

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.

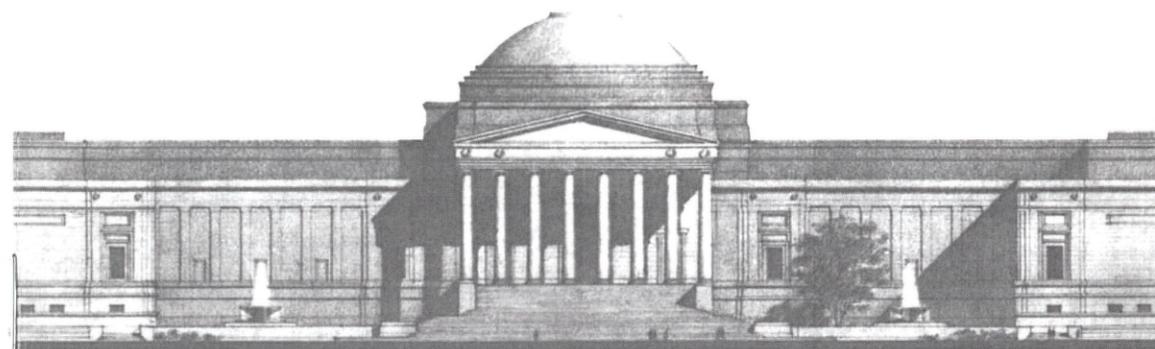
Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café remains open for light refreshments until 6:00 pm on Sundays.

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

[www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov)

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or [circle@nga.gov](mailto:circle@nga.gov) for more information.



The Seventy-first Season of  
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin  
**Concerts**

National Gallery of Art  
2,916th Concert

**Empire Brass**

**Rolf Smedvig and Marc Brian Reese, trumpet; Greg Miller, French horn,  
Alexei Doohovskoy, trombone; Kenneth Amis, tuba**

**featuring**

**Elisabeth von Trapp, soprano**

**with**

**Douglas Major, pianist; Stephen Ackert, organist**

Holiday Concert: "The Sound of Christmas"

December 16, 2012

Sunday, 6:30 pm

West Building, West Garden Court

*Admission free*

## The Musicians

### EMPIRE BRASS

The first brass ensemble to win the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award, Empire Brass is often hailed as North America's finest brass quintet. Renowned for its virtuosity and diverse repertoire, the ensemble has toured Asia more than a dozen times and performs regularly in Europe. It has played to standing-room-only crowds in the former Soviet Union, where its concerts were televised. Major symphony orchestras that have collaborated with Empire Brass include those of Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, and Toronto, as well as the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Zurich's Tonhalle Orchester. Regularly featured in major music festivals, including Caramoor, Chautauqua, Ravinia, Saratoga, and Tanglewood, the quintet performs more than 100 concerts a year. Its five member musicians have all held leading positions with major American orchestras.

Empire Brass has been featured on CBS' *Good Morning America*, NBC's *Today Show* and *Sunday Today*, and PBS' *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. The ensemble is a regular guest on commercial and public radio networks nationwide, performing on programs such as *Saint Paul Sunday Morning*, *Traditions*, and NPR's *Performance Today*. As the faculty quintet-in-residence at Boston University, it has conducted the Empire Brass Seminar at the Tanglewood Institute for over twenty years. Visiting consultants in brass at London's Royal Academy of Music since 1991, the members of the quintet also lead an annual series of college clinics cosponsored by the Selmer Company, the maker of their instruments.

A series of best-selling Empire Brass CDs on the Telarc label offers music that spans five hundred years from a dozen different countries. Their latest release is *King's Court and Celtic Fair*, a collection of works that explores the courtly and vernacular musical worlds of old Europe in new arrangements featuring the use of bagpipes and electronic percussion.

### ELISABETH VON TRAPP

Born and raised in Vermont, Elisabeth von Trapp is the granddaughter of Georg Johannes Ritter von Trapp and his second wife, Maria, whose story inspired *The Sound of Music*. Elisabeth's father, guitarist and singer Werner von Trapp, carried on the legacy of the internationally renowned Trapp Family Singers. Elisabeth has sung professionally since childhood, joining her siblings to perform at weddings, gospel meetings, and town halls throughout New England. Building on her family's passion for music, von Trapp has created her own artistic style, with concert repertoire ranging from songs by the twelfth-century mystic Hildegard of Bingen to arias by Bach and Lieder by Mozart, and from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Favorite Things* and *Edelweiss* to gospel tunes, pop classics, and her own compositions.

With many concerts in Austria, Russia, and the United States to her credit, von Trapp has been featured on *BBC Radio*, *CNN Spanish Radio*, *Japanese National Radio*, and *National Public Radio*. She has appeared on CBS' *Eye on People*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, and BBC-TV.

In 2001 von Trapp was granted permission by Robert Frost's publisher, Henry Holt and Company, to sing and record selections from the poet's oeuvre. *Poetic License*, released in June 2004, includes musical settings of poems by Frost and Shakespeare in addition to Japanese haiku. Her 2005 release *Love Never Ends/Sacred Sounds* features her arrangements of hymns, psalms, and chants with influences from jazz and gospel.

### DOUGLAS MAJOR

Born in 1953 near Scranton, Pennsylvania, Douglas Major studied organ in Saint Louis under Ronald Arnatt and was appointed assistant organist at the Washington National Cathedral in 1974. In 1988 he succeeded Richard Wayne Dirksen as organist and choirmaster at the cathedral, a position he held until 2002. Major has toured throughout Europe, the Far East, and North America with Empire Brass and with the Orchestre National de France under Lorin Maazel. As an organ recitalist, he has played in Bermuda, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Taiwan. In 2001 and 2004 he participated in the American Organists' Festival in Kiev, Ukraine, playing recitals to standing-room-only audiences.

Major's solo recordings include eight compact discs of organ music, recorded on the Washington National Cathedral's historic Skinner organ. With Empire Brass, he has recorded *A Bach Festival* for Angel/EMI. In addition to his demanding concert and recording schedule, Major composes music for organ, synthesizer, choirs, and chamber ensembles, and serves as music director of Saint Michael's Church in Marblehead, Massachusetts. His recent works include a suite for organ titled *Cape Ann Portraits*, inspired by locations along the Massachusetts coastline. He serves on the advisory boards of two venues that house historic American organs—Memorial Music Hall in Methuen, Massachusetts, and the Macy's Department Store (formerly Wanamaker's) in Philadelphia, home of the world's largest pipe organ.

#### STEPHEN ACKERT

Now in his ninth year as head of the music department at the National Gallery of Art, Stephen Ackert studied the organ at Oberlin College; Northwestern University; the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt am Main, Germany; and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he completed his doctoral studies in 1979. A resident of the Washington area since 1979, he has performed at the Kennedy Center, the National Cathedral, and the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In 2008 he undertook his ninth recital tour of historic concert halls and churches in Germany, and in 2010 and 2012 he played for national conventions of the American Liszt Society.

In addition to regular presentation of his lectures and preconcert talks on the interrelationships between music and art at the National Gallery, Ackert has lectured at the Amalfi Coast Music and Art Festival in Italy; the Austrian, German, and Italian embassies in Washington; the Kennedy Center; and the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

#### Carols for Audience, Brass, and Organ

##### GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing ye dismay,  
For Jesus Christ, our savior, was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray:  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God, our heav'nly father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:  
O tidings . . . .

Now to the Lord sing praises, all ye within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace:  
O tidings . . . .

##### SILENT NIGHT

Stille Nacht, heilige nacht, alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh', schlaf in himmlischer Ruh'.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night; Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.  
Let earth receive her king.  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love.

Concerts in December at the National Gallery of Art

**Kenneth Slowik, fortepianist  
with Catherine Manson, violist,  
and Eric Hoeprich, clarinetist**

“Music from the Age of the Fortepiano, 1700–1830”

Presented in honor of *Masterpieces of American Furniture  
from the Kaufman Collection, 1700–1830*

December 19, 2012  
Wednesday, 12:10 pm  
West Building Lecture Hall



**Jennifer Lane, soprano  
Kenneth Slowik, fortepianist**

“Music from the Age of the Fortepiano, 1700–1830”

Presented in honor of *Masterpieces of American Furniture  
from the Kaufman Collection, 1700–1830*

December 23, 2012  
Sunday, 6:30 pm  
West Building Lecture Hall