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Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC
www.nga.gov



The United Church
1920 G Street, NW
Washington, DC

Rev. Monroe Wright, senior pastor
Rev. Bodo Schwabe, pastor for German ministries
Hannah Schlage-Busch, music director
Kevin Rost, administrative assistant
www.theunitedchurch.org

COVER: Pierre-Etienne Monnot, *The Virgin Mary Swooning over the Dead Body of Christ at the Foot of the Cross*, 1710, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Patrons' Permanent Fund



The Sixty-eighth Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,761st Concert

Stephen Ackert, organist
Anne-Marieke Evers, mezzo-soprano
Risa Browder, violinist
Jodi Beder, viola da gambist

Music by J. S. Bach from 1710

A joint presentation of the National Gallery of Art
music department and The United Church, Washington, DC

January 20, 2010
Wednesday, 12:10 pm
Presented at the church
1920 G Street, NW, Washington, DC
Admission free

Program

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Partita: *O Gott, du frommer Gott*, BWV 767

From Cantata no. 185 (*Barmherziges Herze der ewigen Liebe*)

Recitative: “Ihr Herzen, die ihr euch in Stein und Fels verkehret”

Aria: “Sei bemüth in dieser Zeit”

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 564

From Cantata no. 132 (*Bereitet die Wege, bereitet die Bahn*)

Recitative: “Ich will, mein Gott, dir frei heraus bekennen”

Aria: “Christi Glieder, ach bedenket”

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565

The Musicians

STEPHEN ACKERT

Stephen Ackert is head of the music department at the National Gallery of Art, and an adjunct teacher of organ at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Virginia. A graduate of Oberlin College, Northwestern University, and the University of Wisconsin, where he received the doctor of musical arts degree, Ackert studied organ and harpsichord as a Fulbright scholar in Frankfurt, Germany, where his teachers were Helmut Walcha and Maria Jaeger-Jung.

He has performed organ and harpsichord recitals and presented lecture-recitals in many of Washington, DC's premier venues, including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the National Cathedral, the National Gallery of Art, and the German Embassy. In 1999 he was a featured performer in the renowned “Thüringer Orgelsommer” recital series, playing on six historic instruments in Thuringia. In 2007 he returned to Germany for his eighth recital tour of historic concert halls and churches in that country.

In his capacity as head of the music department at the National Gallery, Ackert plans and presents concerts for the public and presents lectures and lecture-recitals on subjects that bring together the visual arts and music. He has served on the boards of directors of the Washington International Bach Competitions and the Arlington Symphony, and is currently on the advisory boards of the Amalfi Coast Music Festival and the Westfield Center.

ANNE-MARIEKE EVERS

Dutch mezzo-soprano Anne Marieke Evers studied at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel, Switzerland, where she concentrated on music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. In Basel she founded the ensemble Grand Desir with recorder player Anita Orme Della-Marta. The ensemble, which made its debut at the Early Music Festival in Utrecht, The Netherlands, focuses on late medieval and contemporary music. In 2006 Grand Desir was one of the selected ensembles at the Young International Artist Presentation in Antwerp. In 2007 it performed in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and at the Melbourne Early Music Festival. In July 2009 Grand Desir won the Friends Prize at the York Early Music Competition.

From 2005 to 2008, Evers was a permanent member of the Netherlands Radio Choir. She currently sings with the Amsterdam Baroque Choir, directed by Ton Koopman, and the Netherlands Bach Society, directed by Jos van Veldhoven. Evers has sung the role of Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell and the Tasse Chinoise in Maurice Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*. She directed and sang in a staged production of seventeenth-century Dutch folk music for families and children at the National Gallery of Art. Currently coaching with Mariette Nollen, Anne-Marieke Evers sings locally with the Washington Bach Consort and the choirs of the Washington National Cathedral and Saint Paul's Episcopal Church K Street in Washington, DC.

RISA BROWDER

A graduate of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, the Royal College of Music in London, and the Schola Cantorum in Basel, violinist Risa Browder is the concertmaster and cofounder, with her husband cellist John Moran, of the baroque chamber orchestra Modern Musick. The long list of early-music ensembles with which she has performed includes the Academy of Ancient Music, the English Concert, Florilegium, the Folger Consort, the Hanover Band, London Baroque, the London Classical Players, Les Musiciens du Louvre, REBEL, the Smithsonian Chamber Players, and the Washington Bach Consort.

JODI BEDER

Principal cellist of Princeton Symphony Orchestra Jodi Beder plays with Princeton Pro Musica and Palm Beach Opera, as well as the National Philharmonic Orchestra, Washington Musica Viva, the Folger Consort, the Low End String Quartet, and other ensembles in the Washington, DC, area. She has been a principal member of the Berkshire Opera, the Chamber Opera Theatre of New York, the Lake George Opera Festival, and Opera Antica, and a member of baroque orchestras for Fuma Sacra, the National Cathedral Chorus, the Washington Bach Consort, Wolf Trap Opera, and many other groups. She is also an improviser and a committed interpreter of contemporary music and has performed and recorded microtonal music. She frequently collaborates with dance and theater companies, and is a member of the innovative cabaret-rock band Zen for Primates. Beder holds a Ph.D. in music theory from the City University of New York Graduate Center, where her studies focused on Elizabethan keyboard dances.

Program Notes

This concert is the second in a series of five National Gallery of Art concerts that present masterworks from the years 1610, 1710, 1810, 1910, and 2010. On Sunday, January 17, the National Gallery of Art Vocal Ensemble and the early music ensembles ARTEK and Piffaro performed Claudio Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine*, commonly identified as his "Vespers of 1610." Today organist and Gallery music department head Stephen Ackert joins mezzo-soprano Anne-Marieke Evers and members of the National Gallery of Art Chamber Players to perform music that would have been heard in 1710 in the ducal chapel in Weimar, Germany. The music that the chapel organist, then twenty-four-year-old Johann Sebastian Bach, composed and performed during his tenure in Weimar (1708–1717) includes some of the most significant organ works ever written as well as several fine cantatas. Indeed, by that time in his career, Bach was matching and surpassing any composers who had written music for voices and keyboard instruments up to that time. The National Gallery music department is grateful to The United Church for agreeing to copresent this concert, since both the organ (built in Germany in 1980 by Alfred Führer) and the acoustics of the church are much like those that are presumed to have existed at the ducal chapel in Weimar in 1710. The chapel was destroyed by fire in the 1780s, but a painting of its interior survives as well as some detailed architectural studies and descriptions of the organ.

On Sunday, January 24, three of the National Gallery's resident ensembles will take the stage in the Gallery's West Garden Court to present masterworks that Beethoven produced or published in 1810. On Wednesday, January 27, at 12:10 pm in the West Building Lecture Hall, the Auryn String Quartet will play Alban Berg's *String Quartet*, op. 3, one of the great chamber works written in 1910. To complete the series on Sunday, January 31, the new music ensemble Great Noise will join the NGA Vocal Ensemble and the NGA Orchestra to perform the world premieres of two new works, written especially for the occasion by Carlos Carillo and Armando Bayolo, who will conduct the concert.

Upcoming Concerts at the National Gallery of Art

National Gallery of Art Piano Trio, String Quartet, and Wind Quintet

Music by Beethoven from 1810

January 24, 2010
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court



Auryn String Quartet

Music by Berg from 1910

January 27, 2010
Wednesday, 12:10 pm
West Building Lecture Hall



National Gallery of Art Vocal Ensemble With Great Noise and members of the National Gallery of Art Orchestra Armando Bayolo, guest conductor

Music of 2010

World premieres of new works by Carillo and Bayolo

January 31, 2010
Sunday Evening, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court