Latvian violinist, teacher, and composer Helmers Pasavars was born in 1903 in Valmiera, where he received his early music education. Later he continued at the National Conservatory in Riga, where he studied composition with Jazeps Vitols, violin with Adolf Metz, and composition with Janis Medins. His diverse musical career has included founding an orchestra and music school in the city of Cesis and lecturing in composition at the Latvian National Conservatory. In addition to the *Concertino* for violin, Pasavars has written two string quartets, as well as cantatas, solo songs, orchestral works, and other chamber music. He has lived and worked in London since 1954.

Prokofiev worked on and completed his *Second Violin Sonata* in 1943, at a time when both the ballet *Cinderella* and the opera *War and Peace* were works in progress. The work on the sonata included transcribing the original version, intended for flute and piano, for violin at the behest of David Oistrakh, who presented the premiere performance in Moscow in 1944. The composer's penchant for classical line, transparency, and lyrical, cheerful melodies works to full advantage in this sonata.

CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

DECEMBER 1993

19 The Maryland Camerata

Christmas concert Samuel Gordon, Conductor

26 (No concert)

JANUARY 1994

- 2 (No concert)
- 9 National Gallery Orchestra George Manos, Conductor

Gala Viennese New Year Concert

16 Virginia Dupuy, soprano David Evitts, baritone Music of Dominick Argento Argento: From the Diary of Virginia Woolf and The André Expedition

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 during the performance is not allowed.

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

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and E LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

at the

National Gallery of Art



2104th Concert

RASMA LIELMANE, violinist ARTHUR OZOLINS, pianist

Sunday Evening, December 12, 1993 at Seven O'clock West Building, East Garden Court

Admission free

PROGRAM

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Sonata in C Minor, Opus 45 (1886-87)

Allegretto molto ed appassionato Allegretto espressivo alla romanza Allegro animato

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Opus 108 (1888)

Allegro Adagio

Un poco presto e con sentimento

Presto agitato

INTERMISSION

Helmers Pavasars (b. 1903)

Concertino (1947)

Washington Premiere Performance

Sergey Prokofiev (1891-1953)

Sonata No. 2 in D Major, Opus 94-bis (1943)

Moderato Scherzo Andante Allegro con brio Born in Latvia, violinist RASMA LIELMANE was a pupil of David Oistrakh at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. Her early career as a concert artist was highlighted by victories in numerous competitions, including the Gold Medal at the International Violin Competition in Sofia, Bulgaria. She also carried away prizes from the Vianna di Motta Competition in Portugal, the Nicolo Paganini in Italy, and won the Tibor Varga Prize in Switzerland. She has appeared as soloist with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Philharmonic, and the Dresden Philharmonic, receiving outstanding reviews from such highly regarded sources as the London Times, the Daily Telegraph, Die Welt, and the Hamburg Evening News. Rasma Lielmane has recorded regularly with the BBC in London and has completed recordings of the chamber music of Richard Strauss, as well as Mozart and Haydn concertos with the Riga, Latvia, Symphony Orchestra.

Pianist ARTHUR OZOLINS was born in Lübeck, Germany to Latvian parents and currently resides in Toronto. He is a "third generation" pianist, in that both his grandmother and his mother were professional pianists. At the age of thirteen he entered the Royal Conservatory of music in Toronto, where his teachers were Talivaldis Kenins and Alberto Guerrero. Just one year later, he was invited by conductor Walter Susskind to make his debut with the Toronto Symphony, with which he has subsequently performed more than fifty times. Mr. Ozolins has also appeared as guest soloist with the Orchestras of Hallé and Barcelona, and the Oslo, Stockholm, St. Petersburg, and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestras. He has performed throughout North and South America, Europe, and Australia, and has made seven tours of the former Soviet Union. Arthur Ozolins' recordings of the complete Rachmaninoff Concerti on CBC records received the Juno Award.

It was when Edvard Grieg was twenty-one years old (in 1864) that he experienced a change of attitude toward the folk music of Norway, to which he had before that time paid little attention. All of his compositions after that date, including the *C Minor Violin Sonata*, bear the stamp of that music, either through the presence of actual folk melodies or the presence of melodic turns and rhythms that are typical of Norwegian folk songs and dances. Nevertheless, he maintained a highly individualistic concept of composition, insisting that he wrote music from the heart, which might or might not turn out to sound "Norwegian."

Brahms' *Third Violin Sonata* is his most dramatic and intensely emotional work in this genre, built upon a solid framework of logical form within and among the movements. The opening *Allegro* is unique in the repertoire due to its frequent use of pedal points (passages in which the bass note remains the same while harmonies change above it.) An intensely passionate *Adagio* is contrasted by the ethereal quality of the *Poco presto*, while the final *Presto* surpasses all of the preceding movements in dramatic movement and dynamic contrasts.