

Maurice Maeterlinck's highly symbolic play, *Pelléas and Mélisande*, was eagerly awaited by audiences throughout Europe after its premiere in Paris in 1892, and it was no doubt an honor for Sibelius to be asked to write incidental music for its first performances in Finland in 1905. The opening music introduces the audience to the second scene of the drama, which unfolds in a castle where Prince Golaud, who has fallen in love with Mélisande, resides with his half-brother, Pelléas. The second movement shows Sibelius' conception of the personality of the moody and coquettish Mélisande, while the third introduces the second act, where Pelléas and Mélisande, now lovers, are seated by a fountain in a park. Eventually Golaud kills Pelléas in a jealous rage, and Mélisande, having given birth to Pelléas' child, dies of grief. The message of the play, which lends itself to expression in music even more readily than in words, seems to be that human suffering is inescapable, but is nevertheless possessed of a mysterious and inexplicable beauty.

During the period 1804-1806, Beethoven produced some of his most monumental and powerful works, including the "*Eroica*" *Symphony*, the "*Appassionata*" *Sonata*, and the *Fourth Piano Concerto*. It may have been some inner need for equilibrium that inspired him, after he had already completed two movements of the great *C Minor Symphony*, to set that work aside and write a more gentle and lyrical symphony in the key of B-flat Major. Since this work was completed before the other movements of the *C Minor Symphony*, it took its place in music history as "Beethoven's Fourth," and the *C Minor* became "Beethoven's Fifth."

CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Under the Direction of George Manos

OCTOBER 1994

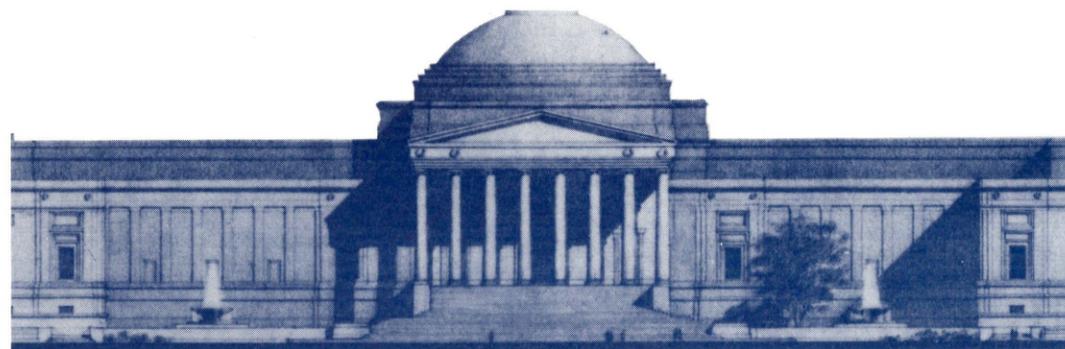
- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 9 | Elisabeth Adkins, <i>violinist</i>
Edward Newman, <i>pianist</i> | Stravinsky: <i>Duo concertant</i>
J.S. Bach: <i>C Major Solo Sonata</i>
Fauré: <i>Sonata No. 1 in A Major</i> |
| 16 | Opus 3 Trio
Charles Wetherbee, <i>violin</i>
David Hardy, <i>cello</i>
Lisa Emenheiser Logan, <i>piano</i> | Haydn: <i>G Major Trio, H. XV:25</i>
Fauré: <i>D Minor Trio, Op. 120</i>
Brahms: <i>C Major Trio, Op. 87</i> |

The Fifty-third Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

at the

National Gallery of Art



2130th Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA

GEORGE MANOS, *Conductor*

Sunday Evening, October 2, 1994
at Seven O'clock
West Building, East Garden Court
Admission free

