CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Under the Direction of George Manos

DECEMBER 1996

15

- 8 James Ehnes, *violinist* Eduard Laurel, *pianist* Bartok: *Rhapsody No. 2* Brahms: *Sonata No. 2 in A*
 - Mozart: Sonata in C, K. 330
 Schumann: Faschingsschwank aus Wien
 Beethoven: Variations, Op. 26
 Chopin: Nocturne, Op 27, No. 2 Ballade in F Minor, Op. 52

Christmas concert

22 The Washington Men's Camerata Thomas Beveridge, *Director*

Orli Shaham, pianist

- 29 James Dick, pianist
- Schumann: Arabesque Beethoven: Sonata, Opus 78 Schubert: Wanderer Fantasy

JANUARY 1997

5 National Gallery Orchestra George Manos, *Conductor* Gala Viennese New Year Concert

12 The Verdehr Trio Walter Verhehr, *violin* Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, *clarinet* Gary Kirkpatrick, *piano*

Menotti: *Trio* Mozart/Niblock: *Sonata in Bflat Major* Jonathan Kramer: *Serbelloni Serenade*

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 Fifty-fifth Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2210th Concert

JUSTIN BLASDALE, pianist

Sunday Evening, December 1, 1996 Seven O'clock West Building, West Garden Court

Admission Free

PROGRAM

Franz Schubert (1779-1828) Sonata in C minor, Opus Posthumous D. 958 (1828)

Allegro Adagio Minuetto: Allegro Allegro

INTERMISSION

Robert Helps (b.1928)

3 Hommages (1972)

Hommage à Fauré Hommage à Rachmaninoff Hommage à Ravel

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) Partita No. 4 in D Major BWV 828 (c. 1730)

Overture Allemande Courante Aria Sarabande Menuet Gigue

JUSTIN BLASDALE made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall in 1971 as the winner of the Concert Guild Annual Auditions. Born in Berkeley, California, he received his early training there from Wanda Krasnoff. His studies continued at the Juilliard School with Rosina Lhevine, Adele Marcus, and Jeaneane Dowland, where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Mr. Blasdale made his premier appearance with the San Francisco Symphony at the age of seventeen and appeared in two subsequent seasons. After winning the Concert Artist Guild Concerto Award, he performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony at the Amber Festival. He has given the world premieres of works by Thomas Pasatieri and has collaborated with New York choreographer Anna Sokolow for numerous premieres. Justin Blasdale teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory in the Yehudi Menuhin Program of the Nueva Learning Center and appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Lisa Sapinkopf Artists of Berkeley, California.

Franz Schubert composed his *Sonata in C minor* in the last year of his life. Though the sonata is robust and full of vigor, the extremely ill composer was able to perform it only once, in the house of the physician who was caring for him at the time. The sonata exhibits firm musical structure for the first three movements, giving it a majestic grandeur. In the last movement, however, form gives way to Schubert's desire to fulfill his melodic intentions.

Composer Robert Helps has consistently demurred when asked to write descriptive notes for his *3 Hommages*. His preference is that the listener react to the three pieces without prejudicial information. Lest the listener look for stylistic links between an *Hommage* and the music of the composer to whom it is dedicated, Mr. Helps reveals that the pieces were finished long before their titles were selected. The range of pianistic technique that is required by these pieces makes them favorites for the "contemporary" category in piano competitions.

The six *Partitas* form the first part of Bach's *Clavierübung (Keyboard Practice)*, and after being published separately beginning in 1726, they were issued as a set in 1731. Like most of his keyboard works, they were written primarily for didactic purposes. Versions of two of them appear in the notebook that Bach put together for teaching his second wife, Anna Magdalena. The original title page, however, dedicates them "to music lovers, in order to refresh their spirits."

- Notes by Ann Margeson