

In the year 1720, Johann Sebastian Bach maintained his post as *Hofkapellmeister* at the Royal Court of Anhalt-Köthen, under the patronage of Count Leopold, an enthusiastic supporter of the arts. It was also during this year that Bach's first wife, Maria Barbara, died. Scholars have linked her death and Bach's choosing to compose his *Partita No. 2* in the key of d minor, a key which had elegiac associations according to the then prevalent doctrine of affects. The *Partita* opens with four dances (though certainly no one would have danced to these chamber music settings) which represent the core of baroque suites: the *Allemande*, a stout, German dance; the *Courante*, a tripping, triple metered French dance; the *Sarabande*, a majestic dance of Spanish origin; and the spirited, English *Gigue*. In this partita, Bach gives the most weight to the *Chaconne*, a continuous theme and variations form based on a dance of 16th-century Latin American origin. In this chaconne, Bach sets some thirty different variations against his eight measure theme.

—Notes by Sue Anne Jager

CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
May and June 1994

MAY

29 Grant Johannesen, *pianist* Beethoven: *Sonata, Op. 78*
Schubert: *Sonata in B-flat major*
Franck: *Prélude, choral, et fugue*
Fauré: *Ballade, Op. 19*
Ravel: *Five O'Clock Fantasy*

JUNE

5 Carl Halvorson, *tenor* Songs by Britten and Rachmaninoff
Steven Blier, *pianist* Schumann: *Dichterliebe*

12 National Gallery Orchestra Schubert: *Overture in C*
George Manos, Conductor Mozart: *Symphony No. 40*
Fauré: *Pavanne*
Fauré: *Pelléas et Mélisande*

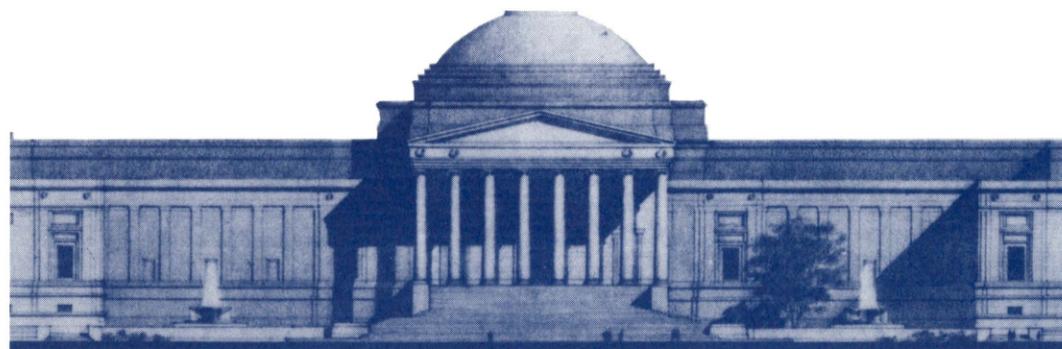
19 Charles Wadsworth and Works for piano four-hands by
Samuel Sanders, *piano duo* Poulenc, Schubert, and Mozart

26 Jeffrey Biegel, *pianist* Works by Beethoven, Scriabin,
Liszt, Cui, and Rubinstein

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

at the

National Gallery of Art



2124th Concert

JAMES BUSWELL, *violinist*

Sunday Evening, May 22, 1994
at Seven O'clock
West Building, West Garden Court
Admission Free

