Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Seventh Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, concerts are held in the West Building, West Garden Court.

Daniel Schlosberg, piano
Jessica Aszodi, soprano
Russell Rolen, cello
Sung/Unsung: Weill and Poulenc
December 23, 3:30

Eric Mintel Quartet
East Building Auditorium
December 28, 12:10

Suchertorte Chamber Ensemble
Jeffrey Schindler, conductor
A Toast to Vienna in 3/4 Time
A program commemorating Leonard Bernstein’s famous Young People’s Concerts
December 30, 3:30

New York Opera Society
The Evolution of Fools: From Jesters to Buffoons Celebrating Sense of Humor
January 6, 3:30

General Information
Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.
The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.
Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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 for more information.

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Cover Peter Grippe, Jazz Musicians (detail), 1945, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Gift of Reba and Dave Williams
The Hot Club of San Francisco is an ensemble of accomplished and versatile musicians celebrating the music of Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli’s pioneering Hot Club de France with style and panache. The Hot Club borrows the instrumentation of violin, bass, and guitars from the original Hot Club, while breathing new life into the music with innovative arrangements of classic tunes and original compositions from the group’s superb lead guitarist, Paul Mehling. The Hot Club also features the amazing violin of two-time Grammy Award–winner Evan Price and a swinging rhythm section. To hear the ensemble live, or on any of its eleven albums, is to be carried back to the 1930s and the small, smoky jazz clubs of Paris and the refined lounges of the famous Hotel Ritz. Often called Gypsy jazz, the music of the Hot Club of San Francisco has entranced audiences around the globe for over twenty years. Acoustic Guitar hailed the group’s playing as “intricate, scorching and often brilliant.” With frequent international and national tours—from Iceland to the Lincoln Center and the Monterey Jazz Festival—the Hot Club of San Francisco keeps this historic music fresh and alive.

Django Reinhardt is rightly hailed as one of the greatest guitar players who ever lived, but many people praising his accomplishments as a guitarist tend to overlook his roots in Gypsy culture and the musically fertile, polyglot Paris of the 1920s. Reinhardt and his companions used all these elements, along with American jazz, to create a new “Gypsy jazz,” but the Gypsy heritage seems to be its most important ingredient. Once you hear it, you can’t forget it. It is sophisticated, yet also has a sentimental quality. It is delicate, but the rhythms are played at breakneck speed. It has a swinging, jazzy feel, but many of the songs are waltzes. It is Gypsy jazz, and the popularity of this sometimes flamboyant, sometimes melancholy guitar music is growing around the world. Aficionados everywhere are forming bands, called Hot Clubs in honor of Django Reinhardt’s famous Quintet of the Hot Club of France.