

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART CONCERTS

February and March, 1990

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*

March

- 4 National Gallery Orchestra  
George Manos, *Conductor*  
Henriette Schellenberg, *soprano*  
*Works by Rachmaninoff, Villa-Lobos and J.S. Bach*
- 11 Glenda Maurice, *mezzo-soprano*  
Ruth Palmer, *piano*  
*Songs by Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Korngold and Marx*
- 18 Vienna String Trio (Austria)  
*Works by Mozart, von Einem and Beethoven*
- 25 Stephen Honigberg, *cello*  
Kathryn Brake, *piano*  
*Works by Shostakovich, Schubert and J.S. Bach*

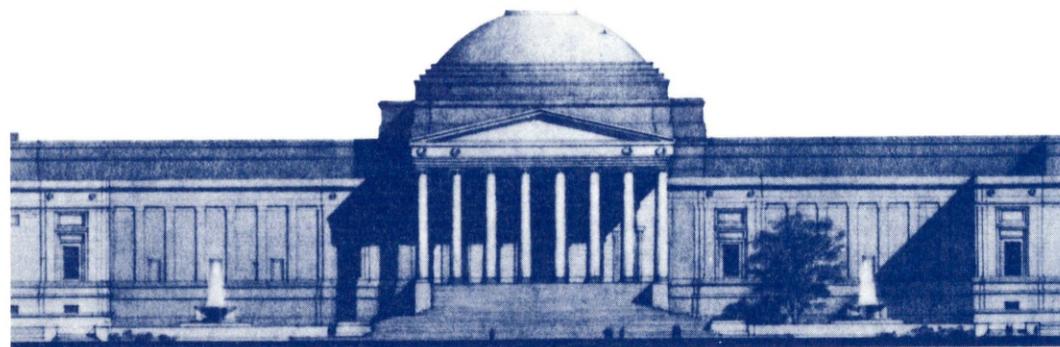
*Concerts at the National Gallery are open to the public, free of charge.*

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

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL CONCERTS

**National Gallery of Art**

*1955th Concert*



THE CHARLESTON STRING QUARTET

Charles Sherba, *violin*  
Lois Finkel, *violin*  
Consuelo Sherba, *viola*  
Daniel Harp, *violoncello*

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Sunday Evening, January 28, 1990  
at Seven O'clock  
West Building, East Garden Court

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart . . . . . Quartet in C Major ("The Dissonant")  
(1756-1791) K. 465 (1785)

Adagio; Allegro  
Andante cantabile  
Menuetto: Allegro  
Allegro

Joseph Castaldo . . . . . Quartet, 1978  
(b. 1927)

*Washington Premiere Performance*

INTERMISSION  
(*Twelve minutes*)

Robert Schumann . . . . . Quartet in A Minor, Opus 41, No. 1  
(1810-1856) (1842)

Introduzione: Andante espressivo; Allegro  
Scherzo: Presto; Intermezzo  
Adagio  
Presto

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

The CHARLESTON STRING QUARTET was founded in 1983 and since September 1986 has been Quartet-in-Residence at Brown University. For the past two summers, the ensemble has also been in residence at the Grand Teton Music Festival in Teton Village, Wyoming, where it presents a series of concerts called "Music in the Present Tense." Both as performers and teachers, the members of the quartet have presented over 450 concerts and master classes, including appearances in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington. Each member of the quartet has been concertmaster or

principal in an orchestra: Mr. Sherba with the Atlanta Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and the Charleston (West Virginia) Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Finkel with the University of Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Mrs. Sherba with the Atlanta Chamber Orchestra and Mr. Harp with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra and the Charleston Symphony. All four are members of the string faculty at Brown University.

The subtitle "*The Dissonant*" was not affixed to the Mozart's *Quartet, K. 465* by the composer; it was given that nickname by contemporary Viennese performers and publishers, who found the false relations in the opening introduction shocking. Some of them went so far as to rewrite those passages, as is evidenced by some of the first editions. The questioning uncertainty of the harmonies of the introduction and the time-arresting rhythmic heartbeat of the cello underneath them serve as a dramatic foil for the effortless *Allegro* which follows. Mozart wrote in one of his letters that he looked forward to having the set of quartets of which this is the sixth as a solace in his old age. Although he did not live to enjoy them in this way, they have indeed served as a musical solace for subsequent generations.

Joseph Castaldo is an American composer whose early training included jazz and clarinet studies in New York and composition studies with Vincent Persichetti. He is a former president and member of the composition faculty of the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts. His *String Quartet, 1978* is based on the Golden Mean and on a philosophical position known as emergent form, which was put forth by Karl Popper. Castaldo extends the color possibilities of the string quartet by calling upon the players to vocalize some of the pitches as they play them.

During the year 1842 Schumann was inspired to produce a great deal of chamber music, including a piano quartet, a piano quintet and three string quartets, of which the *Quartet in A Minor* is the first. He dedicated them to Mendelssohn, who he felt had been the only composer since Beethoven to have done justice to the string quartet medium. Like Mozart, whose quartets he greatly admired, Schumann begins this work with a slow, contemplative introduction, which contrasts greatly with the F major *Allegro* which constitutes the main body of the movement. The *Scherzo* owes a stylistic debt to Mendelssohn, but it bears the unmistakable stamp of Schumann in the form of its undercurrent of unrest. The beautiful slow movement, with its dark, searching alternation between tenderness and turbulence, is a musical expression of Schumann's personality, as is the exuberant finale, in which he can almost be seen to be snapping back to reality after a fantastic dream.