



The Sixty-seventh Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,718th Concert

**The Poulenc Trio
and the
National Gallery String Quartet**

April 5, 2009
Sunday, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Program

“Great Britons in Music”

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Phantasy Quartet, op. 2 (1932)

Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

Suite for Bassoon and String Quartet (1969)

Prelude

Caprice

Elegy

Rondo

INTERMISSION

Frank Bridge (1879–1941)

Quintet for Piano and String Quartet in D Minor (1904)

Adagio–allegro moderato

Adagio ma non troppo–allegro con brio–adagio ma non troppo

Allegro energico

The Musicians

THE POULENC TRIO

The Poulenc Trio brings together three uniquely gifted virtuosos: Vladimir Lande, oboist, Bryan Young, bassoonist, and Irina Kaplan Lande, pianist. The Trio's performances in the unusual combination of their respective instruments transport audiences into a world of beautiful sonorities, playful rhythms, and dramatic excitement. One of a select few professional wind trios, The Poulenc Trio is committed to expanding the repertoire through the discovery of old masterpieces and new works.

The Trio was recently featured at Italy's Ravello Festival, where it premiered two new compositions written especially for them by Italian composer Gaetano Panariello and Russian-American composer Igor Raykhelson. These pieces add to the Trio's growing catalogue of new commissions, which includes two works premiered with violinist Hilary Hahn and two triple concertos with orchestra, premiered during the 2006–2007 and current seasons.

The Trio's busy concert schedule has included a recent tour of Russia with Hilary Hahn, a tour of the Caribbean, and multiple appearances across the United States. Highlights of the Trio's recent activity include a performance at the United States Performing Arts Exchange Conference; a whistle-stop tour of the western United States; and concerts in Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Washington, DC, and Wisconsin. The ensemble has garnered positive attention in recent full-length profiles by *Chamber Music Magazine* and by the *Double Reed Journal*. The group has been called "virtuosos of classical and contemporary chamber music" in a profile for Russian television, and has been repeatedly praised by the *Washington Post*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and *Fanfare* magazine.

NATIONAL GALLERY STRING QUARTET

The National Gallery String Quartet has performed regularly at the Gallery since its debut in 1995. In addition to standard quartet repertoire, the group presents rarely-heard masterpieces of chamber music. The musicians also perform under the name Sunrise Quartet, and in that capacity they have been recognized with a Chamber Music America residency at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts as well as with residencies at the Concerts at the Beach in Delaware and the Davies Concert Series in Camp Springs, Maryland. With perfectly matched skills, the first and second violinists are able to change places, a practice that is rare among string quartets.

Violinist Claudia Chudacoff appears frequently as a soloist and chamber musician in the Baltimore-Washington area. In addition to her position as the newly-appointed concertmaster of the U.S. Marine Band's White House Chamber Orchestra, Chudacoff is the concertmaster of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and the National Gallery Orchestra.

Violinist Teri Lazar has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Europe and the Middle East as well as in the United States. She is the concertmaster of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra and performs with the Richmond Chamber Players and in Currents, a chamber music series also based in Richmond.

Violist Osman Kivrak is a winner of the National Scholarship Competition in Turkey and the Baltimore Chamber Music Awards. He has performed at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and has toured Italy and other parts of Europe as a chamber musician. He performs with the Richmond Chamber Players and in Currents, and teaches at American University as a musician in residence.

Cellist Diana Fish came to Washington, DC, in 1994 to become a member of the Marine Chamber Orchestra of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, in which she currently serves as assistant principal cellist. Fish has also been the principal cellist of Concert Artists of Baltimore.

The Narrator

Jonathan Palevsky is currently the program director of WBJC-FM, Baltimore's classical music station. In addition to his administrative duties at the radio station, he appears on the air as the host of "Face the Music," "The WBJC Opera Fest," "The WBJC Opera Preview," "Past Masters," "Word on Wine," and numerous community interviews. For the past ten years, Palevsky has led WBJC listeners on annual opera excursions to Italy and central and western Europe. He is a past president of the Association of Music Personnel in Public Radio.

A graduate of Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, and the Peabody Institute, Palevsky is a lecturer for the Odyssey Program and the Evergreen Society at the Johns Hopkins University, and the Auburn Society at Towson University. When he is not busy broadcasting, he plays jazz guitar, reads haiku, and enjoys skiing and figure skating.

Program Notes

Narrator Jonathan Palevsky's spoken program notes for "Great Britons in Music" explore major works by Frank Bridge, Benjamin Britten, and Gordon Jacob. This is one of a number of thematic programs created by the members of The Poulenc Trio for "Music in the Museum," a performance series that integrates chamber music, celebrity speakers, and guest artists to explore the rich connections between music and art. Since its successful debut in 2004, which featured sold-out performances at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, the series has remained a popular favorite for audiences. The Trio has expanded the program to include performances at the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Jersey as well as this concert at the National Gallery. "Music in the Museum" often finds the Poulenc Trio joining forces with guest artists, local celebrities, and expert lecturers. The National Gallery String Quartet is happy to join the likes of clarinetist Alexander Fiterstein, the Berlin-based Jacques Thibaud Trio, and soprano Hyunah Yu as collaborators in this worthwhile project.

The National Gallery of Art is an especially fitting place in which to present “Great Britons in Music,” since the works of British artists were of particular interest to its founder, Andrew Mellon, and to its principal benefactor during its first sixty years, his son, Paul Mellon. A British sculptor, Henry Moore (1898–1986), was commissioned to provide the signature sculpture at the entrance to the East Building (*Knife Edge Mirror Two Piece*, 1976–1978), and another British artist, Tessa Pullen (b. 1953), fashioned the bust of Paul Mellon that is now part of the Gallery’s permanent collection. Looking just at the period represented by the compositions by British composers on this program (1904–1969), there are eleven pieces of sculpture by British artists from the period in the Gallery’s permanent collection.

Twentieth-century British painters have on many occasions caught the eye of collectors who subsequently bequeathed their paintings to the Gallery. Among its twenty-one canvases painted by Britons between 1904 and 1969 are Sir Francis Bacon’s *Study for a Running Dog* (c. 1954) and Sir Oswald Hornby Joseph Birley’s portrait of Andrew Mellon (1933). British artists also painted most of the other portraits in the Founder’s Room on the West Building Main Floor.

Thanks to a “British connection,” concerts in the Gallery began in December 1942, when its first director, David E. Finley, decided to extend the Gallery’s hours on Sunday nights to accommodate the many Armed Forces personnel who were in Washington at the outbreak of World War II. The idea of augmenting the museum’s service to the public with music was inspired by Finley’s first-hand experience of the recitals presented in 1940–1941 by the great English pianist Myra Hess, who remained in London during the Blitz and entertained the troops and the public with evening recitals in the National Gallery of that city. In both cities, the concerts proved immensely popular and served to boost morale in the capital in difficult times. When the war ended, the concerts in London’s National Gallery ended, too, but in Washington’s National Gallery they continue to this day.

Concerts at the National Gallery of Art

April 17–19

Choral Festival celebrating the reopening of the American Galleries
American music from the nineteenth century and music based
upon nineteenth-century American tunes

All concerts take place in the West Building, East Garden Court

Friday, April 17

National Men's Chorus

1:30 pm

Columbia Union Choir

3:30 pm

Saturday, April 18

Master Singers of Virginia

1:30 pm

Greater South Jersey Chorus

3:30 pm

Sunday, April 19

Central Bucks High School West Choir

1:30 pm

The Eighteenth Street Singers

3:30 pm

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

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