

NYTimes JAN 20 1973
Inaugural Eve Concerts Reflect 2 Moods

By LINDA CHARLTON
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19—The differing moods of this inaugural eve could be heard in the sound of music tonight, with an official concert featuring the triumphant cannon of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" at the John F. Kennedy Center, and the drumrolls of Haydn's Mass in Time of War at the Washington Cathedral.

The concert at the Kennedy center, one of three presented tonight at the center by the Inaugural Committee, was open to formally dressed ticket-holders only, with a bonus of a candlelight dinner—Long Island duckling with wild rice and California wine—for those who spend \$250 or more for their seats.

The concert at the Washington Cathedral, unofficial and free on a first-come, first-served basis, was called "a plea for peace" rather than a protest, but the choice of music alone made clear the counterpoint.

The Kennedy Center concert, played by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, 16 of whose members had asked to be excused from performing, included the Tchaikovsky overture celebrating the rout of Napoleon's army from Moscow in the winter of 1812, surely the best-known orchestral work scored for cannon.

A Gentle Mass

In contrast, the work played in the 2,450-seat cathedral by an orchestra of locally recruited musicians conducted by Leonard Bernstein is for the most part a gentle, contemplative mass written by Joseph Haydn

in 1796, the year in which Napoleon, in his first major campaign, trounced the Austrian Armies in Italy. It is sometimes called the "Kettledrum" mass because of the urgent drumrolls that underscore the final plea, "Dona nobis pacem"—"Give us peace."

Both concerts at 9 P.M. Other works on the Kennedy Center program were Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," which Mr. Ormandy said had been chosen because Mr. Copland was an American composer; Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which was Mr. Ormandy's choice; after the intermission, the Grieg piano concerto, chosen by its soloist, Van Cliburn; and what Mr. Ormandy described as a "collection of Americana"—songs traditional and patriotic sung by the Roger Wagner Chorale, and "Heritage of Freedom," a recitation by Charlton Heston, the movie actor, of unspecified portions of the Declaration of Independence, with a choral background.

Committee Chose Overture

A work by Vincent Persichetti, employing narrator and chorus, specially commissioned for the concert, with Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address as its theme, was withdrawn last week by the committee. Mr. Persichetti said he had been told this was done because the text might embarrass Mr. Nixon.

Edward Cowling, the entertainment director for the Inaugural Committee, said the

choice of the bombastic Tchaikovsky overture to close the concert had been the committee's, not the President's. He said the work was on the program in 1970 when Mr. Nixon journeyed to Philadelphia to present Mr. Ormandy with the Medal of Freedom, and "we just had the feeling the President would enjoy it." He said no one on the committee was aware of the historical background of the overture.

Mr. Ormandy said it had been decided not to use real cannon, sometimes used with blanks, in tonight's performance.

The 16 members of the orchestra who had asked not to perform tonight because they felt the concert was "a de facto political situation" were told they could not do so. One member of the orchestra said that most of the musicians felt that they could separate their professional commitments from the "dictates of our consciences."

The soloists at the Washington Cathedral concert—Patricia Wells, Gwendolyn Killebrew, Alan Titus and Michael Devlin—donated their services. The members of the orchestra, who a spokesman for the cathedral said were recruited locally, were paid scale.

Dean Sayre, a grandson of President Wilson, has been outspoken in his opposition to United States policy in Vietnam. He recently led a peaceful march of protest against renewed United States bombing in North Vietnam, from the cathedral, which is in the northwest section of the city, to the White House.

The major antiwar demonstrations are scheduled for tomorrow, to coincide with the inauguration itself, but one group of protesters presented petitions, which they said had been signed by 50,000 persons, to a security guard at the White House this afternoon.

The petitions called for the immediate signing of the accord reportedly reached with North Vietnam in October. A black community group held another rally and protest in the late afternoon.

See Washington Post 13 Jan 72 (Judith Martin)

Heston, SFChronicle 16 Jan 72 (A Sour Inaugural Note)

SFChronicle 20 Jan 72 (Nixons' Night for Music)

All this file.