Selections from concerts at the Gallery can be heard on WGMS-FM, 103.5, on the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 p.m.

During the months of January, February, and March, recent performances by the National Gallery Orchestra can be heard on WETA-FM, 90.9, on Wednesdays at 9:00 p.m.

2331st Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA

GEORGE MANOS, conductor

MUSIC OF VIENNA

Sunday Evening, January 9, 2000
at Seven O'Clock
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission Free
This evening's concert marks the thirty-fourth time that a Viennese New Year concert has been presented at the National Gallery. The first was presented by Richard Bales and the National Gallery Orchestra on 2 January 1966, making the tradition one third of a century old. The inspiration for these gala concerts is the concert that takes place in the famous Musikverein in Vienna, a tradition that began in 1939. All those who make their way to hear the Vienna Philharmonic play in that historic hall on New Year's Day are part of an illustrious musical legacy, which includes such giants as Brahms, Bruckner, Mahler, and the Strauss family. Through the medium of recordings, radio, and television, this annual celebration of Viennese music has become a world-famous musical event. The presence of the audience and its reaction to sublime moments, favorite tunes, and musical jokes on stage are as important as the players in this festive drama.

The spirit of this gala, joyful concert is perfect for a celebration of the New Year. In this familiar music there is not only nostalgia for beauty and happiness now past, but also energy, liveliness, humor, and hope, as the music carries us, now whirling in a waltz, now pulsating in a march, through the present time and into the future.

As the years have gone by, the Viennese concert at the National Gallery has taken on the significance for Washington that the Musikverein concert has for Vienna. It has proven to be one of the Gallery's most popular concerts, and it is offered as a heartfelt wish, expressed in music, for a happy and prosperous New Year.

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.