

# ARTS

## Government belongs in bedroom

**Statecraft is Soulcraft: What Government Does**  
George Will  
Simon and Schuster, 1983

review by Peter Michalyshyn

George F. Will has caused a minor stir on the American right, among distant cousins who have accused him in *Statecraft* of betraying his conservative roots.

In *Statecraft*, Will's first book (his other two being collections of columns from *Newsweek* and *The Washington Post*, but the genesis of which was his earlier work in *National Review*), he argues that government serves, and/or should serve some nobler purpose than keeping out of Americans' lives. Will argues that government should concentrate on keeping in.

His is not a new formulation, nor minor discovery, and Will borrows heavily from Aristotle, Edmund Burke, Alexis de Tocqueville and others, to come to his contemporary restatement of the oldest, and the truest, political dictum.

Will argues that an America whose ideology is anti-statist individualism and anti-social self-interest, is incapable of greatness. If it is to be a great nation (the corollary of which is that it must exude greatness), then it must revere the state and its politics. If Americans will to live the good life, they must embrace good government. They must reject the tenets of eighteenth century liberalism by which they live, and accept, among other things, the welfare state.

"... a well governed polity clothes and shelters the individual, enveloping him in a rich weave of relationships, rights, restraints, duties, privileges, customs,



George Will: Recalcitrant conservative or prodigal liberal?

mores — that shape his disposition, but-tressing what is best in him and tempering what is worst...."

"However, it should leave wide scope for diversity...because it bears always in mind the enhancement of excellence and individuals have different faculties that point toward different forms of fulfillment natural to them."

The defect, Will argues, is "modernity". Its contagions range from contemporary liberals to libertarian conservatives. Both camps have commented on *Statecraft*. Michael J. Sandel, in the *New York Times Book Review*, is restrained but encouraging, lauding what he calls Will's

"communitarian conservatism."

It is likely, however, that Sandel and the gang at the eminently liberal *Times* are just gleeful that Will (they call him "the high priest" of American conservatism "the most elegant voice of contemporary conservative political philosophy"), appears to be on their side, at least to the extent he is not on the side of conservatives the like of Joseph Sobran.

### Musical Coup

## Turina captures Spain

**Turina: Danzas Fantasticas, Sinfonia Sevillana and Rapsodia Sinfonica**

review by K. Arthur

Last week I commented on Enrique Batiz' EMI recording of some well known works of Sergei Prokofiev. I would now like to focus on his conducting of Spanish music in a new issue of works by the early twentieth century Spanish composer Joaquin Turina.

Turina studied in Paris, but his music immediately strikes one as distinctively Spanish. He incorporates many traditional dance rhythms while evoking the sights and sounds of Spain through his individual scoring and eclectic style. The orchestral piece *Danzas Fantasticas* is especially

Sobran, an editor of *National Review*, disparaged Will's effort as "toothless, coffee-table Toryism, calculated for liberal consumption, but short on serious answers to the questions it raises."

One would have expected from Sobran at least a grudging admission that Will's questions were serious ones too. He attacked Will's apparent inspecificity over what government does, but Will is clear that government cultivates souls.

New Right pathologist Alan Crawford (*Thunder on the Right*), said years ago that Will is the New Right's (i.e. the infantile libertarian variety of conservative) "least favorite conservative pundit." And though Will has chafed and reflected and diagnosed and prescribed successfully in his journalism, he has failed admit he is no democrat.

He sagely delivers the aphorism that "the basic political right is good government not self-government." But he is at ends to show that 'soulcraft' is not a skill for some form of tyranny. He argues that his "slow, steady, gentle, educative and persuasive enterprise" is democratic. He calls "insidious" the notion that "no one is 'really' coerced when he is made to conform to his true interests, even when he does not recognize them."

Such, however, is the condition of modern society which he himself describes, that mere inducement will sway only the inclined. Will refuses to admit unashamedly of the necessarily undemocratic, censorious and elitist nature of his platform.

effective, combining a number of familiar rhythms with a musical kaleidoscope of color and sound.

The other pieces the album includes are the *Rapsodia Sinfonica* for piano and orchestra, and the *Sinfonica Sevillana*. Though none of these pieces are masterpieces, they heed a truly committed performance to communicate their special language. Fortunately, Batiz and the London Philharmonic Orchestra again combine to produce wonderfully idiomatic performances. Especially noteworthy is the beautiful sound of Geoffrey Brown's cor anglais in the *Sinfonia*.

The recorded sound balances the lush texture of the strings with the accurate pointing of solo instruments, brass, and woodwinds. A highly recommendable disc for those who find the atmosphere of Spain irresistibly intoxicating.

## Arts-Science Week '83

### Schedule of Events

#### MONDAY:

- Opening
- Events
- 3-legged RATT race at 3:00 pm.

#### TUESDAY:

- Dance Workshop
- Le Guitar Classique
- Wine checkers at 8:00 pm.

#### WEDNESDAY:

- Events
- Earthball at 4:00 pm.
- Afternoon Streetdance

#### THURSDAY:

- Events
- Carribean Social at 7:30 with Trin can

#### FRIDAY:

- Closing Events

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