

1989th Concert

December 30, 1990

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA

GEORGE MANOS, *Conductor*

Music of Vienna

PROGRAM

Johann Strauss, Jr. Overture to "The Gypsy Baron"
(1825-1899)

Johann Strauss, Sr. Chineser Galopp, Opus 20
(1804-1849)

Johann Strauss, Jr. Rose from the South
Leichtes Blut Polka

Edward Strauss Bahnfrüe Galopp, Opus 45
(1835-1916)

INTERMISSION
(*Twelve minutes*)

Emil Nikolaus von Reznicek Overture to "Donna Diana"
(1860-1945)

Johann Strauss, Jr. Champagne Galopp, Opus 211

Joseph Strauss Mein Lebenslauf
(1827-1870) Firebell Polka

The U.S. Recording Companies furnish funds in part for this performance through the Music Performance Trust Funds, as arranged by Local 161-710, American Federation of Musicians.

This concert marks the twenty-sixth time that a New Year concert in Viennese style has been presented at the National Gallery. The first was presented by Richard Bales and the National Gallery Orchestra on January 2, 1966. The original version of these gala concerts, which takes place in the famous *Musikverein* in Vienna, was begun in 1939. All those who make their way to hear the Vienna Philharmonic play in this historic hall on New Year's

Day are part of an illustrious musical legacy, which includes such giants as Brahms, Bruckner, Mahler, and, of course, the Strauss family. Through the medium of recordings, radio, and television, this annual celebration of Viennese music has become a world-famous musical event. The presence of the audience and its reaction to the sublime moments, favorite tunes and musical jokes on the stage are as important as the players in this festive drama.

The spirit of these gala, joyful concerts is the spirit of Vienna, and for many throughout the world who follow them faithfully, the spirit of celebration of the New Year. In this lovely music there is nostalgia for beauties and happiness now past; but there is also energy, liveliness, humor and hope, as the music carries us, now whirling in a waltz, now pulsating in a march, through the present time and into the future.

Concerts in the National Gallery

A Living Tradition

Concerts in the National Gallery of Art began in 1942, when the first director, David E. Finley, kept the Gallery open on Sunday nights to accommodate the many servicemen and women who were in Washington at that time. The idea of augmenting the museum's service to the public with music was inspired by the decision of the great English pianist Myra Hess to remain in London during the Blitz and entertain the troops with recitals in the National Gallery of that city. Further encouragement for giving concerts was provided by Frances Nash Watson, a prominent Washingtonian and concert pianist, Mary Howe, a distinguished composer, and Mrs. Dorothy Godfrey, a supporter and friend of Mr. Finley.

In 1943, Richard Bales was commissioned to write the musical score for the first feature film on the subject of the National Gallery and was also invited to conduct the National Gallery Orchestra. In July of that year he was placed in charge of the Gallery's music programs, a post he retained until 1985. In 1944, Mr. Bales inaugurated the first American Music Festival, which has been presented each year since, making it the longest-running American music festival in existence.

Since 1985, the concerts have been under the direction of George Manos. A concert pianist as well as a conductor, he regularly conducts the National Gallery Orchestra and appears occasionally as its concerto soloist. He founded and directs the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble, which has several tours of Europe and the United States to its credit, as well as Yugoslavia's *Studio Laude* Award. Another innovation of Maestro Manos is the inclusion of jazz concerts in the American Music Festival, which has been widely applauded by critics, musicians, and lovers of jazz.

The music department of the Gallery looks forward to a second fifty years of concerts, with plans for expanded repertoire, innovative programming and wider outreach to the public of Washington, D.C. and the nation at large.

Encores:

Beautiful Blue Danube (J. Strauss II)
Pizzicato Polka (Josef & J. II Strauss)
Radetsky March (J. Strauss I)