

1982nd Concert

November 11, 1990

EMANUEL VARDI, *violinist*

Barbara Blegen, *pianist*,

PROGRAM

Haydn/Piatigorsky Divertimento in D Major

Adagio

Minuetto

Finale: Presto

Paul Hindemith Sonata for Viola and Piano in F Major
(1895-1963) Opus 11, No. 4 (1919)

Fantasy

Theme and Variations

Finale: Theme and Variations

J.S. Bach Ciacona in G Minor
(1685-1750) from Partita No. 2 for Violin in D Minor, BWV 1004

INTERMISSION

(Twelve minutes)

Manuel de Falla Suite populaire espagnole
(1876-1946) (1914-15)

El paño moruno

Nana

Canción

Polo

Asturiana

Jota

Emanuel Vardi Fantasy Variations on a Theme of Paganini
(from Caprice No. 24 in A Minor)

EMANUEL VARDI has enjoyed a long career as one of the world's foremost violinists and proponents of the viola as a solo instrument. Following his 1942 Town Hall debut, he received the prestigious Recitalist of the Year Award from the New York music critics. In the same year, to the great advantage of Washington audiences, he was stationed by the Navy in Washington as a "Musician 1/c". He appeared several times at the National Gallery during the war years as solo recitalist and chamber musician, not to mention numerous appearances as a member of and soloist with the United States Navy Band Symphony Orchestra. In fact, Emanuel Vardi holds the record for the number of times he has performed here, second only to pianist Earl Wild. He was also invited by President Roosevelt to perform at the White House. Since then he has presented the viola as a solo recital instrument in many of the world's great concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, where his has been one of only two solo viola recitals in that venerable institution. He has also enjoyed great success in Great Britain, where he has taped concerts for the BBC and performed and taught at the International Teritis Viola Competition on the Isle of Man. Known as a composer and arranger as well as a performer, Emanuel Vardi has added a considerable number of works to the sparse virtuoso viola repertoire. He has preserved a large body of this repertoire on recordings, and currently records for both Dorian and Chandos Records.

Pianist BARBARA BLEGEN is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and Columbia University. An active chamber musician, she has numerous ensemble appearances to her credit in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and at the Marlboro Festival in Vermont. Ms. Blegen is very active in the performance of new music, and has presented first performances of works by Seymour Barab, Reynald Weidenhaar, Jr., Judith Dvorkin, Ludmila Ulehla, Eleanor Corey, Kathryn Hoover, and Richard Lane. She has undertaken extensive research into the first electronic keyboard instrument, the "telharmonium", and has recorded onto a computer many of the original pieces played on the instrument in 1906-07, when it was set up in New York in "Telharmonic Hall" at Broadway and 39th Street.

Composers who were also violinists, although few in number, count among their ranks one of the giants of twentieth century music, Paul Hindemith. He learned to play both the violin and the viola, and in his early years performed on both instruments in chamber ensembles. It was only in his late thirties that he began performing solo concerts on the viola and the viola d'amore, and he was widely regarded as the world's reigning virtuoso on those instruments in his time. Hindemith wrote a total of seven viola sonatas, of which the *F Major Sonata* is the earliest.