Shostakovich turned to the medium of the string quartet in the mid-1930s, as the Communist Party intensified its close scrutiny and frequent criticism of his symphonies and works for the stage. The string quartet medium provided an abstract world in which the composer could express himself in purely musical terms. It was also a medium which was too subtle for most of the Party officials who were supposed to approve or disapprove of new Soviet music. The quartets went largely unchallenged, even though some of them contained themes from earlier works that had been banned by the same officials.

The statesman, art collector, and amateur violinist, Count Andrey Razumovsky (1752-1836,) was the Russian ambassador to the Habsburg Court in Vienna when he first heard the music of Beethoven. Razumovsky was so taken with Beethoven's music that he subsidized a string quartet and instructed it to give frequent performances of the young German composer's music. Eventually he commissioned a set of three quartets, which became Beethoven's *Opus 59* and have come to be known as the "*Razumovsky*" *Quartets*. The third quartet, which we hear this evening, is the only one that does not honor the patron by quoting a traditional Russian tune, but it does him even greater honor by surpassing in power and subtlelty every string quartet that had been written before it.

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

#### **JUNE 1997**

22 Gordon Fergus-Thompson, pianist Schumann: *Papillons, Opus 2* Scriabin: *Sonata, Opus 23* Ravel: *Gaspard de la nuit* 

29 Jeffrey Solow, *cellist* Doris Stevenson, *pianist*  Bach: Sonata No. 2 in D Major George Walker: Sonata (1957) Joaquin Nin: Chants d'Espagne

(Last concert of the season)

Concerts at the National Gallery of Art resume on October 5, 1997 with a performance by the National Gallery Orchestra, George Manos, conductor.

> 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



2237th Concert

# NATIONAL GALLERY CHAMBER PLAYERS

# **STRING QUARTET**

# **GEORGE MANOS**, Artistic Director

CLAUDIA CHUDACOFF, violin ERIC deWAARDT, viola MARGARET SOPER GUTIERREZ, violin DIANA FISH, violoncello

> Sunday Evening, June 15, 1997 at Seven O'clock West Building, West Garden Court

> > Admission Free

## PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Divertimento in D Major K. 136 (1772)

Allegro Andante Presto

Dmitry Shostakovich (1906-1975) String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor Opus 122 (1966)

Introduction: Andantino Scherzo: Allegretto Recitative: Adagio Etude: Allegro Humoresque: Adagio Elegy: Adagio Finale: Moderato

### INTERMISSION

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

String Quartet in C Major Opus 59, No. 3 "Hero" (1806)

Andante con moto; allegro vivace Andante con moto quasi allegretto Menuetto: Grazioso Allegro molto

Thanks to the enthusiastic public reception of their concerts in 1995 and 1996, the NATIONAL GALLERY CHAMBER PLAY-ERS STRING QUARTET has become a regular feature of each season of concerts at the Gallery. Under the guidance of Gallery music director George Manos, the ensemble explores and presents masterpieces of chamber music which are not often heard, as well as the standard classics for string quartet. The National Gallery has two other resident chamber ensembles, also under the artistic direction of George Manos: the National Gallery Chamber Players and the National Gallery Vocal Arts Ensemble. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, CLAUDIA CHUDA-COFF has performed regularly with the National Gallery Orchestra since 1992. In addition to several solo appearances with the orchestra under Maestro Manos, she has also appeared with the Toledo Symphony, the Louisville Ballet, the Ann Arbor Symphony, and most recently in a performance of Prokofiev's *Second Violin Concerto* with the U. S. Marine Band White House Chamber Orchestra.

Violinist MARGARET SOPER GUTIERREZ has won top prizes in both the Des Moines and Cedar Falls/Waterloo Symphony Young Artist Competitions. An active chamber and orchestral musician, Ms. Gutierrez performs regularly with the National Gallery Orchestra, the Washington Chamber Symphony, the Washington Bach Consort, and as a substitute violinist with the National Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony.

Violist ERIC deWAARDT, a native of Delft, Holland, studied the viola with Ramon Scavelli, William Lincer, and the Cleveland Quartet's Atar Arad. He has performed as principal violist with the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, the Heidelberg Festival Orchestra, and the Columbus, Ohio Symphony Orchestra. An active recitalist and chamber musician, Mr. deWaardt has presented recitals in Holland and in many Washington venues, including the Jewish Community Center of Rockville, Maryland, the Holocaust Memorial, and the Embassy of the Netherlands.

Cellist DIANA FISH came to Washington in 1994 as a member of the White House Chamber Orchestra of the United States Marine Band. She graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music as a student of Orlando Cole and later did graduate work at Indiana University, where her teacher was Janos Starker. A founding member of the Whitney Trio, Ms. Fish has performed throughout the country, including chamber music performances at the National Gallery and the Phillips Collection.

The three *Divertimenti* that Mozart wrote between January and March of 1772, Nos. 136-138 in the Koechel Catalog, are in fact string quartets, but they have an open texture that is more typical of Mozart's symphonic writing than of his later quartets. It is likely that he wrote them as music to have "in his pocket," so to speak, during a planned trip to Italy. These three-movement works, given a bit of scoring for extra instruments, could easily have been transformed into symphonies, if required. The addition of a couple of minuets to each would have made them full-fledged *divertimenti*, but as it turned out, no such items were requested when Mozart went to Milan later that year to compose and conduct *Lucio Silla*.