

Sunday Evening, June 6, 2010, at 8:30
Isaac Stern Auditorium/Ronald O. Perelman Stage
Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
Iris Derke, *Co-Founder and General Director*
Jonathan Griffith, *Co-Founder and Artistic Director*

Presents

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS ORCHESTRA INTERNATIONAL
DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS SINGERS INTERNATIONAL

SING FOR THE CURE

A Concert for Healing & Hope

Introduction by Dr. Jennifer Smith Stepanek with Nile Rodgers and Billy Gilman

JOSEPH M. MARTIN *Heartsongs* (World Premiere)
Based on the words of Mattie J.T. Stepanek
Heartsong
Enter the Season
Butterfly Summer
Song of the Wind
A World of Differences
The Journey (Adapted from the Shaker song
"Simple Gifts" and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9,
"New World Symphony")
Resolution Blessing
I Believe in Someday (Adapted from the spiritual
"I've Got Peace like a River")
Heartsong (Reprise)
STEPHEN RODDY, *Guest Conductor*

Intermission

Sing for the Cure
A Proclamation of Hope

Words and Narration by Pamela Martin Tomlinson
TIMOTHY SEELIG, *Conductor Laureate*
RENE SYLER, *Narrator*

JOSEPH M. MARTIN *Prelude for an Uncommon Woman*

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

- MICHAEL COX Who Will Speak
- ALICE GOMEZ Borrowed Time
KRISTI HASSELL, *Soloist*
- ROSEPHANYE POWELL The Promise Lives On
- ROBERT SEELEY Livin' Out Loud Blues
- JILL GALLINA Come to Me, Mother
- PATTI DRENNAN Valse Caprice
TERRI GERRARD, KRIS BRESSLER, COLLEEN DARRAUGH,
LAURA HARDISON, KENDALL MCCAMEY,
EARL FITZSIMMONS, KIRK BRADFORD,
SEIPHERSON LANDERS, *Soloists*
- STEFANIA DE KENNESSEY Girl in the Mirror
KELLY NOONAN, RACHEL SANDIFER, *Soloists*
- DAVID FRIEDMAN Who Will Curl My Daughter's Hair
NANCY KAMMERER, LEIGH ANNE STADT,
JANET SAMUELSON, *Soloists*
- W. T. GREER III Groundless Ground
LONNIE PARKS, SHELLEY TORRES-WEST, *Soloists*
- JOSEPH M. MARTIN One Voice
MARK HAWKINS, DAWN WILLIAMS,
JIM KONDYSAR, GARY RIFKIN, LAURA TUDOR,
MARK NIGHT, *Soloists*

Notes ON THE PROGRAM

JOSEPH M. MARTIN *Heartsongs*

Heartsongs is a song cycle inspired by the life and words of the amazing young poet Mattie J.T. Stepanek. Through his poetry and personal appearances, Mattie impacted the world with an authenticity of spirit rarely seen.

There are eight choral songs in the cycle and they represent some of the important elements of Mattie's writing. Six of the movements are based on actual poems written by Mattie. Two of the movements are my personal "Heartsongs," with original

texts that connect to specific aspects of Mattie’s message. In his first book Mattie left blank pages for people to write their own “Heartsongs.”

In between the songs we will hear Mattie’s poems as he wrote them. Simple, and yet profound in their insights, these lines are treasured testimonies of the human spirit, and gentle admonitions for us to listen and learn.

It is essential to have young voices sing this premier. It is their “Heartsongs” that can truly change the world and bring Mattie’s dreams for a better world to glorious reality.

The Houston Children’s Chorus commissioned *Heartsongs* through a Mayor’s Initiative Grant, Office of Mayor Anise Parker and the Houston Arts Alliance, City of Houston.

—Note by Joseph M. Martin

ABOUT MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK

Mattie J.T. Stepanek was an author and peace activist who died in 2004 just before his 14th birthday due to complications of a rare neuromuscular disease. Mattie authored six collections of his “Heartsongs” poetry and one collection of *Just Peace* essays (which included years of private correspondence between Mattie and Former President Jimmy Carter), all of which became *New York Times* best-sellers. Mattie was an inspirational speaker, appeared frequently on shows like *Oprah*, *Larry King Live*, and *Good Morning America*, and served as a three-term National Goodwill Ambassador for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Recently, Mattie’s mom, Jeni, penned *Messenger: The*



Legacy of Mattie J.T. Stepanek and Heartsongs. The memoir offers the intimate details of this ordinary child who lived an extraordinary life. www.mattieonline.com.

SING FOR THE CURE

In the fall of 1999, Susan G. Komen for the Cure founder and CEO, Nancy Brinker, and Director of Development, Peter Anderson, shared a dream to have a major choral work created on the stories of breast cancer survivors and the families and friends of those who did not live to tell their stories. They approached me, Artistic Director

of the Turtle Creek Chorale and The Women’s Chorus of Dallas, for help.

At the same time, The Women’s Chorus of Dallas lost its first singing member to breast cancer. This gave everyone added impetus to move forward with the project. The first task was to select a poet/librettist.

That person was the amazing Pamela Martin Tomlinson.

Pam spent three days at the Komen Foundation interviewing survivors and family members and began to write. The result was ten poems from different perspectives with narration tying them together.

Since Pam came up with 10 poems, we decided to have 10 different composers. Thus began the search for 10 composers! We continued “stepping out on groundless ground” and secured the services of Dr. Maya Angelou, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Meyerson Symphony Center for the following June!

The rest is history. From that world premiere, the work has traveled across the U.S., Canada, and the UK. It has been performed hundreds of times.

There are many more performances already in the works for the future. There are so many stories that could be told about this work. It could fill a book—or two!

Of course we did not know we were helping create a work that would ultimately have such a huge impact on so many people. We were just doing our best to make Nancy Brinker’s vision come true. God bless Nancy Brinker, who single-handedly has completely changed the fight against this disease.

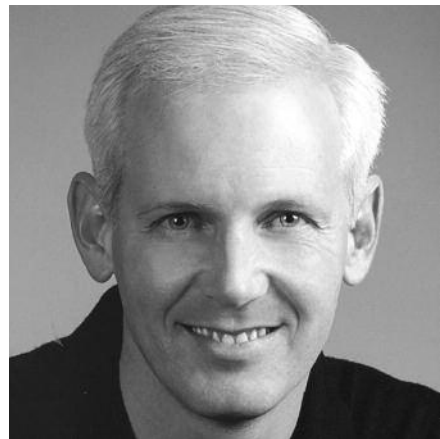
This evening’s performance benefits the Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Special thanks to the thousands of people who also voted for this concert on the PepsiCo Refresh Grant funding website, helping us even further in the fight.

—*Note by Timothy Seelig*

MEET THE Artists

STEPHEN RODDY

Stephen Roddy is the Founder and Director of the Houston Children’s Chorus. This auditioned group of children performs over 75 concerts each year to an approximate audience of 750,000 people. They have performed for three presidents of the United States on more than 25 occasions. They are frequently called upon to represent Houston at local and worldwide civic and cultural events. They are regularly featured with the Houston Symphony, the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Masterworks



Chorus, and other professional choral and instrumental ensembles in the Houston area. They are regularly featured with celebrities and recording artists at major performances in Houston. They have performed concerts all over the world and, most recently, in the major concert halls of Beijing and Shanghai as part of the Olympics cultural arts festival.

Mr. Roddy has conducted state honor choir festivals in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Texas. He is in demand as a children's music recording specialist and has directed or produced recordings for Silver-Burdett

Ginn Music textbooks, Shawnee Press, Lifeway Christian Resources, Fred Bock Music Company, Warner Bros. Music, Blue Bell Ice Cream, Gerber Baby Foods, and United Way.

Mr. Roddy is a native of Memphis, Tennessee, and is a graduate of Auburn University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Texas Foundation for the Arts and the Board of Directors for the Center for Christian Music Studies at Baylor University. He is a panelist for the Houston Arts Alliance, an editor for Fred Bock Music Company, and a consultant for Shawnee Press.

JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Joseph has performed solo piano recitals and has been the featured artist with symphony orchestras in the United States and Mexico. His first solo piano recording, *American Tapestry*, was nominated for a Dove Award. This album, along with his other recordings (*Songs of the Journey*, *Celtic Tapestry*, and *A Christmas Tapestry*), have been enormously popular in the sacred and secular markets. He has recorded for Yamaha's Disklavier series and has composed hundreds of commissioned works. Over 1,000 of Joseph's compositions are currently in print, and the list continues to grow. His composition *Pieta* was recently honored with an award from the John Ness Beck Foundation. His major works include 16 choral cantatas and *Song of Wisdom*, a choral tone poem based on the



best-selling children's book *Old Turtle*. His music can be heard in such diverse locations as Carnegie Hall, the Lawrence Welk Theatre in Branson, MO, and hundreds of worship services across the United States and Canada. He is Director of Sacred Publications at Shawnee Press, Inc.

JENNIFER SMITH STEPANEK

Jeni Stepanek, an award-winning speaker and writer, is a noted advocate for children's and families' needs in health and education, and the author of the new book *Messenger: The Legacy of Mattie J.T. Stepanek and Heartsongs*. She earned her Ph.D. and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Maryland, and has a B.A. in psychology and journalism. Jeni speaks on topics ranging from disability, hospice, and family support to spirituality, hope, and peace, and her message has been carried by all media outlets. Like her son, the late bestselling poet and peacemaker Mattie J.T. Stepanek, Jeni has a rare neuromuscular disease, and relies on a ventilator and wheelchair for breathing and mobility. Jeni works as a motivational speaker and a research and editorial consultant. She



also serves as the Executive Director of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation, a National Vice President for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and a Governor for the We Are Family Foundation. She lives in Rockville, MD near the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park, with her service dog, Micah.

NILE RODGERS

There is nothing you can say about Nile Rodgers that hasn't already been heard by billions of people, via millions of radio airwaves, in thousands of cities, in hundreds of countries. The career of Nile Rodgers is one of the most enduring and prolific in music. Nile's signature is scrawled across an amazing array of music—from Madonna to Diana Ross, from David Bowie to Eric Clapton.

Nile's talent radiates in many directions: he added his famous guitar licks to Seal's version of "Fly Like An Eagle," scored films such as *Coming to America*, *Earth Girls Are Easy*, and *Beverly Hills Cop III*, and served as the Musical Director of the largest commercial broadcast success in VH-1's



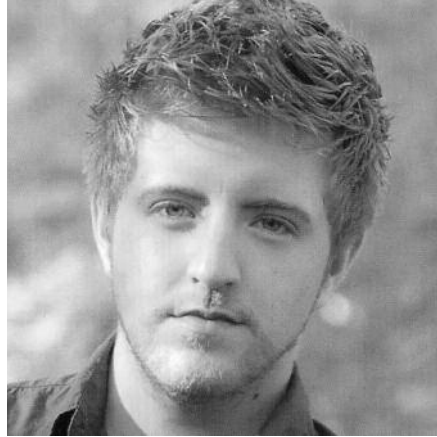
history, VH-1's *Divas Live Tribute to Diana Ross*. Crowning his diverse accomplishments, Nile has been awarded Grammys for Best Rock Instrumental for his collaboration with Jeff Beck on *Escape*, Best

Contemporary Blues Recording, and Best Rock Instrumental Performance with the Vaughan Brothers. Nile has

written, produced, or performed on songs which have sold over a hundred million records.

BILLY GILMAN

Billy Gilman burst on the national scene in 2000 with the big voice, commanding stage presence, and behind-the-scenes poise of a seasoned performer. He soon had a hit record with the compelling ballad “One Voice,” and at 11 years old became the youngest person to place a single on *Billboard* magazine’s country single chart. In four weeks the album was certified gold, making Gilman the youngest country artist to score a gold album. Within three months, Gilman became the youngest solo artist in any genre of music to achieve a platinum-selling album.



Gilman went on to record four albums for Sony Nashville. In the fall of 2000, he released *Classic Christmas* and it joined *One Voice* in the top 10 of the country albums chart. He was voted the American Music Awards’ favorite

new country artist, becoming the youngest contender to ever win that prize. In May 2001, Sony issued Gilman’s third project, *Dare to Dream*, which is also certified gold. Gilman’s *Music Through Heartsongs* is a concept album of songs based on the work of Mattie Stepanek.

TIMOTHY SEELIG

Timothy Seelig has been making music as a conductor, singer, teacher, and coach for 35 years. In addition to being the Artistic Director of Resounding Harmony, he is currently the Director of Art for Peace & Justice and the Coordinator of Peace House Dallas, and has been on the adjunct music faculty at Southern Methodist University’s Meadows School of the Arts since 1996. He also continues an extremely busy guest-conducting and lecture schedule throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He is the Conductor Emeritus of the Turtle Creek Chorale.



Dr. Seelig holds four degrees, including the D.M.A. from the University of North Texas and the Diploma from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He has four books and two DVDs on choral technique including the best-sellers *The Perfect Blend* and *The Perfect Rehearsal*. The fifth in the series, *The Music Within*, is due out this spring.

Dr. Seelig began his musical career as a singer. He made his European operatic debut at the Staatsoper in St. Gallen, Switzerland and his solo recital debut

at Carnegie Hall. He also created roles in world premieres of world renowned composers including John Corigliano, Conrad Susa, and Peter Schikele (P.D.Q. Bach).

Last May he conducted the European premiere of *Sing for the Cure* at Royal Festival Hall in London. In 2011 he will conduct the 10th Anniversary of *The Wisdom According to Old Turtle* at Lincoln Center on the DCINY Concert Series.

RENE SYLER

During her distinguished media career, including four years as anchor on CBS' *The Early Show*, Rene has always shown the courage to stand behind her convictions. While there, she conducted high profile interviews with First Lady Laura Bush and Senator John McCain, as well as a host of celebrities.

She is focused on creating a leading community for moms who understand the challenges of motherhood, and want to share information, stories, and resources with one another. Good-enoughmother.com is becoming a community of these women, and through her book, *Good Enough Mother, The Perfectly Imperfect book of Parenting*, Rene is building a platform in which mothers will find other women just like themselves.

Rene is the daughter of two breast cancer survivors. Due to her parents'



diagnoses and her own pre-cancerous condition which led to her own mastectomy, Rene has made it her mission to help educate and eradicate breast cancer. She travels the country as an ambassador for Susan G. Komen for the Cure and she was awarded the prestigious Gracie Allen award for her television series on breast cancer.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS SINGERS INTERNATIONAL

Participating in *Heartsongs*:

Austin Treble Honor Choir (TX), Karla Cruz, *Director*

Bel Canto Choir (TX), Diana L. Greene, *Director*

Houston Children's Chorus (TX), Stephen Roddy, *Director*

The Mississippi Girlchoir (MS), Anna Johnson and Kristy Brumfield, *Directors*

St. Andrew United Methodist Children's Choir (TX), Brenda Potter, *Director*

St. Paul Singers (TN), Dora Ann Purdy, *Director*

Participating in *Sing for the Cure*:

A Chorus for a Cause (OH), Christine D. Allison, *Director*

Diversity: The Voices of Sarasota (FL), Philip Alexander, *Director*

Heritage Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir (GA), Scott Estep, *Director*

Resounding Harmony (TX), Timothy Seelig, *Director*

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK

Founded by Iris Derke (General Director) and Jonathan Griffith (Artistic Director and Principal Conductor) Distinguished Concerts International is driven by passion, innovative vision, a total belief in its artists, and unwavering commitment to bringing forth unforgettable audience experiences. With over 20 combined years of experience, DCINY is a creative

producing entity with unmatched integrity that is a talent incubator, a star-maker, and a presenter of broadly accessible, world-class musical entertainment. For more information about Distinguished Concerts International in New York and upcoming DCINY musical events around the world, please visit: www.dciny.org, or call toll free: 1-877-MYDCINY.

DCINY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Lynn Tsai, *Box Office and Promotions Assistant*

Kyrstan Langer, *Intern*

Noelle Springer, *Intern*

ABOUT THE MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK FOUNDATION

The Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation is a non-profit organization established to continue spreading Mattie's message of Heartsongs, hope, and peace through educational programs and community activities. For more information, visit www.mattieonline.com.

DCINY has made a donation to the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation.

ABOUT KOMEN GREATER NYC

The Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Founded in 1990, Komen Greater NYC has raised over \$50 million to date. The organization is dedicated to the greater New York City metropolitan area, disbursing up to 75% of its net income to local programs offering breast health education, screening, and treatment in the five boroughs of New York City, on Long Island, and in Westchester and Rockland Counties. Twenty-five percent of its revenues fund national peer-reviewed research programs. In 2010 Komen Greater NYC is awarding close to \$4.3 million in grants—\$3.1 million supports 37 community-based organizations and three hospitals that provide breast health programs to underserved women and more than \$1.2 million underwrites peer-reviewed research projects at the national level. For more information, please visit www.komennyc.org.

In an effort to support those who generate innovative, optimistic ideas, the Pepsi Refresh Project awards grants to projects that move communities forward.

DCINY wishes to acknowledge and thank the Pepsi Refresh Project, Title Sponsor of tonight's performance of *Sing for the Cure*, benefiting the Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. In addition, 10% of the ticket price of tonight's concert will benefit Komen Greater New York City, with a guaranteed minimum donation of \$5,000.

DCINY thanks its kind sponsors and partners in education: VH-1 Save the Music, Education Through Music, High 5, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

And a special thanks to Hal Leonard for donated music for *Sing for the Cure*.

For information about performing on DCINY's series or about purchasing tickets to scheduled concerts, call 212-707-8566 or 877-MYDCINY (toll free), or visit our website at www.DCINY.org.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK
250 W. 57TH STREET, SUITE 1610
NEW YORK, NY 10107

2010 DCINY Concert and Artist Series

Please join us for one of our other events:

Tuesday Evening, June 15, 2010, at 8:00, Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage,
Carnegie Hall

Eric Whitacre's *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings*

(concert version – New York Premiere)

Eric Whitacre, *Guest Conductor*; Hila Plitmann, *Grammy Award-winning soprano*

Friday Evening, June 18, 2010, at 8:00, Jazz at Lincoln Center – The Allen Room

Distinguished Concerts Artist Series: Spirit Journey

Darcy Reese, *Director*

Sunday Afternoon, June 27, 2010, at 2:00, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center

Psalms and Songs

Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*; Hank Dahlman, *Guest Conductor*

Music by Franck, Holst, and Others; Janet Galván and Darren Dailey, *Guest Conductors*

DCINY 2011 Season Highlights

Visit www.DCINY.org for the full 2011 season and concert details.

Monday, January 17, 2011, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, New York

Karl Jenkins: *Stabat Mater* and *Gloria* (U.S. Premiere)

Jonathan Griffith, *DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor*

Karl Jenkins, *Composer-in-Residence*

Sunday, April 10, 2011, New York

Eric Whitacre, *Guest Conductor*

The Choral Music of Whitacre

Sunday, September 11, 2011, New York

Karl Jenkins: *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*

Karl Jenkins, *Guest Conductor*

René Clausen: *Memorial*

René Clausen, *Guest Conductor*

Dates, repertoire, and artists subject to change.