Monday Evening, June 6, 2011, at 8:00

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

The Wisdom of Old Turtle

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES  China II – Beijing, LRC. 127

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES  Concerto of Psalms for Two Violins and Orchestra,
LRC. 185b (World Premiere)
   1. From the Heart (Out of the Depths…)
   2. Eternal Song (The Heavens Declare…)
   3. Paean (Praise Ye…)
JONATHAN GRIFFITH, DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor
DINOS CONSTANTINIDES, Composer-in-Residence
RENTA ARADO, Violin
ESPIN LILLESLÅTTEN, Violin

Intermission

JOSEPH MARTIN  Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle
TIMOTHY SEELEG, Conductor Laureate
DOUGLAS WOOD, Narrator and Author

JOSEPH MARTIN  The Awakening
TIMOTHY SEELEG, Conductor Laureate

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

Please make certain your cellular phone, pager, or watch alarm is switched off.
Notes on the Program

**China II – Beijing, LRC. 127**
**DINOS CONSTANTINIDES**

*China II – Beijing*, written for string orchestra, is the second work of a cycle called *China Quartet*. In this work, the composer tries to portray an overview of the long and impressive history of China in the manner of a legend.

The cycle is meant to project the inner thoughts and impressions of the composer during his April 1990 visit to four cities in China. He was deeply moved by the kindness, hospitality, and intelligence of the people he was fortunate to meet, and also fascinated with the juxtaposition of the old and new.

The work opens with quiet entries over a pedal tone on “A.” A set of harmonics brings memories of past centuries. High dynamic levels and quick tempos illustrate the struggles of the people over the centuries. Various images appear in successive climaxes leading to a free section, which is the apotheosis of string sound. A return to the opening pedal “A” brings the piece to a close.

—Note by Dinos Constantinides

**Concerto of Psalms for Two Violins and Orchestra, LRC. 185b**
**DINOS CONSTANTINIDES**

Constantinides’ Concerto of Psalms has been inspired by three Psalms: No. 19, 130, and 150. The entire composition is controlled by a series of vertical sonorities which appear in various transpositions and instrumental combinations throughout the work. The first movement is rhapsodic in character and utilizes a great deal of instrumental colors. A haunting opening leads to a quasi religious modal chant in one of the two solo violins. The chant is followed by a restless middle section, then returns to its initial meditative mood. The second movement begins with quotations of Mozart, leading to a very lyrical celestial tune sung by both solo instruments.

The finale is exuberant and happy, full of rhythms and intricate solo passages. In the middle of the piece a returning quasi passacaglia section contrasts with the dance-like opening and leads to the modal chant of the first movement along with an eastern-like tune, ending in a frenzied conclusion.

—Note by Dinos Constantinides

**Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle**
**JOSEPH MARTIN**

*The flowers appear on the earth;*
*The time of the singing of birds is come,*
*And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.*

*Song of Solomon 2:12*

The music of *Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle* began with the sound of my own children’s delight as I read this beautiful book to them many years before I was approached to set it to song. There is a lovely cadence to Douglas Wood’s poetry in this gentle yet powerful story that pleads to be sung. Intrigued with the dramatic potential for the work, I was honored when asked to decorate these amazing words with my music. The watercolor illustrations by Cheng-Khee Chee that accompany the story in the original publication also influenced me as I wrote. The dance of words and art were always in my mind as I tried to capture the spirit of the creatures who inhabited the sacred space of the story. From great stony mountains to delicate butterflies, from growling bears to chirping robins, the characters sang to me from the pages. And what a message they sang...a tale as timeless as it is timely, filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

—Note by Joseph Martin
**The Awakening**

**JOSEPH MARTIN**

*The Awakening* was commissioned by Texas Choral Directors Association for one of their annual conventions. It was intended to pay homage to all the teachers and mentors that had inspired my life’s song. Hopefully, both performer and listener will understand through this piece that they are part of the sacred song of life. I hope that teachers and music directors will rediscover the joy of sharing the gift of music with their pupils.

—*Note by Joseph Martin*

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### Meet the Artists

#### Jonathan Griffith

The co-founder of Distinguished Concerts International New York, Jonathan Griffith is an active conductor, educator, lecturer, and consultant. His many conducting credits include the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Salt Lake City; Manhattan Philharmonic and New England Symphonic Ensemble, both in performances at Carnegie Hall; The European Symphony Orchestra, Spain; Bohuslava Martinů Philharmonia and Philharmonia Chorus, Virtuosi Pregensis Chamber Orchestra, Karlov  Vary Symphony Orchestra, and Dvořák Chamber Orchestra, Czech Republic; Bialystok State Philharmonic, Poland; and regional orchestras and choruses in the U.S.

Griffith made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 1989. His combined 50-plus conducting appearances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center span the major works of the classical repertoire and include the U.S. premieres of Welsh composer Karl Jenkins’ *Stabat Mater* and *Te Deum*, Russian composer Sergei Taneyev’s *Upon Reading a Psalm*, Czech composer Miloš Bok’s *Missa Solemnis*, Luigi Boccherini’s *Villancicos*, and Eugène Goossens’ re-orchestration of Handel’s *Messiah*; as well as numerous world premieres, including Eric Funk’s *Pamela*, Seymour Bernstein’s *Song of Nature*, and Robert Convery’s *The Unknown Region* and *I Have a Dream.*

#### Dinos Constantinides

The music of Greek-born composer Dinos Constantinides has been performed throughout the world. His many grants, commissions, and awards include first prize in the 1981 Brooklyn College International Chamber Opera Competition, first prize in the 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference, and grand prize in the 1997 Delius Composition Contest.

As the director of the prestigious Louisiana State University Festival of Contemporary Music for 22 years, Constantinides presented the top composers of the continent including Carlos Chávez, John Cage, Milton Babbitt, Karel Husa, and Ernst Krenek, among others.

He has written over 230 compositions for all mediums including his opera *Intimations* (winner of two awards), his opera *Antigone,*
and six symphonies; his Second Symphony earned him Louisiana’s Artist of the Year Award.

Constantinides has served on the board of directors of many national societies in the U.S. including the Society of Composers, College Music Society, National Composers of U.S., and Music Teacher National Association. He is Boyd Professor, the highest academic rank at Louisiana State University, head of the composition area, and music director of the Louisiana Sinfonietta.

Constantinides’ participation in this event is possible by support from Louisiana State University.

Renata Arado

Renata Arado was principal second violin of Norway’s Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra for 12 years, a position she left in 2008 to pursue new musical opportunities. She has appeared with chamber groups around the globe collaborating with Isaac Stern, Robert Mann, Yefim Bronfman, Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham, Adele Anthony, Sylvia Rosenberg, Anton Kuerti, Julia Fisher, and Camilla Wicks, to name a few. Arado performs in recitals and chamber series in the U.S. and Norway as a duo with her husband violinist/violist Espen Lilleslåtten. In a performance at the Barge Music Series, the New York Times commented, “they offered a beautifully nuanced interpretation of Martinu’s Madrigals for violin and viola…vividly illuminating the counterpoint and homophonic textures of the rhythmically driven first movement and playing the elegiac trills in the second movement with finesse.” Renata spends her summers teaching and performing in glorious Aspen, Colorado. She has been on the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School since 1996.

Espen Lilleslåtten

Espen Lilleslåtten was appointed associate professor of violin at Louisiana State University in 2009. He previously served for 15 years as the concertmaster of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway. Lilleslåtten, who also performs as a chamber musician, has participated in music festivals worldwide, among them Finland’s Kuhmo Festival, the Lapland Festival in Sweden, the Banff Festival for the Arts in Canada, and the Aspen Music Festival. Among the artists with whom he has performed chamber music are Isaac Stern, Menahem Pressler, Sylvia Rosenberg, Bonnie Hampton, Natalia Gutman, Lynn Harrell, Joshua Bell, and Joel Krosnick. Lilleslåtten has on several occasions appeared as soloist with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and in recitals at the Bergen International Festival. He performs regularly with his wife, violinist Renata Arado. They received praise from the New York Times for their performance at the Barge Music Series.

Tim Seelig

Tim Seelig is conductor, singer, teacher, and motivational speaker. The artistic director
Lincoln Center

and conductor of the Golden Gate Performing Arts and San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, he also continues an extremely busy guest-conducting schedule throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He is Conductor Emeritus of the Turtle Creek Chorale which he conducted for 20 years. He was the founder of The Women’s Chorus of Dallas and Resounding Harmony. He served on the faculty of Southern Methodist University for 14 years. In addition, Tim was the first artistic director-in-residence for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA).

He has written numerous books and DVDs on choral technique including bestsellers The Perfect Blend and The Perfect Rehearsal. In 2011 his new book and DVD, The Language of Music, will be released.

He recently conducted the European premiere of Sing for the Cure at the Southbank Centre in London. He is also a frequent presenter and conductor at state and national American Choral Directors Association and Music Educators National Conference conventions. He will conduct the world premier of James Eakin’s Flowers on the Grave of War with DCINY in 2012.

Douglas Wood

Douglas Wood has been called “Minnesota’s renaissance man.” Author, artist, musician, naturalist, wilderness guide, he is the creator of 30 books for children and adults, including several New York Times best sellers. His first book, Old Turtle, was hailed as an instant classic, a “profound, lapidary work” that fused “simple eloquence with an elemental logic.” Translated widely, it has received many honors and awards, including the ABBY Award and the International Reading Association Book of the Year. Mr. Wood was invited to read Old Turtle and its sequel, Old Turtle and the Broken Truth, at the White House. In his books, frequent speaking engagements, and far-flung wilderness expeditions, Mr. Wood continues to explore the relationship between the natural world and the human spirit.

Recipient of the Christopher Medal and Storytelling World Award among others, Mr. Wood lives with his wife Kathy in a log cabin in the pines by the Mississippi River, where many of their most estimable neighbors are turtles.

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 25 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.
Distinguished Concerts Singers International

First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir (MI), Timothy T. Meunier, Director
Hyde Park Austin Choir (TX), Karla Cruz, Director
Masterworks Chorale (GA), Kathy Bizarth, Director
Northgate High School Chorus (GA), Rachel Gordon, Director
Resounding Harmony (TX), Russ Rieger, Director
Rush Creek Christian Church Choir (TX), Jocelyn Epley, Director
Spirit of the Sound Choir (WA), Eric O’Del, Director

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For information about performing on DCINY’s series or about purchasing tickets to scheduled concerts, e-mail Concerts@DCINY.org or visit our Web site at www.DCINY.org.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK
250 W. 57TH STREET, SUITE 1610
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2011 DCINY Concert and Artist Series

Sunday Afternoon, June 19, 2011, at 2:00
Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center

**Body & Soul**
Brahms: *Requiem*
(Shaw edition, sung in English)
Milburn Price, *Conductor Laureate*
Tiffany Bostic-Brown, *Soprano*
Terrance Brown, *Baritone*
Powell: *Incarnatio Mysteria*
(World Premiere)
Timothy Powell, *Composer/Conductor*
Tina Milhorn Stallard, *Soprano*

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra International and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Sunday Afternoon, September 11, 2011, at 2:00
Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center

**A Concert of Commemoration, Honoring the 10th Anniversary of 9/11**
Jenkins: *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*
Jenkins: *For the Fallen: In Memoriam*
Alfryn Jenkins (U.S. Premiere)
Karl Jenkins, *Composer/Conductor*
Featuring “The Really Big Chorus” (U.K.)
Clausen: *Memorial*
René Clausen, *Composer/Conductor*

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra International and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Saturday Evening, October 8, 2011, at 8:30
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

**Distinguished Concerts Artist Series**
David Templeton, *Piano and Guitar*

Sunday Afternoon, October 30, 2011, at 2:00
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

**Distinguished Concerts Artist Series**
Thomas Florio, *Bass-baritone*
NATSA 2010 41st Artist Awards winner

Sunday, November 27, 2011,
Thanksgiving Weekend
Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center

**Handel: Messiah, Lincoln Center Premiere of Eugene Goossens’ expanded orchestration**
Jonathan Griffith, *DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor*
Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra International and Distinguished Concert Singers International

Saturday Evening, December 10, 2011, at 7:30
Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall

**Distinguished Concerts Artist Series**
Diandian Wu, *Piano and Authentic Chinese Instruments*

See our full concert series at www.DCINY.org.