resulted in the lively and intense *Serenade for Strings*, one of the acknowledged masterpieces in the string orchestra repertory.

The fervent nationalism which swept the arts in the late nineteenth century had its effect in England, but English nationalist composers such as Ralph Vaughan Williams had to go all the way back to the Renaissance and early baroque periods to find music that was both truly great and truly English. In the course of research for a new edition of *The English Hymnal*, Vaughan Williams came across nine melodies which Thomas Tallis had composed for the 1567 *English Psalter*. The third of those melodies, which has remained a popular hymn tune in the Anglican tradition, is the theme for his *Fantasia*, which was premiered in 1910 under the composer’s direction by the London Symphony Orchestra.

### CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
March and April 1994

**MARCH**

13  The Ysaïe Quartet
    *Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Louvre Museum*
    Quartets by Haydn, Ravel, and Pascal Dusapin (Washington premiere)

20  Beverly Benso, contralto
    George Manos, pianist
    Songs by Handel, Poulenc, Webern, and Joseph Marx

27  Marcantonio Barone, pianist
    Grieg: Lyric Pieces
    Liszt: Ballade No. 2
    Brahms: Sonata No. 3

**APRIL**

3   (No concert)

10  National Gallery Orchestra
    George Manos, Conductor
    *Fifty-first American Music Festival begins*
    Music by Gordon Getty, Henry Cowell, Howard Hanson, and Deems Taylor

17  The Monticello Trio
    Mark Rush, violin
    Tannis Gibson, piano
    Mathias Wexler, cello
    Barbara Kolb: *Monticello Trio*
    Ives: *Trio* (1911)
    Judith Shatin: *Ignotu numine*
    David Lang: *Burn Notice*

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**THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS**

at the

**National Gallery of Art**

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**2114th Concert**

**NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA**

GEORGE MANOS, Conductor

*with Guest Artists*

CLAUDIA CHUDACOFF, violinist

and

SUSAN MIDKIFF, violinist

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Sunday Evening, March 6, 1994
at Seven O’clock
West Building, East Garden Court
Admission free
PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750) - Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins and String Orchestra (BWV 1043)
- Vivace
- Largo, ma non tanto
- Allegro

Sotireos Vlahopoulos
(b. 1926) - The Phantom Ship: Slow, Slow, on an Endless Voyage (1963)

EDWARD ELGAR
(1857-1934) - Serenade for Strings in E Minor, Opus 20 (1892)
- Allegro piacevole
- Larghetto
- Allegretto

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
(1872-1958) - Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis (1910)

For the second time this season, the National Gallery Orchestra is pleased to be able to feature two of its own members as soloists, performing the Bach Concerto for Two Violins and Strings in D Minor. Violinist CLAUDIA CHUDACOFF has served as concertmaster of the National Gallery Orchestra since 1992. An active recitalist and chamber musician, she moved to the Washington area from Louisville, Kentucky, where she was the assistant concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra. She is a member of the United States Marine Band White House Chamber Orchestra, and has performed as guest soloist with the the Toledo Symphony, the Louisville Ballet, the Ann Arbor Symphony, and the Concert Artists of Baltimore.

SUSAN MIDKIFF is a native of Oxford, England. She received her undergraduate degree from the Royal Northern College of Music, where she studied violin with Rodney Friend and Eli Goren. She won numerous prizes as a student, including the Cohen Prize and the Martin Scholarship, which enabled her to come to the United States to study with Shmuel Ashkenasi and to earn a master of music degree from Northern Illinois University. Before coming to Washington, D.C., Ms. Midkiff played with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, the Naples (Florida) Philharmonic, and the Naples Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, of which she was concertmaster. Ms. Midkiff is currently a member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra and was invited to tour with the National Symphony in their recent series of concerts in Russia and the Baltic States.

Composer SOTIREOS VLAHOPOULOS, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is a graduate of Chicago’s American Conservatory of Music. He undertook his doctoral studies at Indiana University in Bloomington and at the State University of New York. His teachers have included such renowned composers as Roy Harris and Virgil Thomson. Vlahopoulos was composer-in-residence at Daemen College, Professor of Music at New York’s New School for the Performing Arts, and at the Washington Conservatory of Music, where he holds the title of Professor Emeritus. His music is published by Dorn Publications and has been recorded for the RPC and EMS labels. The Phantom Ship was premiered in Philadelphia in 1963 by the American String Congress Orchestra, conducted by Constantine Johns.

Elgar’s Serenade for Strings comes from a period in his life when he was struggling to maintain his spirit and self-confidence. In 1891 he suffered the humiliation of having to return to his home city of Worcester after two years’ residence in London, during which he had tried and failed to make a mark as a teacher and composer. He returned to a variety of part-time musical positions, one of which, staff bandmaster at the Worcester County Lunatic Asylum, was particularly loathsome for him. Elgar was prone to long bouts of depression during those years of obscurity, interrupted only occasionally by periods of feverish activity. Fortunately, one of those active periods...