Look how the floor of heaven is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold.

There's not the smallest orb that thou behold'st, But in his motion like an angel sings, Still quiring to the young-eye'd cherubins; Such harmony is in immortal souls; But whilst this muddy vesture of decay Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it. Come, ho! And wake Diana with a hymn; With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear, And draw her home with music.

I am never merry when I hear sweet music; The reason is, your spirits are attentive, The man that hath no music in himself, Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds, Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils; The motions of his spirit are dull as night, And his affections dark as Erebus. Let no such man be trusted.

Music! Hark! It is your music of the house. Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day; Silence bestows that virtue on it. How many things by season season'd are To their right praise and true perfection! Peace! Ho! The moon sleeps with Endymion and would not be waken'd.

> Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Liturgy of St. James — Fifth century)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly-minded; for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!

Concerts from the National Gallery are broadcast in their entirety at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays on Radio Station WGTS, 91.9 FM, four weeks after the live performance. The use of cameras or recording equipment is not allowed.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Cafe remains open until 6:30 p.m.

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

at the

National Gallery of Art



2065th Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA GEORGE MANOS, Conductor

with

THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND SEA CHANTERS Master Chief RON CHILES, *Director*

CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONCERT AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART (DECEMBER 6, 1942)

> Sunday Evening, December 6, 1992 at Seven O'clock West Building, West Garden Court

PROGRAM

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)

Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Opus 36a, No. 1 (1916)

Serenade to Music

(1938)

(1787)

INTERMISSION

Symphony No. 89 in F Major Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)

> Vivace Andante con moto Menuet et trio Finale

Sergev Prokofiev (1891 - 1953)

from The Love for Three Oranges (1917)

Marche Le prince et la princesse La fuite (Flight)

This concert is presented in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first concert at the National Gallery, which took place on December 6, 1942. The opening of the National Gallery in March of 1941 was soon followed by an unprecedented growth in the number of military personnel in Washington, due to the war. The Gallery's first director, David E. Finley, noting that there was little for these people to do during their free time, decided to open the Gallery on Sunday evenings. The idea of augmenting the service to the public with music was inspired by the decision of the great English pianist Dame Myra Hess to remain in London during the blitz and present regular concerts in that city's National Gallery.

It was only natural that Mr. Finley and the Gallery's first music director, Richard Bales, would turn to the Navy and to other branches of the armed forces for musicians to perform these concerts. In addition to the U.S. Navy Music School Chorus, which performed the first concert under the direction of Musician 2nd class Marvin Maher (a student director of the chorus), the first months of 1943 saw concerts by the U.S. Navy Band and Symphony Orchestra, the Army Music School Chorus, and the U.S. Navy Band String Quartet and String Orchestra. Band and orchestra concerts outnumbered solo recitals and chamber recitals in that first season, and a civilian orchestra, consisting of members of the National Symphony, was soon formed to fill in when military ensembles were not available. Originally identified simply as "Orchestral Ensemble", these musicians eventually formed the National Gallery Orchestra. Among the men and women in uniform in Washington at that time were a number of musicians who were already famous or who were headed for great careers in music, all of whom did their duty by performing at the Gallery. They included William Strickland, conductor of the Army Music School Chorus, who went on to become a prominent choral conductor and arranger; pianists Earl Wild and Gyorgy Sandor; violinist Oscar Shumsky; cellist Bernard Greenhouse; and organist Virgil Fox. The concerts proved so popular that they were continued without interruption after the war's end, and they have provided a rich and distinguished service to music in the nation's capital for the ensuing fifty years. Since 1985 the concerts have been under the direction of George Manos, who has formed two new resident ensembles at the Gallery: the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble and the National Gallery Piano Quartet. Manos' innovations have also included the commissioning and premiere performance of five new works for orchestra and the incorporation of jazz into the American Music Festival, which will in turn celebrate its fiftieth birthday in the spring of 1993.

Organized in 1956 using eighteen men from the Navy School of Music, the U.S. NAVY BAND SEA CHANTERS were named by then Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Arleigh Burke. The Sea Chanters have since expanded their membership to include women and their repertoire to include the full range of choral music. Master Chief Musician Ronald M. Chiles is the chorus' director and piano accompanist; Chief Musician Stephen W. Wellman is the conductor. The Sea Chanters have appeared throughout the United States and perform frequently at the White House and the home of the vice-president. They have appeared in concert with many of America's star performers, including Sammy Davis, Jr., Barbara Mandrell, Andy Williams, John Denver, Johnny Cash, Barry Manilow, Kenny Rogers, Perry Como, and Marian Anderson. They have been called upon to perform at such landmark events as the U.S. Bicentennial, the Bicentennial of the Constitution, the Kennedy Center Honors for Bob Hope, the return of American hostages from Iran, and the Desert Storm Victory Celebration. Since 1988 the Sea Chanters have been a consistent feature of the National Independence Day celebration on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

Ralph Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music was composed for the jubilee celebration of Sir Henry J. Wood, the British conductor who founded the Promenade Concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall, and the work is still used to start off each season of the "Proms". The poetry is from Act Five, Scene One of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice:

> How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank! Here will we sit and let the sound of music creep in our ears. Soft stillness and the night Become the touches of sweet harmony.