

Sunday Evening, June 28, 2009, at 8:00

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

Iris Derke, *Co-Founder and General Director*

Jonathan Griffith, *Co-Founder and Artistic Director*

*presents*

## **THE CHORAL MUSIC OF ERIC WHITACRE**

Eric Whitacre, *Guest Conductor/Composer*

Charles Anthony Silvestri, *Lyricist and Special Guest*

Distinguished Concerts Singers International

*Program to be introduced from the stage*

### **Five Hebrew Love Songs**

with String Quartet

***The Reckoning* (by Hila Plitmann)**

***Seal Lullaby***

***She Weeps Over Ragoon***

*Intermission*

### ***Animal Crackers Vol. I***

- i. The Panther
- ii. The Cow
- iii. The Firefly

### ***Animal Crackers Vol. II***

- i. The Canary
- ii. The Eel
- iii. The Kangaroo

***A Boy and a Girl***

***Cloudburst***

***Lux Aurumque***

**“the moon is hiding in her hair”**

**“i walked the boulevard”**

World Premiere, DCINY Premiere Project

***Sleep***

***With a Lily in Your Hand***

*Please hold your applause until the end of the last movement.*

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Avery Fisher Hall

*Please make certain your cellular phone,  
pager, or watch alarm is switched off.*

## Notes on the Program

### *Five Hebrew Love Songs*

Text by Hila Plitmann

I.

A picture is engraved in my heart;  
Moving between light and darkness;  
A sort of silence envelopes your body,  
And your hair falls upon your face just so.

II.

Light bride  
She is all mine,  
And lightly  
She will kiss me!

III.

"Mostly," said the roof to the sky,  
"the distance between you and I  
is endlessness;

But a while ago two came up here,  
And only one centimeter was left  
between us."

IV.

What snow!  
Like little dreams  
Falling from the sky.

V.

He was full of tenderness;  
She was very hard.  
And as much as she tried to stay thus,  
Simply, and with no good reason,  
He took her into himself,  
And set her down  
In the softest, softest place.

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### *The Reckoning*

hrrr hey yay ololo  
humm hey hrrrrr

We'll be so quietly waiting  
We'll be so silently asleep  
Go tender,  
There is no more later;  
Your mountain's bloomed so high,  
So steep.

hrrr hey yay ololo

You'll be bound by infinite sorrow  
You'll be crushed by infinite love  
You will squander infinite happiness.

We'll stay so quietly listening  
We'll dream so silently aware  
You will mistake your flesh for a vessel—  
Your spirit bides her time with gentle care.

humm hey hrrr

You'll be maimed by infinite anger  
You'll be jailed by infinite grace  
And you'll return to places where  
earth whispers...

hrrr hey yay ololo  
humm hey hrrrrr  
hrrr hey ololo humm  
hrrr hey ololo humm

Come and break in infinite Music  
Come explode in infinite Sky  
Come and taste the blood in your teeth  
And let the Seas kick life in you

Come and ache in infinite Question  
Come and scream in infinite Why  
Come and burn in infinite Yes  
For Now will be your reckoning.

## Lincoln Center

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### *Seal Lullaby*

Text by Rudyard Kipling

Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is  
behind us,  
And black are the waters that sparkled  
so green.  
The moon, o'er the combers, looks  
downward to find us,  
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.

Where billow meets billow, then soft be  
thy pillow,  
Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!  
The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark  
overtake thee,  
Asleep in the arms of the slow  
swinging seas!

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### *She Weeps Over Rahoon*

Text by James Joyce

Rain on Rahoon falls softly, softly falling,  
Where my dark lover lies.  
Sad is his voice that calls me, sadly calling,  
At grey moonrise.

Love, hear thou  
How soft, how sad his voice is ever calling,

Ever unanswered, and the dark rain falling,  
Then as now.

Dark too our hearts, O love, shall lie  
and cold  
As his sad heart has lain  
Under the moongrey nettles, the  
black mold  
And muttering rain.

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### *Animal Crackers Vol. I*

Text by Ogden Nash

i.  
The Panther  
The panther is like a leopard,  
Except it hasn't been peppered.  
Should you behold a panther crouch,  
Prepare to say Ouch.  
Better yet, if called by a panther,  
Don't anther.

ii.  
The Cow  
The cow is of the bovine ilk;  
One end is moo, the other, milk.

iii.  
The Firefly  
The firefly's flame is something for which  
science has no name  
I can think of nothing eerier  
Than flying around with an unidentified  
glow on a  
person's posterier.

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### *Animal Crackers Vol. II*

Text by Ogden Nash  
DCINY Premiere Project

i.  
The Canary  
The song of canaries  
Never varies.  
And when they're molting  
They're pretty revolting.

ii.  
The Eel  
I don't mind eels  
Except as meals.  
And the way they feels.

iii.  
The Kangaroo  
O Kangaroo, O Kangaroo,  
Be grateful that you're in the zoo,  
And not transmuted by a boomerang  
To zestful tangy Kangaroo meringue.

## Lincoln Center

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### *A Boy and a Girl*

Text by Octavio Paz

Translation by Muriel Rukeyser

Stretched out on the grass,

a boy and a girl.

Savoring their oranges,  
giving their kisses like waves  
exchanging foam.

Stretched out on the beach,

a boy and a girl.

Savoring their limes,  
giving their kisses like clouds  
exchanging foam.

Stretched out underground,  
a boy and a girl.

Saying nothing, never kissing,  
giving silence for silence.

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### *Cloudburst*

Text by Octavio Paz

Adapted by Eric Whitacre

Translation by Lysander Kemp

The rain...

Eyes of shadow-water  
eyes of well-water,  
eyes of dream-water.

Blue suns, green whirlwinds,  
birdbeaks of light pecking open  
pomegranate stars.

But tell me, burnt earth, is there no water?  
Only blood, only dust,  
Only naked footsteps on the thorns?

The rain awakens...

We must sleep with open eyes,  
we must dream with our hands,  
we must dream the dreams of a river  
seeking its course,  
of the sun dreaming its worlds,  
we must dream aloud,  
we must sing till the song puts  
forth roots,

trunk, branches, birds, stars,  
we must find the lost word,  
and remember what the blood,  
the tides, the earth, and the body say,  
and return to the point of departure...

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### *Lux Aurumque*

Text by Edward Esch

Latin translation by Charles Anthony Silvestri

*Lux,*

*Calida gravisque pura velut aurum*

*Et canunt angeli molliter*

*Modo natum.*

### *Light of Gold*

Light,

Warm and heavy as pure gold

And the angels sing softly

To the newborn baby.

## Lincoln Center

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“the moon is hiding in her hair”

Text by e.e. cummings

World Premiere, DCINY Premiere Project

the moon is hiding in

her hair.

the

lily

of heaven

full of all dreams,

draws down.

cover her briefness in singing  
close her with intricate faint birds  
by daisies and twilights  
deepen her,

recite  
upon her  
flesh  
the rain's

pearls singly-whispering.

---

“i walked the boulevard”

Text by e.e. cummings

World Premiere, DCINY Premiere Project

i walked the boulevard

i saw a dirty child

skating on noisy wheels of joy

pathetic dress fluttering

behind her a mothermonster

with red grumbling face

cluttered in pursuit

pleasantly elephantine

while nearby the father  
a thick cheerful man

with majestic bulbous lips  
and forlorn piggish hands

joked to a girlish bore

with busy rhythmic mouth  
and silly purple eyelids

of how she was with child

---

*Sleep*

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri

The evening hangs beneath the moon

A silver thread on darkened dune

With closing eyes and resting head

I know that sleep is coming soon

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,

A thousand pictures fill my head,

I cannot sleep, my minds aflight,

And yet my limbs seem made of lead  
If there are noises in the night,  
A frightening shadow, flickering light...

Then I surrender unto sleep,  
Where clouds of dream give second sight  
What dreams may come, both dark  
and deep

Of flying wings and soaring leap  
As I surrender unto sleep  
As I surrender unto sleep.

*With a Lily in Your Hand*

Text by Federico Garcia Lorca

English translation by Jerome Rothenberg

O! o my night love!

With a lily in your hand

I leave you, o my night love!

Little widow, Little widow of my single star

I find you, I find you,

Tamer of dark butterflies!

I keep along my way, my way.

After a thousand years have gone

you'll see me, o, my night love!

By the blue footpath,

tamer of dark stars.

I'll make my way.

Until the universe, until the universe,

until the universe can fit inside my heart.

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## Meet the Artists



**Eric Whitacre**

An accomplished composer, conductor and lecturer, Eric Whitacre has quickly become one of the most popular and performed composers of his generation. Many of Whitacre's works have entered the standard choral and symphonic repertoires and have become the subject of several recent scholarly works and doctoral dissertations. His works *Water Night*, *Cloudburst*, *Sleep*, *Lux Aurumque*, and *A Boy and a Girl* are among the most popular choral works of the last decade, and his *Ghost Train*, *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas*, and *October* have achieved equal success in the symphonic wind community. Whitacre's published works have received thousands of performances and have sold well over 750,000 copies worldwide. He has received composition awards from the Barlow International Composition Competition, the American Choral Directors Association and the American Composers Forum.

His music has been featured on dozens of commercial and independent recordings. His first recording, *The Music of Eric Whitacre*, was hailed by *The American Record Guide* as one of the top 10 classical albums of 1997. In 2006, a full collection of his a cappella music, *Cloudburst and Other Choral Works*, was released on the renowned British classical label Hyperion Records. The album quickly became an international best seller, appearing in the top ten of both Billboard's and iTunes's Top Classical Albums charts. Two years after its debut, the critically acclaimed release continues to be a top-seller. The collection earned a 2007 Grammy nomination for Best Choral Performance.

Most recently, Whitacre has received acclaim for *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings*, a cutting edge musical. Winner of the ASCAP Harold Arlen award, this musical also gained Whitacre the prestigious Richard Rodgers Award for most promising musical theater composer.

Mr. Whitacre lives in Los Angeles with his wife, celebrated soprano Hila Plitmann, and their son.



**Charles Anthony  
Silvestri**

Acclaimed lyricist Charles Anthony Silvestri specializes in providing poetry for choral composers. He enjoys the creative challenges and rewards of the collaborative process, and has provided lyrics for many composers in different stages of their careers and for a wide variety of commissions and occasions. "Collaboration between composer and poet is magic," Silvestri says. "It opens for the composer opportunities for organic and dynamic creation not possible with previously published poetry, and gives the poet the thrill and responsibility that his words will be sung—not read—and will be heard attached to an emotional soundtrack. There's magic and power in the marriage of words and music." His collaborations with celebrated composer Eric Whitacre have sold hundreds of thousands of copies of sheet music, and have been sung by thousands of choirs around the world.

In addition to writing choral lyrics, Silvestri is also an accomplished artist/painter, specializing in replicating Medieval manuscript illumination and recreating the techniques and materials of Gothic and Renaissance painters. He is currently on the history faculty at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Born in 1965 in Las Vegas, Silvestri has lived in Los Angeles and Rome. He currently writes, creates, teaches history, and makes his home in Lawrence, Kansas. For more, visit [www.charlesanthonyilvestri.com](http://www.charlesanthonyilvestri.com).



**Hila Plitmann**

Jerusalem native Hila Plitmann, composer of "The Reckoning" and of the text for Eric Whitacre's "Five Hebrew Love Songs," has become known worldwide for her astonishing musicianship and gossamer voice. A glittering soprano, she has worked with many of today's leading conductors, including Kurt Masur, Robert Spano, Marin Alsop, Esa Pekka Salonen, Andrew Litton, and Steven Sloane. She has appeared as a headliner with the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the New Israeli Opera, and numerous other orchestras and ensembles in the U.S. and abroad. Ms. Plitmann is building an impressive catalogue of recordings, including releases on the Decca, Telarc, Naxos, CRI, and Disney labels. In constant demand as a singer of new and contemporary classical music, she has recently appeared as the soloist of several world premieres, including *Paul Revere's Ride* with the Atlanta Symphony, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Del Tredici; Esa Pekka Salonen's *Wing on Wing* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the composer conducting; *Two Awakenings* and a *Double Lullaby*, a song cycle written for her by Pulitzer Prize winner Aaron Jay Kernis; and *Mr. Tambourine Man* by Oscar- and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Corigliano with the Minnesota Orchestra, for which

Ms. Plittman was awarded a 2008 Grammy for Best Classical Performance.

## **Distinguished Concerts International New York**

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) was founded by Iris Derke, General Director, and Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. DCINY provides opportunities for choral, instrumental, jazz, and chamber ensembles, as well as conductors and soloists, to perform at major venues such as Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall,

Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Town Hall in New York City. A strong component of DCINY's mission, as stated in the DCINY motto, "The Art of Performance—The Power of Education," is to enhance the concert experience through educational programs and incentives. These include support in meeting performance standards and optional master classes and seminars. As part of its educational mission, Distinguished Concerts International New York initiated its Premiere Project with the purpose of commissioning new works from prominent composers for world premieres.

## **Distinguished Concert Singers International**

Participating in the first half:

Litchfield County Children's Senior Choir (CT), Anna Jedd and Barbara Soderberg, *Directors*  
Southern California Children's Concert Chorus and Ensemble Singers (CA), Lori Loftus, *Director*

Participating in the second half:

Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts Touring Choir (PA),  
David Macbeth, *Director*  
Lone Star Youth Chorale (TX), Dinah Menger, *Director*  
Masterworks Chorale of San Mateo (CA), Bryan Baker, *Director*  
Monte Vista Christian School Chorus (CA), Tony Dehner, *Director*  
Shanghai American School Vocal Ensemble (China), Karolina Pek, *Director*  
Washington State University Concert Choir (WA), Lori Wiest, *Director*  
Waukesha North High School Concert Choir (WI), Joseph S. Hyland, *Director*  
Wausau Conservatory of Music's Choralation (WI), Julie Burgess, *Director*  
York College Concert Choir (NE), Clark Roush, *Director*

## **DCINY Administrative Staff**

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