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and with the late Vladimir Horowitz, to whom he has dedicated this recital, Mr. Blumfield has worked for the development of a broader artistic appreciation on the part of audiences of all ages. He was the first Artist-in-Residence of a major American city (Flint, Michigan), has toured on behalf of the State Department, performed at the White House and earned critical acclaim for performances all over the United States. His roster of highly successful recitals includes events at New York's 92nd Street Y, the Kennedy Center and George Mason University, as well as concerts in Denver, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

The phenomenon of the keyboard virtuoso who could take an audience by storm was well established long before the advent of Romantic music. One of the first musicians to distinguish himself in this way was Domenico Scarlatti. Not only was he the favorite court musician in a number of the great royal houses of Italy and Spain, but he also competed in public contests with other players. The most famous of these was organized in 1708 in Rome by a member of the Vatican *Curia*, one Cardinal Ottoboni. In this contest his rival was none other than George Frederic Handel, and the two were judged equals as virtuoso harpsichordists. Scarlatti composed more than 550 sonatas in the style of the three Mr. Blumfield performs this evening.

The title *Impromptu* suggests a piece which has the nature of an improvisation, as some of the works bearing this name in fact have. However, most of them have a consistent ternary form, and it is more likely that the name derives from the circumstances under which they were composed — a casual inspiration. Schubert wrote all of his eight *Impromptus* in 1827, just five years after the title had been used for the first time by the Czech composers Vorisek and Marschner.

The inspiration for Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* was his visits to the memorial exhibition of paintings by an artist friend, Victor Hartmann, who had died at a young age. Each of the movements is inspired by one of Hartmann's paintings, and these are interspersed with repetitions of a short, slow march, the *Promenade*, which can be understood as a musical representation of the viewer's progress through the gallery from one group of paintings to another. Mr. Blumfield incorporates a number of details into this performance that appear in the Lamm edition only and are based upon Mussorgsky's original conception of the work. His transcription, utilizing the sonorities of the modern piano, has taken into account the score's orchestral scope while continuing to adhere to Mussorgsky's extraordinary musical ideas.

Babin's *Five Preludes* and *Toccata* form a set of diverse miniatures for piano. These pieces are drawn from a larger collection, in which various modes are explored. In this smaller group, modality blends with a prevailing harmonic tonal center.