CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

October and November 1992

Dates and Performers

OCTOBER

4 National Gallery Orchestra
   George Manos, Conductor

11 John Browning, pianist

18 The Leonardo Trio
   Cameron Grant, piano
   Erica Kiesewetter, violin
   Jonathan Spitz, cello

25 The Madroszkiewicz-Wagner-Artzt Duo
   Joanna Madroszkiewicz, violin
   Manfred Wagner-Artzt, piano

NOVEMBER

1 National Gallery Orchestra
   George Manos, Conductor and pianist; Honoring the exhibition Ellsworth Kelly: The Years in France, 1948-1954

8 Janice Fiore, soprano
   Martha Schrempe, pianist

15 Jeffrey Siegel, pianist

22 National Gallery Orchestra
   George Manos, Conductor
   Jeffrey Chappell, pianist
   Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano
   Honoring the exhibition The Greek Miracle: Classical Sculpture from the Dawn of Democracy, the Fifth Century B.C.

29 Jeffrey Multer, violin
   Constance Moore, piano

Programs (Subject to change)

Sibelius: Symphony No. 5
Handel: Water Music
Fauré: Suite bergamasque

Mozart: Sonata in F Major
Barber: Sonata, Opus 26
Chopin: Nocturne, Opus 27, No. 2

Beethoven: Piano Trio, Opus 70
J. Kalvert Nelson: (Washington premiere of a newly commissioned trio)
Ravel: Piano Trio

Mendelssohn: Sonata in F Minor
Beethoven: Sonata in A Major
Bloch: Baal Shem

Copland: Appalachian Spring
(Original version)
Milhaud: La création du monde
Poulenc: Aubade

Barber: Knoxville: Summer of 1915
Songs by Scarlatti, Richard Strauss, and Stravinsky

Haydn: Sonata in C Minor, Hoboken No. 20
Schumann: Carnaval, Opus 9
Prokofiev: Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. 84

Satie: Gymnopédies
Ravel: Fête Greek Songs
Sotirios Vlahopoulos: Dream Wanderer for piano and orchestra (World Premiere Performance)
Glazounov: Overture on Greek Themes
Skalkottas: Greek Dances

Mozart: Sonata, K. 296
Prokofiev: Sonata No. 1
Schubert: Rondo brillant

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

at the

National Gallery of Art

2058th Concert

THE LEONARDO TRIO

CAMERON GRANT, piano
ERICA KIESEWETTER, violin
JONATHAN SPITZ, cello

Sunday Evening, October 18, 1992
at Seven O’clock
West Building, West Garden Court
PROGRAM

Ludwig van Beethoven ...................... Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 70, No. 2 (1770-1827) (1808)
  Poco sostenuto; Allegro ma non troppo
  Allegretto
  Allegretto, ma non troppo
  Finale: Allegro

  Washington Premiere Performance

INTERMISSION
  (Twelve minutes)

Maurice Ravel ........................................ Piano Trio (1875-1937) (1914)
  Modéré
  Pantoum: Assez vif
  Passacaille: Très large
  Finale: Animé

Chamber Music Competition and as prizewinner in the Concert Artists Guild Auditions. It was among the first ensembles to receive a Reader's Digest/Meet the Composer Grant. The Leonardo Trio has recorded trios by Smetana, Martinu, and Shostakovich on the XLNT Label.

The period from 1806 to 1808 was one of intense creative activity for Beethoven, following upon several years which had seen relatively few notable compositions. Two deeply troubling aspects of his life were resolving themselves by this time, thus enabling him to return to music in a peaceful frame of mind. He had come to terms with his deafness, as witnessed by the "Heiligenstadt Testament," and he had also realized that there was really no point in holding false hope for marriage to one of his pupils, the widow Josephine von Brunsvik. (She had dropped him as a teacher by the autumn of 1807, and instructed him never to call on her again.) It is not surprising to find that the piano trios written in 1808 are basically serene works, infused with the character for which there is only a German word — Gemütlichkeit. Some of Beethoven's temperament does show itself in the E-flat Major Trio, however. The graceful Allegretto which takes the place of a slow movement is almost rudely interrupted by a blustery second theme with loud offbeat accents, and the final movement catches the listener by surprise by beginning with an attack of violent runs.

Jalalu-Kalvert Nelson was born in Oklahoma City and studied at Indiana University with John Eaton and Iannis Xenakis, as well as at the Berkshire Music Center with Gunther Schuller. In 1974 he was awarded the first John W. Work, III Composer Fellowship, and he has received commissions from the Oklahoma Symphony, the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of Our Time, the Kronos Quartet, and the American Dance Festival. The piano trio Nelson has written for the Leonardo Trio, Timeloss, is in five sections, with each of the inner sections intended as a solo for one of the three instruments. The work embodies for the composer a protest against the loss of time in our world and in our lives, and is dedicated to the memory of three of his friends who died in the same year. The work was commissioned by the Reader's Digest—Meet the Composer Commissioning Program.

It took Ravel two years to complete the A Major Piano Trio, and he testified to friends during this period that it was an arduous process. Whenever one of them would ask how the trio was coming, he would reply, "My Trio is finished. I only need the themes for it." The music is intense and expressive, but totally objective, reflecting none of the anguish that the composer was feeling as his nation was drawn into war in 1914. The first movement uses a Basque dance rhythm which juxtaposes triple and duple meters. The second movement was inspired by a Malayan verse form, pantun, which might be called the nineteenth century precursor of rap music, since it consists of declamatory song accompanied by the guitar. Ravel imitates the texture of pantun as the music becomes quiet after the initial chords of the movement, and the piano plays a solemn chord progression behind the lively patter of the string instruments.