DCINY PRESENTS

Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall

Friday, November 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM

THE MUSIC OF DINOS CONSTANTINIDIES

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director
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@DCINY | #DinosConstantinides
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Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
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Presents

THE MUSIC OF
DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

In Homage to the University of Macedonia - Greece

Featured Artists
Yova Milanova, Violin
Michael Gurt, Piano
Athanasios Zervas, Saxophone
Dimitris Chandrakis, Violin
Dimitris Patras, Cello
Maria Asteriadou, Piano
Program

Landscape V for Violin and Piano, LRC 204
  Yova Milanova, Violin
  Michael Gurt, Piano

Recollections for Solo Saxophone, LRC 205a
  Athanasios Zervas, Saxophone

Fantasia for Stelios and Yiannis, LRC244b
  Dimitris Chandrakis, Violin
  Dimitris Patras, Cello

Celestial Musings for Alto Saxophone Alone, LRC 231b
  Athanasios Zervas, Saxophone

China IV – Shenzhen, Concerto for Cello and Piano, LRC 139c
  I. With Expression
  II. With Serenity
  III. Playful and Mischievous
    Dimitris Patras, Cello
    Maria Asteriadou, Piano

Intermission

Sonata for Violin and Piano, LRC 021c
  Moderato
  Adagio
  Allegro Moderato
    Yova Milanova, Violin
    Michael Gurt, Piano

Ballade for the Hellenic Land for Solo Cello, LRC 159
  Dimitris Patras, Cello

Dialogue for Violin and Cello, LRC 232b
  Dimitris Chandrakis, Violin
  Dimitris Patras, Cello

Impressions II for Alto Saxophone and Piano, LRC 171
  Athanasios Zervas, Saxophone
  Maria Asteriadou, Piano

Trio No 1, LRC 009
  Allegro
  Largo
  Allegro Vivo
    Dimitris Chandrakis, Violin
    Dimitris Patras, Cello
    Maria Asteriadou, Piano
Program Notes

*Landscape V for Violin and Piano*, LRC204

*Landscape V* is a reworking of a 1968 composition. It employs loosely serial procedures based on a 12-tone statement that appears at the very beginning of the piece. As the title indicates, *Landscape V* describes various images of the land of the composer’s birthplace as crystallized in his mind over time. Changes of rhythms and special effects portray images of Greece’s natural wild beauty.

*Recollections for Theofilos for Solo Saxophone*, LRC205a

*Recollections for Theofilos* was commissioned by Theofilos Sotiriades, who premiered the piece in Thessaloniki, Greece, on December 9, 2001. As the title indicates, the piece deals with remembrances from the past. *Recollections* can be performed by any saxophone. It basically comprises two ideas: (1) Slow and Meditative and (2) a folk dance. The entire composition is based on the composer’s Greek heritage.

*Fantasia for Stelios and Yiannis*, LRC244b

Both Stelios Kanfantaris, violinist, and Yiannis Vatikiotis, violist, were my colleagues and friends in the early years of my career, after graduating from the Greek Conservatory in Athens during the late 1950’s. I was good friends with Stelios, and, as I was a violinist and a composer and he a violinist and conductor, we worked together frequently. He was a very quiet, warm and easy going person even before he became a famous violin teacher credited with bringing up international violinists such as Demertzis and Kavakos. Even when I had left Greece, I was aware of his excellent violin class.

Yiannis, another good friend of mine, was also quiet and easy going, like Stelios, with a wry sense of humor. I worked with him also as a composer as he performed several of my viola works. We were both members of orchestras in Athens. Yannis and I had a common interest in the U.S. He had been here to study as had I, and we decided to continue our study and careers here. As it turned out, it was only me who left Greece. In our youth, Stelios, Yiannis, and I were meeting all the time to have serious discussions on all topics, but usually on musical matters. We took great pleasure in our discussions — those were good years with two wonderful friends. They have been very greatly missed.
Celestial Musings for Alto Saxophone Alone, LRC231b

I was always fascinated by the activities of the planets and stars that surround us, especially with the recent disastrous influences on our lives on earth by such things as hurricanes, wars, hunger, sudden changes of climate to name a few. I was suddenly inspired to deal with all this in my own way with a Zodiac oriented work that describes its four elements in musical terms: Air, Earth, Water and Fire.

Celestial Musings for Alto Saxophone Alone is based on the circular motions in the Zodiac and its imagery of influences on our planet. This is my second work dealing with the stars, first being the Celestial Symphony No. 6.

China IV – Shenzhen, Concerto for Cello and Piano, LRC139c

China IV – Shenzhen is the fourth work of a cycle called the China Quartet. Like the three previous works, China IV does not use Chinese scales or motives but rather projects the composer’s perception of the city and people. Unlike the other three cities—Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou—Shenzhen is a new westernized city next to Hong Kong. Not only the city itself, but also the behavior of the people, reminded the composer of westerners. The concerto was composed with the western flavor of Shenzhen in mind. It uses elements of western roots in the music, like Shenzhen uses western roots in its way of life. In addition, the composer wanted to employ ideas basic to the literature of solo cello, including those derived from the unaccompanied sonatas for solo cello by Bach and the long phrases abundant in cello concertos by Schumann, Dvorak, and Saint-Saens. This concerto is dedicated to Ning Tien.

Sonata for Violin and Piano, LRC021c

Sonata for Violin is the most strictly twelve-tone work in the composer’s output. The piece also makes use of the compositional technique of isorhythm. The three movements are moderate, slow, and fast, all three characterized by long sweeping melodies.

Ballade for the Hellenic Land for Solo Cello, LRC159

Ballade for the Hellenic Land includes two contrasting sections. The first one reflects the style of an Athenian serenade (kandatha) which was characterized by lyrical song-like tunes sung by voice and accompanied by guitar or mandolin employing fast repeated notes (tremolo). The second one is a dance-like section that is rhythmic and fast.
**Dialogue for Violin and Cello, LRC232b**

*Dialogue for Violin and Cello* is a version of *Dialogue for Oboe and Double Bass*, which was commissioned by the duo Carrie Vecchione, oboe, and Rolf Erdall, double bass. It is derived from the first study of the composer’s work *20th Century Studies for Two Violins*.

**Impressions II for Alto Saxophone and Piano, LRC171**

This work is a transcription of *Impressions II for Clarinet in Bb and Piano*. The saxophone part is edited by Athanasios Zervas. *Impressions II* is rhapsodic in character with changes of colors and moods. The *New York Times* called it “dramatic” when the clarinet version of the work received its New York premiere at Carnegie Recital Hall. The piece received its European premiere in Vienna at the International Conference of the College Music Society on July 3, 1997.

**Trio No. 1 for Violin, Cello and Piano, LRC009**

*Trio No. 1* is composed in serial technique, and all three movements are based on the same tone row. The work is dissonant harmonically and very complex rhythmically. The style is basically contrapuntal and employs traditional contrapuntal forms. The first movement contains a canon and the third movement a fugato. The overall form is reminiscent of the Italian overture in that the two exterior movements are fast, while the interior movement is slow.

**Meet The Artists**

**Dinos Constantinides, Composer** is presently Boyd Professor, the highest academic rank at Louisiana State University, and head of the Composition area with a studio of 25 students. His students have been the recipients of national and international awards, including the Presidential Scholar, four MTNA National Composition Awards, and many regional and state awards. Former students also hold professorships in countries all over the world, such as England, China, Brazil, Canada, and the U.S., to name a few.

Constantinides was educated at the universities of Indiana, Michigan State (Ph.D. in Composition), and the Juilliard School. In 2010, he received an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece.
His teachers in the U.S. included Ivan Galamian, Dorothy DeLay, and Josef Gingold. In addition, he studied violin with the Dutch professor Tony Schultze at the Hellenic Conservatory and with the legendary chamber music teacher Leda Kouroukli, student of Nadia Boulanger, at the Athens Conservatory. This institution, also attended by Maria Callas and Dimitri Mitropoulos, sponsored a concert of his music in celebration of his 85th birthday on November 28, 2014.

His music has been performed by orchestras such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Nuerberger Symphoniker, American Symphony Orchestra, Shenzhen Symphony (China), Bohuslav Martinu Chamber Orchestra, Black Sea Philharmonic (Romania), Filarmonica “Oltenia” (Craiova, Romania), Annapolis Chamber Orchestra, Distinguished Concerts Orchestra International of New York, La Filarmonica de Montevideo (Uruguay), Orquestra Sinfonica de Buenos Aires, and New Orleans Philharmonic. Other performances have been done by the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra of Bratislava, Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, Ruse Philharmonic Orchestra (Bulgaria), Dubrovnik Symphony, Czech Moravian Philharmonic, Memphis Symphony, Ku Ming Symphony (China), Rome Festival Orchestra, Prism Orchestra of New York, Polish Radio and TV Orchestra (Krakow, Poland), Bucharest Radio Symphony (Romania), Kiev Philharmonic (Ukraine), and numerous other orchestras in the U.S., Australia and Taiwan. In his homeland, Constantinides’ music has been performed by the Cyprus State Orchestra, Thessaloniki State Orchestra, and Athens State Orchestra. In his native country, he has performed with the conductors Hermann Scherchen, Jean Martinon, Clemens Krauss, Leopold Stokowski, Igor Markevitch, and Charles Munch. In the U.S., he has performed with Jean Morel and Izler Solomon.

Constantinides is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prizes in the 1981 Brooklyn College International Chamber Competition, 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference, and 1997 Delius Composition Contest Grand Prize. He also received the 1985 American New Music Consortium Distinguished Service Award, the 1989 Glen Award of l’Ensemble of New York, several Meet the Composer grants, and numerous ASCAP Standard Awards. In 1994 he was honored with a Distinguished Teacher White House commission on Presidential Scholars. He has received excellent press reviews in Europe, China, South America, and the U.S., as well as in the major magazines Fanfare, American Guide, and Gramophone. His music appears on over 65 professional recordings.

The music of Dinos Constantinides has appeared on the DCINY Concert Series a multitude of times with this evening being his seventh feature in New York.
Yova Milanova, Violin Ms. Milanova was born to a family of musicians. Since a very early age she started playing the violin and at the age of 6 had her first tour as a soloist of chamber orchestra. At the age of 8 she gave her first violin recital. She debuted in London’s “Queen Elisabeth Hall” at 11 followed by a recording for the “Southern Television” (England) as a soloist of the Bournemouth Sinfonietta. Ms. Milanova has studied with Trendafil Milanov, Stoika Milanova, André Gertler, Walter Verdehr among others. Ms. Milanova is a winner of Maria Canals International Competition (Spain, 1989) and has graduated with honors from State Music School “Liubomir Pipkov” (Sofia, Bulgaria); State Music Academy “Pancho Vladiguerov” (Sofia, Bulgaria); School of music (Enschede, Holland). She was awarded the “Cobb Award” at Michigan State University. After culminating her studies, Ms. Milanova has been working extensively as a performer and a teacher. She debuted in Carnegie Hall in 2012, performing music by Dinos Constantinides. Ms. Milanova is the owner and Artistic Director of Grace Notes Music Studio in Baton Rouge, LA. Ms. Milanova has performed in Bulgaria, England, Belgium, Portugal, France, Hungary, Germany, Spain, Holland, Venezuela, USA.

Michael Gurt, Piano LSU Professor Michael Gurt holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School. In 1982 he won First Prize in the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and he was also a prize winner in international competitions held in Pretoria, South Africa, and Sydney, Australia. Gurt has performed as soloist with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Memphis Symphony, the Capetown Symphony, the China National Symphony Orchestra, and the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban, South Africa. He has made solo appearances in Alice Tully Hall in New York, Ambassador Auditorium in Los Angeles, Orchestra Hall in Detroit, City Hall in Hong Kong, the Victorian Arts Center in Melbourne, Australia, Baxter Hall in Capetown, South Africa, and the Attaturk Cultural Center in Istanbul, Turkey. Gurt has collaborated with the Takacs String Quartet, and he recently performed at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music in Townsville, Queensland. He has served on the juries of both the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and the New Orleans
International Piano Competition, and he has recorded on the Naxos, Centaur, and Redwood labels.

**Athanasioa Zervas, Saxophone** Athanasios Zervas is an Associate Professor of Music Theory - Music Creation at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki Greece, and Professor of Saxophone at the Athens Conservatory. He holds a Doctorate of Music in Composition and a Master of Music in Saxophone Performance from Northwestern University, and a BA in Music from Chicago State University. His articles and research papers have been published by the University of Central Missouri, the University of Athens Greece, University of Macedonia Greece, the MUSE Institute of Greece, the Greek Composers Union, the Hellenic Saxophone Association, among others. Dr. Zervas is the chief editor of the electronic theory/composition journal ‘mus-e-journal’ at www.muse.gr. As a performer, Dr. Zervas is a member of the Athens Saxophone Quartet (on soprano) and has given solo performances with the State Orchestra of Hellenic Music, the Athens Symphony Orchestra, the Greek National Symphony Orchestra, the State Orchestra of Athens, the Athens Contemporary Ensemble, the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki, the Louisiana Sinfonietta, and was a substitute member of the Chicago Jazz Ensemble between 1993 and 1997. He has recordings with BMG, Centaur Records, EMI, FM records, Libra Music Ltd, Magni Records, Mercury/Universal Co., and Aristotelian University Studio.

**Demetrios Chandrakis, Violin** Dimitrios Chandrakis is a professor in violin performance at the Macedonia University of Thessaloniki. He holds a violin diploma from the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna (1988-class G. Pichler) and a violin diploma from the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki (1982). Since 2012 he has been Head of the Department of Music Science and Art at the University of Macedonia. He has also taught at the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki (1994-2003) and has served as concertmaster of the Symphony Orchestra of the municipality of Thessaloniki (1993-1997) and concertmaster...
of the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra (1997-2003). He has also been a founding Member of the New Hellenic Quartet, one of the most prominently active chamber music ensembles in Greece, with over fifteen recordings of mainly Greek and international repertoire (e.g. BIS, Agora Musica, Lyra, EMI, Pikili Stoa- works by Nikos Skalkottas, Giorgo Siciliano, Carl Nielsen, Ottorino Respighi, Dimitri Dragatakis).

**Dimitris Patras, Cello** Born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1960. At the age of 6 he attended the State Conservatory of Thessalonica where he studied the cello. In 1980, after he received his cello diploma with honors, he earned the scholarship of the German state DAAD and he continued his studies in the “Hochschule für Musik und Theater” in Hanover, Germany in the class of Prof. F.J. Sellheim. He received the diploma of the soloist class in 1986 with honors. The same year, he continued his postgraduate studies in the Vienna Music Academy with André Navarra. Dimitris Patras has performed as a soloist with all the Greek symphony orchestras, with the Hannover Chamber Orchestra, with the French chamber orchestra Helios and he has made many cello and chamber music recitals in music festivals in Greece, Germany, Austria, France, Denmark, Switzerland and Great Britain. He has performed many works of contemporary Greek composers, some of which were written especially for him. He has also recorded his performances for the Greek, German, Danish and French radio and television. He has taught in numerous international music seminars in Greece and in southern France. From 1989 to 2003 he was the principal solo cellist of the Thessalonica State Symphony Orchestra. He is the cellist of the chamber ensemble “Trio Salonique”. He is cello professor at the University of Macedonia and teaches cello at the Thessalonica State Conservatory.
Maria Asteriadou, Piano  Heralded as “an artist with intense personality, virtuosic flair, unusual poise and intimate contact with style” by The New York Times, Greek pianist Maria Asteriadou is an acclaimed soloist, chamber musician and pedagogue. Her performances have taken her throughout the world, appearing in recitals and as soloist with orchestra in major concert halls throughout the United States, South America, Canada and Europe. She has performed with the Moscow Radio Symphony, Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the National Symphony of Costa Rica, the Stuttgart Kamerata, Luxembourg Philharmonia, the Bucharest Chamber Orchestra, Iasi Philharmonic Romania, the Adrian (Michigan) Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Chamber Academy, the Louisiana Sinfonietta, the Athens Camerata as well as the Athens and Thessaloniki State Orchestras.

Maria Asteriadou holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music where she was a student of Constance Keene. She received her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School as a scholarship student of Jacob Lateiner. Maria Asteriadou started her first piano lessons with her mother, and following her undergraduate studies at the State Conservatory of Music in Thessaloniki, with Eleni Papazoglou, Ms. Asteriadou was accepted at the Musik Hochschule in Freiburg, Germany where she studied with Tibor Hazay and received her Graduate Soloist Diploma with honors. She has also worked with Domna Evnouchidou, Vitalij Margulis, Gyorgy Sebok and Richard Goode.

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