Sunday Afternoon, March 15, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

presents

THE MUSIC OF
ERIC WHITACRE

OLATHE EAST SYMPHONIC WINDS (KS)
Eric Griffin, Director
Jeff Smikahl, Associate Director
Eric Whitacre, Guest Conductor

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS  English Folk Song Suite
I. Seventeen Come Sunday
Eric Griffin, Conductor

ERIC WHITACRE  Cloudburst
Eric Whitacre, Conductor

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN/ARR. JEFF SMIKAHL  Finale to Symphony No. 6
Jeff Smikahl, Conductor

ANDREW BOYSEN, JR.  Little White Lines
Eric Griffin, Conductor

JOHN MACKEY  Strange Humors
Eric Griffin, Conductor

Intermission

Eric Whitacre, Guest Conductor/Composer

SPRAGUE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine

Avery Fisher Hall

Please make certain your cellular phone, pager, or watch alarm is switched off.
DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS SINGERS INTERNATIONAL

**Lux Aurumque**

**Three Flower Songs**
- I Hide Myself
- With A Lily
- Go Lovely Rose

**Animal Crackers Vol. I**
- i. The Panther
- ii. The Cow
- iii. The Firefly

**Seal Lullaby**

**Animal Crackers Vol. II** (World Premiere, DCINY Premiere Project)
- i. The Canary
- ii. The Eel
- iii. The Kangaroo

**Five Hebrew Love Songs**
with String Quartet

**Sleep**

*Please hold your applause until after the final movement of each work.*

### Notes on the Program

**English Folk Song Suite – I. Seventeen**

**Come Sunday**
RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Born, October 12, 1872, in Down Ampney, Gloucester
Died, August 26, 1958, in London, England

Eminent contemporary English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams is widely known for his splendid choral and orchestral works. His interest in the wind band, however, is expressed in this suite, one of the most significant works in the band repertoire.

**Cloudburst**
ERIC WHITACRE
Born, January 2, 1970, in Reno, Nevada

With words from a poem by Octavio Paz, *Cloudburst* was originally written for chorus by Eric Whitacre after being “inspired by an astonishing thunderstorm” in the desert while on tour in Northern California in 1991. Comparing that work to this version for winds, Whitacre hears the choral version as “intimate and delicate, (while) the version for winds is strong and assured, and to my ears it sounds like it’s suddenly in Technicolor…on a 50-foot screen.”

**Finale to Symphony No. 6**

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Born, December 17, 1770, in Bonn, Germany
Died, March 26, 1827, in Vienna, Austria

Beethoven’s Sixth Symphony (the “Pastoral”) was one of only two symphonies that the composer himself intentionally named to illustrate aspects of nature that appealed to him. This setting of the Finale differs from many traditional percussion ensemble works, which are often rhythmically focused. However, this arrangement’s interplay of metallic and wood texture is very similar to that of strings and brass instruments in the original work.
**Little White Lines**
**ANDREW BOYSEN, JR.**
*Born September 29, 1968, in Iowa City, Iowa*

*Little White Lines* receives its world premiere performance tonight. Commissioned by the Olathe East Symphonic Winds from Dr. Andrew Boysen, Jr., it is dedicated to Abby Hill and Brandon Steffen, a former member and a current member of this group.

The title refers to an entry Abby made in her journal while recovering from chemotherapy, as she noticed little white lines appearing on her fingernails as they grew. The composer writes: “It seemed like those little white lines were such a visible concept for hope...to be able to watch that all happen little by little.” Frequent flute and saxophone solos are allusions to Abby and Brandon, both accomplished players on those respective instruments. The motives heard near the beginning in the mallet instruments form the basis for much of the work, and they are quoted from Brandon's own composition, *A Battle Unforgettable*. Although the piece often depicts struggle, it is ultimately a celebration of life and triumph in honor of these two students and all others facing the fight against cancer.

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**Strange Humors**
**JOHN MACKEY**
*Born, October 1, 1973, in New Philadelphia, Ohio*

*Strange Humors* was originally composed for string quartet and djembe by John Mackey while pursuing his graduate degree at The Juilliard School. The piece represents a merging of musical cultures, combining the modal melodies and syncopated rhythms of Middle Eastern music with the percussive accompaniment of African drumming.

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**Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine**
Libretto breve by Charles Anthony Silvestri (Italian fragments taken from the notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci)

Tormented by visions of flight and falling,  
More wondrous and terrible each than the last,  
Master Leonardo imagines an engine  
To carry a man up into the sun...

And as he's dreaming the heavens call him,  
softly whispering their siren-song:  
"Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare."

L'uomo colle sua congiugniate e grandi ale,  
faciendo forza contro alla resistente aria.

As the candles burn low he paces and writes,  
Releasing purchased pigeons one by one  
Into the golden Tuscan sunrise...

And as he dreams, again the calling,  
The very air itself gives voice:  
"Leonardo. Leonardo, vieni á volare."

Vicina all'elemento del fuoco...  
Scratching quill on crumpled paper,  
(Rete, canna, filo, carta.)

Images of wing and frame and fabric  
fastened tightly.  
...sulla suprema sottile aria.

...in the highest and rarest atmosphere.
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As the midnight watchtower tolls,
Over rooftop, street and dome,
The triumph of a human being ascending
In the dreaming of a mortal man.

Leonardo steels himself,
Takes one last breath, and leaps...

“Leonardo, Vieni à Volare! Leonardo, Sognare!”

“Leonardo, Come Fly! Leonardo, Dream!”

**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.

**Three Flower Songs**

“I Hide Myself”
Emily Dickinson

I hide myself within my flower,
That fading from your Vase,
You, unsuspecting, feel for me—
Almost a loneliness.

I hide myself within my flower,
That wearing on your breast,
You, unsuspecting, wear me too
And angels know the rest.

“With a Lily in Your Hand”
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.

**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 posterior.
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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!

**Animal Crackers Vol. II**  
Text by Ogden Nash

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.

**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.

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

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

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,  
He took her into himself,  
And set her down  
In the softest, softest place.

**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

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

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...

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

An accomplished composer, conductor and lecturer, Eric Whitacre has quickly become one of the most popular and performed composers of his generation. *The Los Angeles Times* has praised his compositions as “works of unearthly beauty and imagination, (with) electric, chilling harmonies”; while the BBC raves that “what hits you straight between the eyes is the honesty, optimism and sheer belief that passes any pretension. This is music that can actually make you smile.”

Though he had received no formal training before the age of 18, his first experiences singing in college choir changed his life and he completed his first concert work, *Go, Lovely, Rose*, at the age of 21. Eric went on to The Juilliard School, earning his Master of Music degree and studying with Pulitzer Prize- and Oscar-winning composer John Corigliano.

Many of Whitacre’s works have entered the standard choral and symphonic repertories 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. To date, 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. In 2001 Whitacre became the youngest recipient ever awarded the coveted Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association.

As a conductor, Whitacre has appeared with hundreds of professional and educational ensembles throughout the world. In the last ten years he has conducted concerts of his choral and symphonic music in Japan, Australia, China, Singapore, South America, and much of Europe, as well as dozens of American universities and colleges where he regularly conducts seminars and lectures with young musicians. Over the past few years, these loyal fans and supporters have moved online, spreading Eric’s popularity to an ever-expanding worldwide audience. Upcoming commissions include works for The King’s Singers with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and an oratorio—featuring full orchestra, choir, and soloists—celebrating the opening of the new Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin, Texas.

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 ten 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’ Top Classical Albums charts. Two years after its debut, the critically acclaimed release
Lincoln Center 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 combining trance, ambient and techno electronica with choral, cinematic, and operatic traditions. Winner of the ASCAP Harold Arlen award, this musical also gained Whitacre the prestigious Richard Rodgers Award for most promising musical theater composer. Following its sold-out run, the most recent production earned 10 nominations at the 2007 Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Awards, including one for Best World Premiere Musical.

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

**Olathe East Symphonic Winds, Kansas**

The Olathe East Symphonic Winds are comprised of students from the Olathe East’s Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Under the direction of Eric Griffin and Jeff Smikahl, the bands at Olathe East have received consistent acclaim for innovative programming and musical achievement. The music program at Olathe East represents a well-rounded offering of bands, choirs, and orchestras. Ensembles representing the Olathe East music program have performed in all regions of the United States and beyond, including England, Canada, the Hawaiian islands, and in New York City. The Olathe East Symphonic Winds are proud to debut at Lincoln Center.

Eric Griffin is Director of Bands at Olathe East High School, a position he has held for eleven of his thirteen years in music education. He holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in Music Education from Missouri State University and the University of Kansas. Under his direction, the bands at Olathe East have toured Florida twice, and in 2006, were the first performing group from the Olathe District Schools to perform in the Hawaiian Islands. The Olathe East Bands have also performed at the prestigious Kansas Music Educators Association Convention four times since 2003. In 2007 Mr. Griffin was honored to be the Olathe District Schools’ nominee for Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Jeff Smikahl is currently the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Percussion Studies at Olathe East High School. Under his direction the Olathe East percussion program has received recognition as one of the premiere percussion programs in the Kansas City region, earning numerous State and Regional honors for marching ensembles, concert ensembles, and performers. Mr. Smikahl is
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active in the region’s percussion community as a founder of the Kansas City Area Drum-line Camp, and as a clinician, arranger, private instructor, and adjudicator in the region. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Kansas. Mr. Smikahl is an artist/endorser for Innovative Percussion and Vice President of the Kansas Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

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.

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