Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

Mailing address
2000B South Club Drive
Landover, MD 20785

www.nga.gov

For events at the Library of Congress, advance reservation of tickets is recommended. Tickets are distributed by Ticketmaster (202-397-SEAT). The tickets are free, but there is a service charge for the reservation.

www.loc.gov/concerts

cover: Carl Joseph Begas, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, 1821, Private Collection

Mendelssohn on the Mall
January 11–February 27, 2009

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn (February 3, 1809 – November 4, 1847)

Presented by the Library of Congress, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Gallery of Art under the gracious patronage of His Excellency Dr. Klaus Scharioth, Ambassador of Germany to the United States

Admission is free
**Mendelssohn on the Mall**

January 11—February 27, 2009

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**Concerts and Events**

**JANUARY**

11 **Ma'alot Wind Quintet**

Mendelssohn: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, transcribed for wind quintet; music by Ligeti, Barber, and Piazzolla

Preceded at 6:00 pm by a preconcert lecture: *Mendelssohn and the Visual Arts*

**SUNDAY, 6:30 PM**

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

18 **National Gallery Orchestra**,

Kenneth Slowik, guest conductor

Mendelssohn: *Italian* Symphony; Schubert: Symphony in C Major (*"Great"*)

**SUNDAY, 6:30 PM**

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

25 **Fine Arts Quartet**

Mendelssohn: Quartets, opp. 12 and 44/1

**SUNDAY, 6:30 PM**

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

**18** **Weiss-Kaplan-Newman Trio**

with guest artists Amadi Hummings and Sel Kardan, violas, and Kurt Muroki, bass

Mendelssohn: *Sextet for Piano and Strings*, op. 87; music by Sheng and Smetana

**SUNDAY, 3:00 PM**

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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The calendar of concerts and events continues on the inside back cover.

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The Sixty-seventh Season of

The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts

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National Gallery of Art

2,706th Concert

February 15, 2009

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The University of Akron Concert Choir

Samuel Gordon, director

With Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano, and Steven Combs, baritone

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Program performed without intermission

Psalms, Hymns, and Cantatas by Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

*Verleih uns Frieden* (Grant Us Peace) (1831)

*Hear My Prayer, O Lord* (1830)

*O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden* (O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded) (1830)

*Der 42. Psalm* (*Psalm 42*): *Wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser* (As the Hart Longs for Flowing Streams) (1837)
The Musicians

SAMUEL GORDON

Samuel Gordon is director of choral studies and professor of music at The University of Akron School of Music. His career spans more than thirty years, during which time he has been either a tenor soloist or the conductor in hundreds of concerts, both in the United States and abroad. From 1985-2003, he was the tenor soloist of the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble, and from 1988-1996, his Maryland Camerata was choir-in-consortium at the Gallery. With the Vocal Arts Ensemble, Gordon performed vocal chamber music at the Musée du Louvre in Paris and at the Schloß Belvedere Museum in Vienna. He is also the founder and artistic director of Singers Companye, a world-class choir that sang its National Gallery debut concert in November 2008.

Gordon has received top prizes at the Concorso Polifonico Guido d'Arezzo (Italy), the International Musical Eisteddfod (Wales), and the Welsh National Eisteddfod. He was the first American conductor to win the Eisteddfod, where his ensembles sang in Welsh. His conducting skills have also earned the Bronze Horreo in Orviedo, Spain, the Laureate of the Fiat Conducting Prize, and the Trimillenial Medal from the city of Cadiz, Spain. He and the other members of the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble won the 1988 Studio Lauda Award at the International Early Music Festival in Zadar, Croatia (formerly Yugoslavia).

Performances at international festivals have included the Ambler Festival, the Bregenz International Festival, the Flanders Festival, the Haydn Festival of a Lifetime at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Holland Festival, the Llubljana Festival and Mozaiik (both in the former Yugoslavia), the Rheingau Musik Festival (Mainz, Germany), the Salzburg Festival, and the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds (Spoleto, Italy). As guest conductor, he has led the Canton Symphony Orchestra (Ohio), the National Gallery Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, the Perugia Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Fe Symphony, and the Taipei Philharmonic. He has been a featured soloist with the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, El Paso, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, and Saint Louis; the National Gallery Orchestra; and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Gordon is also active as a composer. In 2006 the Santa Fe Women’s Ensemble premiered his Motets for the Ladymass, and the following year he was named composer-in-residence for that ensemble. He has recorded for Koch International Classics and Telarc International and has his own choral music series with National Music Publishers, where he has published more than twenty choral compositions. His works have been premiered at the National Gallery and the Kennedy Center.

ROSA LAMOREAUX

After winning the Handel Aria Competition at the Aspen Music Festival as a finalist in the Oratorio Society Competition of New York, soprano Rosa Lamoreaux went on to appear as soloist with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Cincinnati, and Dallas as well as the National Philharmonic Orchestra. She has won critical acclaim for her performances in the United States and abroad, performing in such distinguished venues as Carnegie Hall, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Kennedy Center, Royal Albert Hall in London, and Usher Hall in Edinburgh. She has been a soloist in the masses, passions, and nearly all of the cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach as well as in vespers, masses, and oratorios of Handel, Haydn, Monteverdi, and Mozart. Operatic roles include Cleopatra in Giulio Cesare, Galatea in Acis and Galatea, and Romilda in Xerxes by Handel; Belinda and Dido in Dido and Aeneas by Purcell; Venus in Didone by Cavalli; and Despina in Così fan Tutte, Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro, and Zerlina in Don Giovanni by Mozart.

Lamoreaux is the artistic director of the National Gallery Art Vocal Arts Ensemble and a frequent soloist with ArcoVoce, the Folger Consort, and Hesperus, and she has toured with Musicians from Marlboro. Her many recitals include performances at the Chautauqua Institute, the Cloisters, the Corcoran Gallery, the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art,
and the Smithsonian Institution. She has performed overseas at the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Sorrento, the La Fenice Chamber Music Festival in Venice, the Musée du Louvre in Paris, the Rheingau Music Festival in Mainz, and the Schloß Belvedere Museum in Vienna.

Lamoreaux’s recordings include repertoire by Bach, Berlioz, Handel, Hildegard von Bingen, Piaf, Shostakovich, and songs of Thomas D’Urfey.

STEVEN COMBS
Baritone Steven Combs frequently appears as a soloist with many Washington, DC, arts organizations, including the Washington Bach Consort and the Washington Ballet. He can also be heard in opera and chamber music concerts, including those of the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble, with which he has sung intermittently since 2004. He was a Metropolitan Opera National Council Winner and made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1991 under the baton of James Levine in the world premiere of John Corigliano’s The Ghosts of Versailles. In 1993 Combs sang the title role in Colin Graham’s first staging of Benjamin Britten’s Billy Budd at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and he has sung other principal roles with the Boston Lyric Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Minnesota Opera.

(A biography of the University of Akron School of Music Concert Choir appears in the program insert.)

Program Notes
Felix Mendelssohn was born on February 3, 1809. With “Mendelssohn on the Mall,” the Library of Congress, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Gallery of Art join musical presenters around the world in celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of a composer whose works have become essential to the Western canon. Art historians and cultural historians alike are fascinated by Mendelssohn because he was a “Renaissance man” who developed skills in many areas to a highly sophisticated level, including drawing and painting, sports, and writing. He was lionized in his own time as a composer, conductor, and performer, and the world mourned his untimely death in 1847 at age thirty-eight.

Among Mendelssohn’s most enduring contributions to the world of European music was his fostering of oratorio societies. As a youth, he was familiar with the activities of the Berliner Singakademie, an association of amateur singers and music lovers in which his family had been active since its founding in 1791. In 1829, the Akademie engaged the twenty-year-old Mendelssohn to prepare, conduct, and accompany from the piano a performance of Johann Sebastian Bach’s Saint Matthew Passion, the first public performance of the work since Bach’s death in 1750. The first three works on this evening’s program were composed during the two years following that event and may well have been written for performance by the Berliner Singakademie. During his years in Düsseldorf (1833–1835), Mendelssohn organized and conducted revivals of The Seasons and The Creation by Haydn and Alexander’s Feast, Israel in Egypt, Messiah, Judas Maccabaeus, Solomon, and the “Dettingen” Te Deum by Handel. During the same period, Mendelssohn also undertook to write his own first oratorio, Saint Paul, based on passages from The Acts of the Apostles, as paraphrased by authors Julius Schubring and Julius Fürst.
Mendelssohn's primary opportunity to organize and conduct performances of all kinds came in 1835, when he was appointed municipal music director for the city of Leipzig, which placed its Gewandhaus Orchestra and a number of choirs at his disposal. During the next twelve years, he presented his own works and those of Beethoven, Haydn, Handel, and Mozart in more than 400 concerts. The setting of Psalm 42 with which this concert closes was composed for performance in those Leipzig concerts in 1837. Ever the perfectionist, Mendelssohn postponed the first performance until 1839, by which time he had revised the work twice.

Next Week at the National Gallery of Art

Mendelssohn Piano Trio
Peter Sirotin, violin
Fiona Thompson, cello
Ya-Ting Chang, piano

Music by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Schubert

February 22, 2009
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Leon Bates, pianist

Music by Dett, Matheny, Walker, and other composers

Presented in honor of African American History Month

February 25, 2009
Wednesday at 12:10 pm
East Building Auditorium
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

**FEBRUARY**

Exhibition of Mendelssohn manuscripts, letters, and drawings
THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY 2009
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

1. **Ulrich Urban,** pianist
   Mendelssohn: Fantasies and Caprices, op. 16; selected Songs without Words; Variations sérieuses, op. 54
   SUNDAY, 6:30 PM
   NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

6. **Cypress Quartet**
   Mendelssohn: Quartet, op. 13; music by Beethoven and Puts
   FRIDAY, 8:00 PM
   LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

8. **Josef Feigelson,** cellist
   **Peep Lassmann,** pianist
   Mendelssohn's complete works for cello and piano
   SUNDAY, 6:30 PM
   NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

10. **Mira Trio**
    Hensel: Piano Trio in D minor, op. 11; Mendelssohn and Hensel: Songs without Words; Mendelssohn: Piano Trio no. 2 in C minor, op. 66
    Preceded at 6:15 pm by a preconcert lecture by Susan Clermont, Music Division, Library of Congress
    FRIDAY, 8:00 PM
    LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

13. **Atrium Quartet**
    Mendelssohn: Quartet, op. 80; music by Shostakovich and Borodin
    FRIDAY, 8:00 PM
    LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

15. **University of Akron Concert Choir,**
    **Samuel Gordon,** conductor
    Mendelssohn: Wie der Hirsch schreit, op. 42; Chorale Cantata: O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden; hymn: Hör mein bitten
    SUNDAY, 6:30 PM
    NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

18. **Trio con Brio Copenhagen**
    Mendelssohn: Piano Quartet in B Minor, op. 3; Beethoven: "Archduke" Trio
    WEDNESDAY, 8:00 PM
    LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

19. **Lecture by R. Larry Todd,**
    **Duke University**
    Reflections on the Mendelssohn Bicentenary
    THURSDAY, 7:00 PM
    LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

22. **Mendelssohn Piano Trio**
    Mendelssohn: Piano Trio in D Minor, op. 49; music by Beethoven
    SUNDAY, 6:30 PM
    NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

27. **Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh,**
    **Betsy Burleigh,** director
    Mendelssohn: Psalm 55; Sechs Spräche, op. 79; music by Handel, Haydn, and Mozart
    FRIDAY, 8:00 PM
    LIBRARY OF CONGRESS