

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

**FEBRUARY 1997**

- 9 Bradford and Maribeth Gowen, *duo-pianists* Music of Franz Schubert for piano, four hands
- 16 Fabio Bidini, *pianist* Beethoven: *Sonata, Opus 101*  
Chopin: *Scherzo No. 2*  
*Sonata No. 3*
- 23 Catherine Robbin, *mezzo-soprano* Songs by Schubert and Brahms  
Michael McMahon, *pianist*  
Miles Hoffman, *violinist*

**MARCH 1997**

- 2 National Gallery Orchestra  
George Manos, *Conductor*,  
Guest Artist Beverly  
Benso, *contralto*, and The  
Washington Men's Camerata  
Brahms: *Alto Rhapsody*  
Schubert: *Symphony No. 3*  
*Gesang der Geister über  
den Wassern*  
Von Weber: *Hunters' Chorus*  
Schubert: *Symphony No. 3*
- 9 Beethoven Trio Vienna  
Christiane Karajeva, *piano*  
Markus Wolf, *violin*  
Howard Penny, *cello*  
Brahms: *Piano Trio, Opus 8*  
Gerhard Scheld: *Piano Trio*  
Ravel: *Piano Trio*
- 16 Corey Cerovsek, *violinist*  
Katya Cerovsek, *pianist*  
Brahms: *Sonata in D Minor*  
Ravel: *Violin Sonata*  
Bartok: *Rhapsody No. 1*

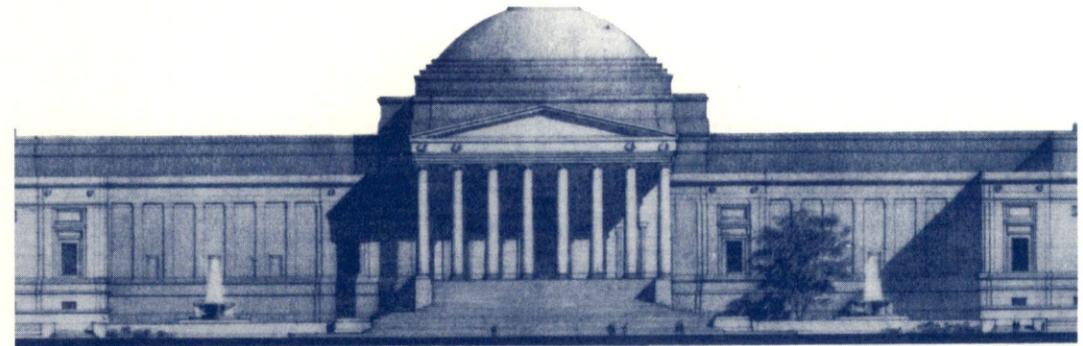
*Concerts from the National Gallery are broadcast in their entirety at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays on radio station WGTS, 91.9 FM, four weeks after the live performance. The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.*

*For the convenience of concertgoers  
the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.*

*The Fifty-fifth Season of*

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and  
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



*2219th Concert*

**NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA**

**GEORGE MANOS, *Conductor***

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Sunday Evening, February 2, 1997  
at Seven O'clock  
West Building, West Garden Court

*Admission Free*

## PROGRAM

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)	Overture to "Ruy Blas" Opus 95 (1839)
Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)	Symphonic Movement: "Blumine" (1884-1888)
César Franck (1822-1890)	Symphonic Poem: "Rédemption" Opus 52 (1871-72)

## INTERMISSION

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)	Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major K. 543 (1788)
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Adagio; allegro  
Andante con moto  
Menuetto: Allegro  
Finale: Allegro

As were many of his contemporaries, Felix Mendelssohn was stirred and inspired by the intense romanticism of the writings of Victor Hugo. His first reaction to the play, *Ruy Blas*, however, was negative. Evidently its main character, a lackey-hero in the Spain of Charles II, was a stumbling block for Mendelssohn and others who looked in literature for heroes of exemplary character and accomplishments. Eventually, however, the power of the tragedy overcame

Mendelssohn's initial repulsion, and he accepted a commission to write an overture for a production of *Ruy Blas* in Berlin. Mendelssohn alludes to the tension and dramatic power of the play right from the start, with the contrast between the three powerful opening chords that dominate the introduction and the lyrical main theme that follows. In keeping with the drama it was intended to introduce, the overall atmosphere of the overture is tragic.

The symphonic movement that carries the name *Blumine* was originally one of the five movements of Mahler's *First Symphony*. The Symphony was subtitled "*Titan*" and was provided with a programmatic scheme. Later, Mahler was persuaded to delete the *Blumine* movement and to publish the symphony without the programmatic titles of the remaining four movements. The *Blumine* movement remained unpublished until 1967, when it was released for publication by the owners of the manuscript, the New Haven (Connecticut) Symphony Orchestra.

César Franck's large-scale oratorio, *Rédemption*, is a little-known work today, largely because its length and grandiose scale make its performance in its entirety a difficult and expensive undertaking. The work was well received by late nineteenth-century French audiences and music critics, although not until some years after the composer's death. The symphonic poem was intended as a prelude to the oratorio. Although it was omitted from the first performance in 1873, it has stood the test of time better than the oratorio as a whole, and is usually performed as an independent work.

1788 was not a good year for Mozart and his family. It was the second year in a row in which he had not received an opera commission, and his debts had piled up to such an extent that he was writing letters to friends, begging them to send more piano students in his direction. He finally received the long-awaited appointment of Court Composer to the Emperor, but at the paltry and almost insulting salary of only 800 Gulden per year. (His predecessor had received 2,000.) In the summer of that year, the Mozarts had to move to less expensive lodgings in the suburbs of Vienna, a humiliating and depressing experience. In spite of all that was going wrong around him, Mozart came up with three magnificent symphonies in 1788. The one on tonight's program, in E-flat major, is a thoroughly cheerful work, brimming with graceful melodies and good humor.