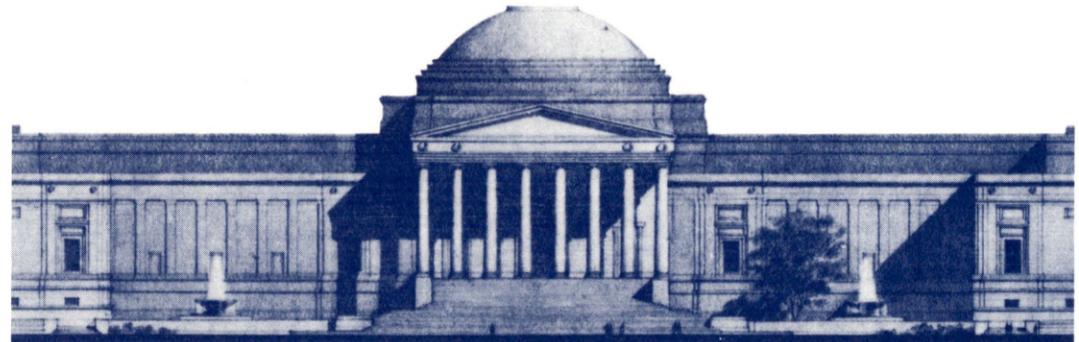


The Fifty-sixth Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



Janáček's *String Quartet, No. 1* was inspired by Leo Tolstoy's *The Kreutzer Sonata*, a novel that deals passionately with the subjects of infidelity and betrayal. Tolstoy's novel was in turn inspired by Beethoven's *Violin Sonata No. 9 in A Major, Op. 47* ("Kreutzer"). The quartet presents a unique sonority in the world of string quartets by combining harmonic freedom, complex rhythms, and astounding expressive intensity with constant references to Moravian folk music.

Beethoven is purported to have said to his friend, Karl Holz, that his *Quartet, Opus 131* was his favorite. Holz was present when Schubert heard the quartet for the first time, and reported that the latter "fell into such a state of excitement and enthusiasm that we were all frightened for him." The quartet is unprecedented in length, with seven movements that are played without pause, yet its musical structure is highly organized and tightly packed. Richard Wagner, especially moved by the last movement, wrote: "This is the fury of the world's dance: fierce pleasure, agony, ecstasy of love, joy, anger, passion, and suffering; lightning flashes and thunder rolls; and above the tumult the indomitable fiddler whirls us on to the abyss."

-Program notes by Melvin Berger,
edited by Alain Fancal, Ida Levin, and Elmer Booze

March 1998

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|---|--|-------------|---|
| 1 | National Gallery Orchestra
George Manos, <i>conductor</i> | Delius: | <i>On Hearing the
First Cuckoo in
Spring</i> |
| | | Dvorák: | <i>Scherzo capriccioso</i> |
| | | Schumann: | <i>Symphony No. 1</i> |
| 8 | Christian Tetzlaff, <i>violinist</i> | J. S. Bach: | <i>Partita No. 2
Sonata No. 3
Partita No. 3</i> |

*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 pm.*

2260th Concert

THE TALICH STRING QUARTET

Jan Talich Jr., *violin* Vladimir Bukac, *violin*
Jan Talich Sr., *viola* Petr Prause, *cello*

Sunday Evening, February 22, 1998
at Seven O'Clock
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission Free

