

visions suggested by four of Rome's fountains at the hour in which ...their beauty appears most suggestive to the observer." He has an additional comment for each fountain: at Valle Giulia, "Droves of cattle pass and disappear in the fresh, damp mists of a Roman dawn"; at the Triton Fountain, "A sudden loud and insistent blast of horns above the trills of the whole orchestra...is like a joyous call, summoning troops of naiads and tritons, who come running up, pursuing each other and mingling in a frenzied dance between the jets of water"; at the Trevi Fountain, "Trumpets peal; across the radiant surface of the water there passes Neptune's chariot, drawn by sea horses and followed by a train of sirens and tritons. The procession then vanishes, while faint trumpet blasts resound in the distance"; finally, "The Villa Medici Fountain is announced by a sad theme [that] rises above a subdued warbling."

In retrospective articles and interviews, Igor Stravinsky referred several times to *The Firebird* as his first full-fledged work. It was composed on a commission from Diaghilev's Ballet Russe in Paris in 1910, the first of a long series of collaborations that were to change forever the character of both the choreography and the music of Western ballet. The story on which the ballet is based is that of Prince Ivan, who, while wandering in an enchanted forest, encounters a marvelous bird whose wings are plumes of fire. He fails to catch the bird, but comes away with one fiery feather. Wandering further into the forest, Prince Ivan encounters the demon Kastchei, the Deathless One, whose life spirit resides in an egg that remains in his castle even as he roams the forest. Protected by the flaming feather and assisted by the firebird itself, the prince is able to defeat the demon in battle. He proceeds to the castle, where he releases the princesses who had been dancing aimlessly under the demon's spell, and marries the most beautiful of them to the tune of a triumphant musical procession.

*Selections from concerts at the Gallery
can be heard on the second Sunday of each month
at 9:00 pm. on WGMS, 103.5 FM.*

The Sixtieth Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2391st Concert

NATIONAL GALLERY ORCHESTRA

GEORGE MANOS, *conductor*

Sunday Evening, 7 October 2001
Seven O'clock
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

PROGRAM

George Frideric Handel Music for the Royal Fireworks
(1685–1759) (1749)

Overture
Largo alla Siciliana
Bourée
Minuet

Ottorino Respighi The Fountains of Rome
(1879–1936) (1914–1916)

The Fountain of Valle Giulia at Dawn
The Triton Fountain in the Morning
The Fountain of Trevi at Midday
The Villa Medici Fountain at Sunset
Movements played without pause

INTERMISSION

Igor Stravinsky Firebird Suite
(1882–1971) (1910, revised 1919)

Introduction: The Firebird and Its Dance
Dance of the Enchanted Princesses
Infernal Dance of King Kastchei
Lullaby
Finale: Lento maestoso

*The use of cameras or recording equipment during
the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that
all personal electronic devices are turned off.*

*For the convenience of concertgoers
the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 pm.*

First convened in 1942 with members of the National Symphony, the **National Gallery Orchestra** has presented concerts at the National Gallery on a regular basis ever since. In addition to performing a large repertoire of classical and contemporary works, the orchestra has presented world premiere performances of significant works by nationally known composers, among them the *First Symphony* of Charles Ives. From 1943 until 1985 the National Gallery Orchestra was conducted by Richard Bales.

Since 1985 the orchestra has been under the direction of conductor, composer, and pianist **George Manos**. Manos is also artistic director of the American Music Festival and of the National Gallery vocal and chamber ensembles, which he founded. His career as a performing pianist and teacher has included several years on the faculty of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he taught piano, conducting, and chamber music. In addition, he held the directorship of the Wilmington, Delaware, School of Music, presenting an annual jazz festival and clinic. Maestro Manos founded and directed for ten years the renowned Kilarney Bach Festival in Ireland and was the music director of the 1992 Scandinavian Music Festival in Kolding, Denmark.

Handel composed the *Music for the Royal Fireworks* for an outdoor festival celebrating the peace treaty of 1748 between France and England, signed at Aix-la-Chapelle. The celebration took place in London's Green Park and culminated in a fireworks display. Unfortunately, the fireworks went out of control and caused a fire that burned the main building in the park and sent the crowd fleeing in panic. Handel had assembled a band for the occasion that consisted of twenty-four oboes, twelve bassoons, nine trumpets, nine horns, one contrabassoon, three pair of timpani, and a serpent. The musicians escaped injury, as they had already finished playing, packed up, and left the scene.

In *The Fountains of Rome*, as in most of his works, Respighi luxuriates in the late romantic tradition of lavish descriptive orchestral coloration. The objects that are described are four of Rome's most famous fountains. Respighi notes in the score that he wants to express "the sentiments and