The Andante spianato et Grande polonaise brilliante is a prime example of Chopin's Polonaises, all of which are distinctive for their majesty and the Polish nationalism they express. The work demands a mastery of the entire keyboard and has radiant passages that allow the composition to take on a life of its own.

- notes by Ann Margeson

CONCERTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART Under the Direction of George Manos

FEBRUARY 1997

National Gallery Orchestra George Manos, Conductor To be announced

9 Bradford and Maribeth Gowen, *duo-pianists*

Music of Franz Schubert for piano, four hands

16 Fabio Bidini, pianist

Beethoven: Sonata, Opus 101 Chopin: Scherzo No. 2

Sonata No. 3

23 Catherine Robbin, mezzo-soprano Michael McMahon, pianist Elgar: *Sea Pictures* Songs by Schubert and Brahms

MARCH 1997

2 National Gallery Orchestra George Manos, *Conductor*, Guest Artist Beverly Benso, *contralto*, and The Washington Men's Camerata Brahms: Alto Rhapsody
Schubert: Symphony No. 3
Gesang der Geister über
den Wassern
Von Weber: Hunters' Chorus

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



2218th Concert

WU HAN, pianist

Presented in honor of the opening of the Exhibition:

Splendors of Imperial China: Treasures from

The National Palace Museum, Taipei

Sunday Evening, January 26, 1997 at Seven O'clock West Building, West Garden Court

Admission Free

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Sonata in E-flat Major Hob. 52 (1794)

Allegro Adagio Finale: Presto

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor Opus 27, No. 2 ("Moonlight") (1801)

Adagio sostenuto Allegretto Presto agitato

INTERMISSION

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Estampes (1903)

Pagodes

La soirée dans Grenade Jardins sous la pluie

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

Andante spianato et Grande polonaise brillante Opus 22 (1830-31)

Pianist WU HAN was born in Taiwan and began her musical studies at the age of nine. Within a few years, she had taken first prize in all of the major competitions in Taiwan and had begun her career as a pianist. Wu Han has performed in numerous prestigious venues in the United States, such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The Kennedy Center, and has been a featured recitalist in major concert series in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Seattle. Her international tours have taken her to England, Germany, Austria, Spain, Denmark, and Japan, as well as to her native Taiwan, where she played a nationally televised concert for President Lee Teng-Hui. Wu Han participated for two summers in the Marlboro Music Festival, and was invited to perform in two nation-wide tours with "Music from Marlboro." She is an annual favorite of summer festival audiences in Caramoor, Ravinia, Saratoga, Aspen, Vail, Santa Fe, and La Jolla. Her teachers have included Raymond Hanson, Rudolf Serkin, Lilian Kallir, and Menahem Pressler. Winner of the Andrew Wolf Award for pianists making a significant contribution to the world of chamber music, Wu Han made her ensemble debut last season with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Wu Han appears at the National Gallery by arrangement with Fine Arts Management of Brooklyn, New York.

Joseph Haydn's *Sonata in E-Flat Major* is one of his last piano sonatas and is a masterwork that culminates a lifetime of experience a keyboard composer. The first movement has two themes, the first of which is heavy and brooding, while the second is lighter, yet still mysterious. The *Adagio* displays Haydn's inexhaustible originality, with its focus on ornamentation and miniature cadenzas. The *Presto* borrows elements from both the sonata-allegro and the rondo form, making the end of the sonata a hybrid movement that nevertheless has formal cohesion.

The *Moonlight Sonata* by Beethoven has become one of his most beloved and best known works for piano. The slow, introspective first movement is taken completely for granted by modern audiences, who have heard it so often, but in Beethoven's day it was a shock. Before his time, no composer of note had deviated from the tempo progression fast-slow-fast in a three-movement sonata. The peaceful mood established by the first movement is quickly dispelled by the spontaneity and energy of the second movement. In the final movement, Beethoven again imbues the score with drama, creating what can be described as a serene state of despair.

Please note that Wu Han's program after the intermission will be as follows:

Debussy

Children's Corner (1906-08)

Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum Jimbo's Lullaby Serenade for the Doll The Snow is Dancing The Little Shepherd Golliwog's Cakewalk

Chopin

Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Opus 23 (1831-35)

Andante spianato et Grande polonaise brillante Opus 22 (1830-31)