

The finale (*Allegretto: tema con variazioni*) introduces a theme and six variations that undergo a variety of mood shifts, culminating in a cheerful examination of the melody's character.

The clarinet had a similar inspirational effect on Carl Maria von Weber, who is known primarily as an operatic composer. It was during a stopover in Munich on a concert tour that Weber met Heinrich Baermann, principal clarinetist of the Munich Orchestra. Excited about Baermann's instrument, Weber composed the *Quintet in B-flat Major for Clarinet and Strings*, his only chamber work destined to remain in the modern repertoire. The quintet is characterized by its virtuosity and its treatment of the ensemble as a clarinet concerto with string accompaniment. The first movement (*Allegro*) is in sonata form, with virtuosic elements in its themes that are meant to highlight the clarinet. The second movement (*Fantasia: Adagio ma non troppo*) provides the vehicle by which the mellifluous tone of the clarinet can be amply demonstrated, while at the same time allowing the clarinetist to illustrate the art of eloquent phrasing. The *Menuetto* is rhythmically unique and syncopated, with a trio that is reflective and legato. The finale (*Rondo: Allegro giocoso*), bright and joyous, concludes the work brilliantly, as the clarinet, in perfect balance with the strings, proves to be an ideal collaborator.

Program notes by Elizabeth Haerberle

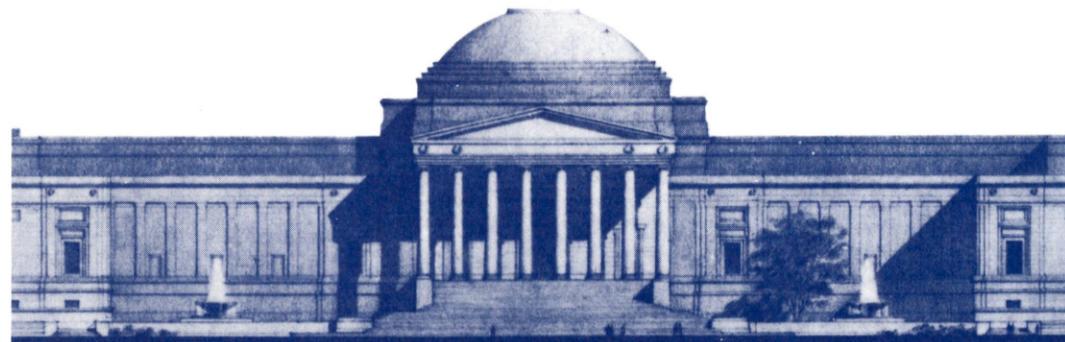
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

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

The Fifty-eighth Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2323rd Concert

MANHATTAN STRING QUARTET

Eric Lewis, *violin*

Calvin Wiersma, *violin*

John Dexter, *viola*

Chris Finckel, *cello*

with

Jon Manasse, *clarinet*

Sunday Evening, 14 November 1999

Seven O'clock

West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Quintet in A Major
for Clarinet and Strings
K. 581 (1789)

Allegro
Larghetto
Menuetto
Tema con variazioni: Allegretto

INTERMISSION

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

Quintet in B-flat Major
for Clarinet and Strings
Op. 34 (1815)

Allegro
Fantasia: Adagio ma non troppo
Menuetto: Capriccio presto
Rondo: Allegro giocoso

Now in its twenty-eighth consecutive season, the **Manhattan String Quartet** has attained international recognition as one of America's leading chamber ensembles, having appeared throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe, and South America. The ensemble is especially renowned as a foremost interpreter of the fifteen string quartets of Dmitri Shostakovich. Recent performances of this cycle occurred in New York City for the Lincoln Center of the Performing Arts' Great Performers series, at Hunter College in Troy, New York, and at Eastern and Western Connecticut State Universities. The Manhattan String Quartet has also held residency at Colgate University, the Manhattan School of Music, Cornell University, the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico, and Michigan's Interlochen National Music Camp. The quartet has released a number of compact discs, receiving critical acclaim for its brilliant understanding and execution of chamber ensemble works.

American clarinetist **Jon Manasse** is one of the most notable classical clarinetists of his generation. Principal clarinetist of both the New York Chamber Symphony and the American Ballet Theater Orchestra, Manasse is well known for his charismatic performances and unique artistry. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music and was the youngest winner of the International Clarinet Society Competition. Manasse's recent solo appearances include concerts in New York City at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Hunter College's Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse, and Columbia University. In addition, Manasse has performed with the New York Symphonic Ensemble in Japan and Southern Asia. He has been guest principal clarinetist with the New York Pops Orchestra, the New Jersey and Seattle Symphony Orchestras, and guest clarinetist with the New York Philharmonic. Four critically acclaimed compact discs by Manasse can be found on the XLNT label. Jon Manasse and the Manhattan String Quartet appear at the National Gallery by arrangement with Parker Artists of New York City.

Mozart was at the court of the elector of Mannheim when he was first inspired by the quality of sound of the clarinet. His interest peaked in Vienna, where he met Anton Stadler, principal clarinetist of the court orchestra, who explained to him the abilities and limitations of the instrument. Upon completing his *Quintet in A Major for Clarinet and Strings* in September 1789, Mozart dedicated the work to Stadler. The work later became known as the *Stadler Quintet*. The first movement (*Allegretto*) examines the agility of the clarinet while establishing several themes. The second movement (*Larghetto*) presents the second theme in an arioso for the clarinet, then adds contrast in a duet with the first violin. The third movement (*Menuetto*) varies from the usual dance movement with an additional trio that demonstrates the rustic qualities of the clarinet.