

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK
THE ART OF PERFORMANCE – THE POWER OF EDUCATION
IRIS DERKE, GENERAL DIRECTOR
JONATHAN GRIFFITH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011, 8

PARADISE LOST:



DAVID NOROÑA, COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR



DAVID NOROÑA, DIRECTOR, CO-CREATOR, AND NARRATOR.



ESTASIS: HILA PLITMANN, GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING SOPRANO

LOGOS: DAMON KIRSCHÉ

IGNIS: DOUG KREEGER

FERVIO: DANIEL TATAR

PIETA: SARA JEAN FORD

AIA: MARIE WALLACE

GRAVITAS: RODOLFO NIETO

CHOIR OF ANGELS: DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS SINGERS INTERNATIONAL

DCINY

**DISTINGUISHED
CONCERTS
INTERNATIONAL
NEW YORK**



**PARADISE LOST IS A FEATURED EVENT IN THE 2011
FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSICALS.**

Saturday, June 25, 2011, 8:00 PM
Music Center's Walt Disney Concert Hall

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

presents

Eric Whitacre's Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings

Eric Whitacre, COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR

Violin **Hila Plitmann**

Violin **Damon Kirsche**

Violin **Doug Kreeger**

Violin **Daniel Tatar**

Violin **Sara Jean Ford**

Violin **Marie Wallace**

Violin **Rodolfo Nieto**

David Noroña, Violin

Greg Chun, Violin

On Ensemble, Violin

Fang Fang Xu, Violin

Jason Crystal, Violin

Steven Young, Violin

Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Eric Whitacre, David Noroña, and Greg Chun

1. Prologue (*The Oracle and Chorus of Angels*)
2. Children of Paradise (*Exstasis, Logos, Ignis, Chorus of Angels*)
3. *Forgotten* (*Exstasis, Logos*)
4. Exstasis' Vision (*Chorus of Angels*)
5. This is the Way* (*Logos, Ignis, Chorus of Angels*)
6. What If (*Exstasis, Pieta, Aia, Fervio, Gravitas*)
7. The Principles (*Exstasis, Ignis, Chorus of Angels*)
8. Logos' Vision (*Chorus of Angels*)
9. Eldest of All (*Logos*)
10. You Don't Know Him (*Exstasis, Pieta, Aia, Fervio, Gravitas*)
11. Act I Finale (*Full cast*)

Entr'acte (*Chorus of Angels*)

Intermission

1. Little One (*Ignis*)
2. Libertas Imperio (*Logos, Ignis, Chorus of Angels*)
3. Sleep My Child (*Exstasis, Pieta, Aia*)
4. Close Your Eyes (*Exstasis, Exstasis's Mother, Chorus of Angels*)
5. All Alone (*Fervio*)
6. Little One (Reprise) (*Ignis, Chorus of Angels*)
7. Forgotten (Reprise) (*Exstasis, Logos*)
8. The Choice (*Chorus of Angels*)
9. The Rage (*Exstasis, Chorus of Angels*)
10. The Battle (*Chorus of Angels*)
11. Bliss (*Full cast*)
12. Bows (*Full Cast*)

Please turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices.

MEET THE ARTISTS



ERIC WHITACRE

An accomplished composer and conductor, 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 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 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. His work has received thousands of performances, with sheet music sales of more than 1,000,000 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. Recent and upcoming commissions include works for Chanticleer; The King’s Singers; *Conspirare*; and the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

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’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*. Winner of the ASCAP Harold Arlen award, *Paradise Lost* 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.



DAVID NOROÑA

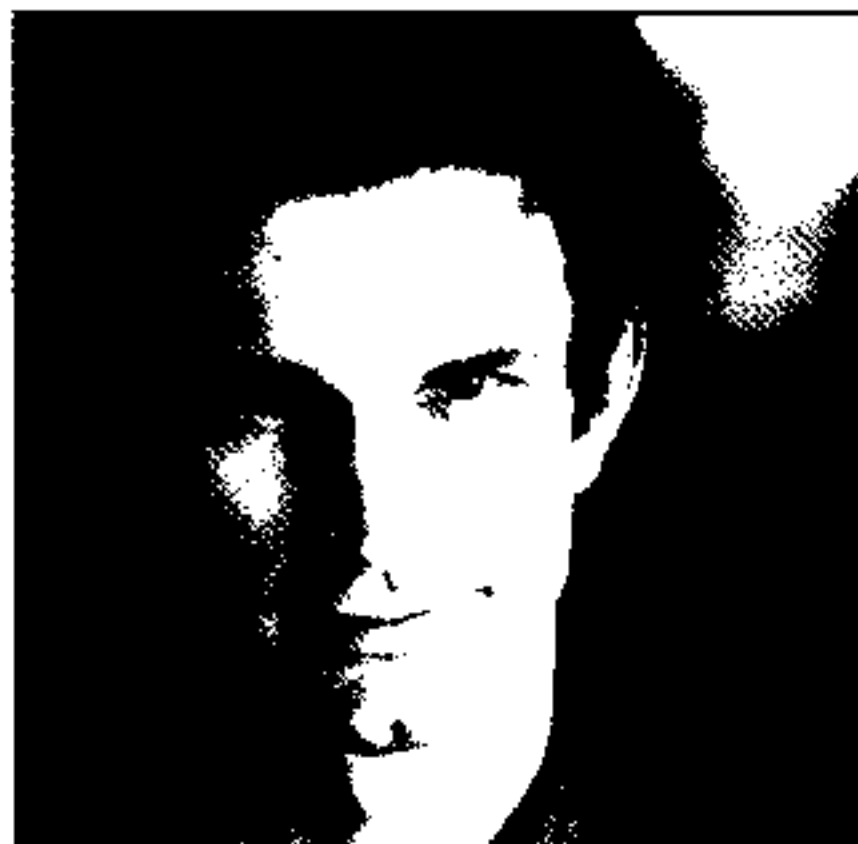
David Noroña has more than 20 years experience in entertainment as an actor, writer, director and producer. His numerous theater, film and television credits include starring opposite Brooke Shields in *Lipstick Jungle* and originating the role of Frankie Valli in *Jersey Boys* at the La Jolla Playhouse. He recently traveled to Haiti to shoot the docu-series pilot *One Act of Kindness (O.A.K.)*, which he created, wrote and produced. He is co-creator, co-lyricist and director of *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings*. A four-time marathoner, he lives in Los Angeles with his wife and three sons.



HILA PLITMANN

Jerusalem native Hila Plitmann is 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.

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. Plitmann was awarded a 2008 Grammy for Best Classical Performance.



DAMON KIRSCHKE

Raised on an organic farm in North Dakota, Damon Kirsche performs in theatres and concert halls across the country, hailed for his "riveting showmanship" (*Variety*) and his "resplendent power and panache" (*Backstage*). Recent appearances include: *Camelot* (Arthur) MTWichita, *Oklahoma!* (Curly) South Bay Cities, and *Fade Out/Fade In* (Byron Prong) with L.A.'s Musical Theatre Guild. Damon premiered *An Italian Straw Hat* (Émile/Nisnardi) and appeared in *A Little Night Music* (Carl Magnus) at South Coast Repertory. His Freddy in McCoy/Rigby's *My Fair Lady* earned him an Ovation nomination. Damon has appeared with L.A.'s Reprise series in *She Loves Me* (as Kodaly, with Rebecca Luker) and *On the 20th Century* (as Bruce Granit, with Carolee Carmello), and with NY's Encores series in *Strike Up the Band* and *On a Clear Day...* (with Kristin Chenoweth).



DOUG KREEGER

Doug Kreeger recently starred Off-Broadway as Cesari in Guy Fredrick Glass' world premiere play *The Last Castrato*. On Broadway, Doug played Jean Prouvaire (Marius) in the original company of the revival of *Les Misérables*. Off-Broadway, he created the roles of Ian in *Rooms: A Rock Romance* at New World Stages, Richard Loeb in *Thrill Me: The Leopold and Loeb Story* at the York Theatre, Jordan in *Departure Lounge* at the Public Theatre, Jesus in *Judas & Me* at the NYMF, and Stu in *Yank!*, also at the NYMF. Doug has appeared twice in the NYC Fringe Festival, first in 2005 when he starred as Todd in *Swimming Upstream*, which earned him a Fringe Award for Outstanding Actor, and then in 2010 as Lester Wilcox in *Veritas*, which earned a Fringe Award for Outstanding Ensemble.



DANIEL TATAR

Daniel Tatar made his Carnegie Hall debut as Fervio in the DCINY production of *Paradise Lost*, a role he also performed in the fully-staged production in Pasadena, CA. Daniel originated the role of Denny in the long-running hit *Life Could Be a Dream*, both at the Hudson Mainstage and Laguna Playhouse. Other credits include: Barfee in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (McCoy-Rigby, Ovation nomination), Valentin in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Havok Theatre, Ovation Award), Ahmet Ertegun in *Ray Charles Live* (Pasadena Playhouse, NAACP Award), Jamie in *The Last Five Years* (Pasadena Playhouse), the Reprise! concerts of *Elegies* and *Baby* (as Danny, opposite Kerry Butler), Mohammed in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (Laguna Playhouse), and Steppenwolf Theatre Company's *The Ballad of Little Jo* (with Judy Kuhn).



SARA JEAN FORD

Sara Jean Ford has wowed audiences as Christine Daae in the classic Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. She starred as Luisa in the recent New York revival of *The Fantasticks* and can be heard on the original cast recording. She was a cast member of the critically acclaimed Broadway revival of *Finian's Rainbow*, and appeared in the Chicago company of *Wicked*. She recently appeared in Stephen Sondheim's *Anyone Can Whistle* at ENCORES! at City Center. Regionally she has starred as Cunégonde - *Candide*, Carrie Pipperidge - *Carousel*, and she created the role of Nellie Oleson in *Little House on the Prairie - The Musical* at the Guthrie Theatre. BFA - Carnegie Mellon.



MARIE WALLACE

Marie Wallace is delighted to reprise her role as Aia with DCINY, which she performed at Carnegie Hall last summer and at the Theatre at Boston Court in its Los Angeles premiere. A versatile performer of both music and stage, she recently performed Lucretia in the regional premiere of *Assault of the Wicked*. Her roles as a soprano soloist include *Carmina Burana* and *Dona Nobis Pacem* with the Rochester Philharmonic. She has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Awards and nominations include the Backstage Garland Awards (Best Performance/Musical - Honorable Mention) and the Los Angeles Ticket Holder Awards (Best Supporting Actress/Musical). MM - Eastman School of Music; BM - Westminster Choir College.



RODOLFO NIETO

Bass-baritone and Chicago native Rodolfo Nieto is quickly establishing himself as a prominent and exciting emerging artist. The past two seasons he has worked as Resident Artist with Minnesota Opera, performing as Colline in *La bohème* and Erster Soldat in *Salome*; he will play Joseph in their upcoming production of *Wuthering Heights*. Other houses he has worked with are Chicago Opera Theater, Opera Colorado, and Cedar Rapids Opera Theater. Rodolfo is proud to be performing again with *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings*, which he first premiered with the composer at Northwestern University in 2006 and has continued with ever since.



GREG CHUN

Greg first met Eric when he was honored with the Harold Arlen Film & TV Award for his participation in the 2004 ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop. Since then he has created music for an array of television shows, commercial campaigns, independent films, and video games. He currently serves as Executive Music Director for Sanrio Digital, Inc. His work on the 2007 Los Angeles production of *Paradise Lost* earned him a Backstage West Garland Award and an L.A. Ovation Award nomination for Best Musical Direction. Greg is thrilled to be part of this latest *Paradise Lost* production with DCINY.



ON ENSEMBLE

ON ENSEMBLE (pronounced "Ohn") takes the ancient instruments of taiko into new realms, infusing the powerful rhythms of ensemble Japanese drumming with elements of hip-hop, rock and electronica. On Ensemble's members, Masato Baba, Kristofer Bergstrom, and Shoji Kameda, are individually recognized as leading artists in their field and sought after as teachers, workshop leaders, composers, and performers. As On Ensemble they combine their study and deep appreciation of tradition with equally formative experiences as DJs, electronic music producers, jazz drummers, and rock bassists to create a repertoire of ground-breaking music.



FANG FANG XU

Dr. Fang Fang Xu earned a Doctoral degree in Cello Performance from the University of Southern California. She has performed at Schleswig-Holstein International Music Festival in Germany and Guadalajara Music Festival in Mexico with eminent conductors Christoph Eschenbach and Mstislav Rostropovich, and as guest soloist with the Pacific Symphony and the USC Thornton Symphony among others. As an orchestral player, Dr. Xu plays with the L.A. Philharmonic and the L.A. Chamber Orchestra. She maintains a private studio in South Pasadena, serves as chair of the Music Teachers' Association of California's Pasadena branch, and is a faculty member at Opus 119 School of Music in Irvine.



JASON CRYSTAL

Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings (Carnegie Hall, Auditorium Theatre, Disney Hall), *Eddie Izzard: Live in New York* (Westbeth), *Kiss Me Kate* (Light Opera Works), *Electra in a One-Piece* (Good Company). Broadway associate: *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* (Tony, Drama Desk nominations), *Lombardi*, *The Addams Family*. Upcoming national tour of *The Addams Family*. American Music Theatre Project: *Was*, *The Boys Are Coming Home*, *Asphalt Beach*. Assistant Sound Design: *Shakespeare in the Park* (The Public Theater), *Minsky's* (CTG), *Back to Bacharach* and *David* (Music Box). A proud graduate of Northwestern University.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK (DCINY)

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 more than 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: DCINY.org, or call toll free: 1-877-MYDCINY.

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS SINGERS INTERNATIONAL

BLUE SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR AND WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE (MO), Nathan Rudolph, Director
CABRILLO COLLEGE CHORUS (CA), Cheryl Anderson, Director
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT FULLERTON (CA), Robert Istad, Director
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT LONG BEACH (CA), Jonathan Talberg, Director
CARESBAD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR (CA), Christy Owen, Director
CLARKE COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR (CA), Ken Rawdon, Director
FOSTER CITY COMMUNITY CHORUS (CA), Paul Hurst, Director
MANSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR (TX), Reginal Wright, Director
SANTA ANA COLLEGE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE (CA), Elliott Jones, Director
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL ENSEMBLE (CA), Cameron S. Clarno, Director
AND INDIVIDUALS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE.