Sunday Evening, March 19, 2017, at 8:30
Isaac Stern Auditorium / Ronald O. Perelman Stage

DCINY
Distinguished Concerts International New York
Changing Lives through the Power of Performance

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

presents

I Hear America Singing:
The Music of André Thomas
and Greg Gilpin

WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR
JEFFERY REDDING, Director

JEFFERY AMES    Gloria Fanfare
STEPHEN PAULUS   The Road Home
KIM ANDRÉ ARNESEN Flight Song
PETER LOUIS VAN DIJK Chariots

Pause

PLEASE SWITCH OFF YOUR CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS ORCHESTRA
DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS SINGERS INTERNATIONAL

GREG GILPIN, Composer/Conductor
GEORGE HEMCHER, Piano

GREG GILPIN
All My Heart Shall Sing with Joy!
Dance, Love, Sing, Live!
Shut De Do
Tango
Tafka Hindi
The Beginning of Love
Why We Sing
Y’all Come

Intermission

ANDRÉ THOMAS, Composer/Conductor
KRISTEN KEMP, Piano

ANDRÉ THOMAS
I Hear America Singing
Keep Your Lamps
Goin’ Up to Glory
Beautiful City
I Dream A World
Gloria
Someday Is Today
Credo

We Want To Hear From You!
Use #AmericaSinging to post your post-concert and intermission photos and comments to @DCINY on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram! | DCINY

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DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK
250 W. 57 STREET, SUITE 1610
NEW YORK, NY 10107
(212) 707-8566
Notes ON THE PROGRAM

Notes by Greg Gilpin

GREG GILPIN  All My Heart Shall Sing with Joy!
Born in 1964
(3 minutes)

This premiere original work is dedicated to Crowley ISD Honor Choir and director and friend Kathy Chiles, who all are a significant part of this evening’s concert. One of the composer’s goals when working with choirs of all ages is to sing with joy! The celebratory text is set to energetic accompaniment. The contrasting middle section expresses, “There is music in each one of us. Hear it all around. Every color, every hue, all a part of you. We’re a work of art!”

GILPIN  Dance, Love, Sing, Live!
(3 minutes)

Our theme for this evening’s concert sings the well-loved words, “Dance as though no one is watching you. Love as though no one has hurt you. Sing as though no one can hear you. Live as though heaven’s on earth.” Beginning with the gentle request of “open your eyes,” this inspirational setting blooms and grows into the second section which dances with percussion and flute leading to the full sonorities of the ending.

arr. GILPIN  Shut De Do
(2 minutes)

Randy Stonehill’s familiar and well-known song sounds and feels as if it has always been a part of the folk song or spiritual genre. This a cappella setting uses percussion to create the mysterious yet inviting call to “shut de do, keep out the devil.” Within the repetition there are solos, key changes, and a creative B section, building to a soaring finish of “shut de do.”

arr. GILPIN  Tango
(2 minutes)

“Tongo” is a traditional Polynesian folk song depicting people in different long boats communicating over water as they travel between islands. Tango means “mangrove” in Polynesian. This arrangement respects the original echo-style performance of the piece or “back and forth” between boats. The percussion adds the energy found in the rowing and sound of water with the choir adding movement to mimic the movement of rowing.
arr. GILPIN  *Tafta Hindi*  
*(2 minutes)*

Fun, bright, and flirtatious is this Middle Eastern folk song! The text, in classic Arabic, tells the story of a traveling salesman selling Indian muslin, taffeta, and other pretty material and wares for women to purchase as he uses his charms to convince pretty young ladies to buy, buy, buy.

GILPIN  *The Beginning of Love*  
*(3 minutes)*

Selected quotes of Mother Theresa are woven together to create a stunning lyric of love and compassion. With melody and harmony weaving above the flowing piano accompaniment and simple and emotional violin, Mother Theresa’s words, “Let us always greet each other with a smile for a smile is the beginning of love,” teaches us the simplicity of living and the impact it can have on our world.

GILPIN  *Why We Sing*  
*(3 minutes)*

“A sound of hope, a sound of peace, a sound that celebrates and speaks what we believe. A sound of love, a sound so strong. It’s amazing what is given when we share a song. This is why we sing....” This inspirational choral work has been sung by thousands around the world. Its inspirational message continues to ring true and strong, bringing hearts together celebrating how music can build bridges and tear down walls. Music truly “speaks to one and all.”

arr. GILPIN  *Y’All Come*  
*(2 minutes)*

From the early country radio stations to *I Love Lucy* to even now! This little gem is our encore for you tonight. “When you live in the country everybody is your neighbor on this one thing you can rely....” A salute from the folks down our way, wishing you all the best and to come see us soon. Just a little Southern hospitality to our New York City friends! “Y’all come back now, ya hear?”

*Notes by André Thomas*

ANDRÉ THOMAS  *I Hear America Singing*  
*Born in 1952*  
*(3 minutes)*

The opening number of this evening’s concert was the very first commission of the American Choral Conductors Association for one of its honor choirs.
conducted by Dr. Anton Armstrong, the conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. In this setting Thomas uses the initial line of text from Walt Whitman’s poem “I Hear America Singing.” Thomas then incorporates the spiritual *Walk Together Children*. Walt Whitman is indeed one of Thomas’ favorite poets.

**THOMAS  Keep Your Lamps**

(2 minutes)

The earliest choral work on this evening’s concert is *Keep Your Lamps*—first published in 1982. Audiences and choirs never tire of this very simple setting of the Afro-American slave song, which represents the slaves’ impression of this version of the parable of the wise and foolish found in the book of Matthew, chapter 25. For the slave, the expectation of the bridegroom (the Savior) also represented their hope for a savior to help them to escape slavery. This year, in celebration of the 35th year of *Keep Your Lamps*, Thomas has created a version for male voices.

**THOMAS  Goin’ Up to Glory**

(3 minutes)

In the setting *Goin’ Up to Glory*, Thomas paints the emotions of the slaves as they wish for a better life and a dream of heaven.

**THOMAS  Beautiful City**

(3 minutes)

Similar to *Goin’ Up to Glory*, *Beautiful City* also portrays the life of slaves as their emotions express desires for improved livelihood.

**THOMAS  I Dream a World**

(3 minutes)

Another favorite of Thomas’ is Langston Hughes, perhaps the most famous poet of the Harlem Renaissance. Thomas creates a musical setting of the poem “I Dream a World” by Langston Hughes. This beautiful setting was dedicated to the “Souls who lost their lives in the felling of the World Trade Center buildings on 9/11.”

**THOMAS  Gloria**

(3 minutes)

The second commission from the National American Choral Directors Association was the setting of *Gloria*, which is the second movement of the Gospel Mass that Thomas is writing. This work was premiered at the
National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah, with a 300-voice choir and Thomas conducting.

**THOMAS Someday Is Today**

*(4 minutes)*

Like Langston Hughes, Thomas continues to dream of a better world, but also feels that each one of us has the obligation to contribute to making the world better. In *Someday Is Today* he turns to the powerful words of poet Neil Lorenz, who beautifully expresses that thought.

**THOMAS Credo**

*(5 minutes)*

The third movement of Thomas’ Gospel Mass, *Credo*, was commissioned by Choirs of America and was premiered here at Carnegie Hall in 2016. The colorful orchestrations of Thomas’ choral works are created by award-winning film orchestrator Robert Elhai.

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**Texts AND Translations**

**Tongo**

GREG GILPIN

*Tongo*, which means mangrove, is a traditional canoe song from the Solomon Islands in Polynesia. Its echo format of mostly non-transferable vocables is meant to illustrate people communicating from canoe to canoe as they travel between islands.

*Taghn-gob.*
*Jihm nee bahee bahee oh.*
*Oom bah deh kihm bahee oh.*
*Oh ab lehee.*
*Mah leh kah ab loh wehee.*

**Tafta Hindi**

GREG GILPIN

*Tafta hindi*
*Tafta hindi*
*Shash hariri ya b an at.*

*Iftahi li ya sabiya,*
*Endi bi da lil sit-tat*

Indian taffeta
Indian taffeta
Silk and linen I sell here.

Open (the door) for me, pretty girls,
I have goods to sell to you.
THE Artists

JEFFERY REDDING, Director, West Orange High School Concert Choir

Jeffery Redding, director of choral activities at West Orange High School, Winter Garden, Florida, has led his choirs in performances at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Nationally, Dr. Redding is in demand as a guest conductor and lecturer. He has conducted the ACDA National High School Honor Choir, the Central Division ACDA Honor Choir, the North Central Division ACDA Honor Choir, the Eastern Division ACDA Honor Choir, and all-state and honor choirs in more than 35 states. In 2015 and 2016 he guest conducted Disney’s Candlelight Processional at Epcot.

Dr. Redding was awarded the R. Wayne Hogoboom Distinguished Service Award for dedicated service, leadership, and excellence by the Florida Chapter of ACDA in November 2015. Dr. Redding holds a Ph.D. in choral conducting and music education and an M.M.E., both from Florida State University, and a B.S. in music education from Florida A&M University.
GREG GILPIN, Composer/Conductor

Greg Gilpin began piano lessons at age four and while continuing his music study in piano, trumpet, French horn, and voice, he became an accomplished accompanist for choirs in school and his family’s church. By the time he entered college he had developed a strong knowledge of choral music and had directed a church choir for more than four years. His first choral works were published while a senior at Northwest Missouri State University, where he received his degree in vocal music education. After graduation he moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he now resides. Since 1986 Mr. Gilpin’s career has been and continues to be musically diverse. In addition to his work in music education, he continues his work as a studio musician working in the recording industry in Indianapolis. Today he is a well-known ASCAP award-winning choral composer and arranger with hundreds of publications to his credit and is a highly respected choral conductor conducting throughout the country and internationally including the respected and historic venues of Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. He is currently director of educational choral publications for Shawnee Press and is a member of ACDA, NAfME, SAG-AFTRA, and is a life loyal member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

ANDRÉ THOMAS, Composer/Conductor

André J. Thomas, the Owen F. Sellers Professor of Music, is director of choral activities and professor of choral music education at The Florida State University. A previous faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin, Dr. Thomas received his degrees from Friends University (B.A.), Northwestern University (M.M.), and the University of Illinois (D.M.A.). He is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director of honor and all-state choirs throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia.

Dr. Thomas has conducted choirs at the state, division, and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His international conducting credits are extensive. They include conductor and
clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians, summer residency of the World Youth Choir in the Republic of China and the Philippines, winter residency of the World Youth Choir in Europe, and a premier performance by an American choir (The Florida State University Singers) in Vietnam. He has been the guest conductor of such distinguished orchestras and choirs as the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England, and guest conductor for the Berlin Radio Choir in Germany. Since 1988 he has also served as artistic director of the Tallahassee Community Chorus.

Dr. Thomas has also distinguished himself as a composer and arranger. Hinshaw Music Company, Mark Foster Music Company, Fitzsimmon Music Company, Lawson Gould, Earthsongs, and Heritage Music Company publish his compositions and arrangements. Dr. Thomas has produced two instructional videos: *What They See Is What You Get* on choral conducting, with Rodney Eichenberger, and *Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice* on adolescent voices, with Anton Armstrong. He is a past president of the Florida ACDA, and the past president of the southern division of ACDA.

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**Founded in 2008 by esteemed choral and orchestral conductor Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Distinguished Concerts Orchestra (DCO) is the resident orchestra for Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY), the city’s preeminent producer of choral and orchestral concerts in New York’s most prestigious concert venues. The DCO is comprised on the top NYC-area orchestral musicians, including graduates of Juilliard, The Manhattan School of Music, The New England Conservatory, and Boston Conservatory. Many DCO players who have left New York have gone on to permanent posts in orchestras such as the Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the London Philharmonic. Under the direction of Dr. Griffith and DCINY’s roster of renowned guest conductors, the DCO has been lauded by conductors and reviewers alike for its fresh interpretations, musical subtlety, and virtuosic ensemble playing in performances of choral and orchestral masterworks, as well as adventurous new compositions. Dr. Griffith and the DCO have been awarded the prestigious American Prize in the professional orchestra category in both 2014 and 2015, and are semi-finalists in 2016. Distinguished Concerts Orchestra is driven by passion, innovative vision, a total belief in its artists, and an unwavering commitment to bringing forth an unforgettable musical experience for performer and audience alike.**

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**Distinguished Concerts Singers International (DCSI) forms the backbone of Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY), the city’s preeminent producer of choral and orchestral concerts in New York’s most prestigious concert venues. DCSI is comprised of singers and chorus members from professional, semi-professional, and dedicated amateur ensembles, who have been invited by DCINY to appear on their concert series following a rigorous audition process with DCINY’s artistic team. DCSI can vary in size from between 100 to 500 singers, depending upon the repertoire, and has drawn members from around the world, with 43 countries and six continents represented to date.**
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Chamber Choir of the Alabama Choir School (AL), Doff Proctor, Director
Chancel Choir, First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood (MO), William Stein, Director
*The Choral Society of West Georgia (GA), Elizabeth Biggs, Director
Christchurch City Choir (New Zealand), John Linker, Director
*Crowley ISD Honor Choir (TX), Kathy Chiles, Director
*Discovery Canyon Varsity Choir (CO), MaryAnn Brilleslyper, Director
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Vocal Students of Bridget Warren (TX), Bridget Warren, Director
West Orange High School Concert Choir (FL), Jeffery Redding, Director
And individuals from around the globe

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DCINY 2017 CONCERT SERIES

Monday Evening, March 20, 2017, at 7:00
Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center
Vocal Colors
DCINY Composer Spotlight – The Music of Eric Barnum, Timothy Takach, and John Conahan
Distinguished Concerts Singers International
University of the Incarnate Word Cardinal Chorale (TX)
William Gokelman, Director

Friday Evening, March 24, 2017, at 7:00
Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center
An Evening with Troy Colt Bands
The Troy Jazz Ensemble
The Troy Concert Band
The Troy Symphonic Band
Brian P. Nutting, Director
Sunday Afternoon, April 9, 2017, at 2:00
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
Total Vocal
Deke Sharon, Guest Conductor and Creative Director
Cast Members of Pitch Perfect and Broadway’s In Transit
Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Monday Evening, April 10, 2017, at 7:00
Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center
Green Valley High School Band and Hershey Symphony
Green Valley High School (NV)
Diane Koutsulis, Director
Hershey Symphony (PA)
Sandra Dackow, Director

Sunday Evening, April 30, 2017, at 7:00
David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
Viva La Musica de Argentina
Martin Palmeri: Tango Credo (World Premiere)
Saul Zaks, Guest Conductor
Ariel Ramirez: Misa Criolla
Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor
Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Friday Evening, May 26, 2017, at 7:00
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
Celebration & Reflection
Dieter Wagner, Guest Conductor
Distinguished Concerts Singers International
The Hudson Festival Chorus (OH)
Thomas Scott, Director
Danilo Guanais: Missa de Alçacuz (20th Anniversary)
Vladimir Silva, Director

Sunday Evening, May 28, 2017, at 8:30
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
Brahms’ Requiem
Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor
Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Monday Evening, May 29, 2017, at 7:00
David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
With Strength & Joy
Antonio Vivaldi: Gloria
William Powell, Guest Conductor
Pepper Choplin: Psalm 23: A Journey with The Shepherd
Pepper Choplin, Composer/Conductor
Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Tuesday Evening, May 30, 2017, at 7:00
Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall
Ian Gindes, Pianist
Sunday Afternoon, June 4, 2017, at 2:00
David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
**Portraits of Healing**
Tyler's Suite
Tim Seelig, *Guest Conductor*
Ann Hampton Callaway, *Soprano*
Kellan Christopher, *Tenor*
The Music of Ola Gjeilo
James M. Meaders, *DCINY Associate Artistic Director and Conductor*
Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Sunday Afternoon, June 11, 2017, at 2:00
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
**The Music of Vaughan Williams**
Ralph Vaughan Williams: Sancta Civitas
Craig Jessop, *Guest Conductor*
Ralph Vaughan Williams: Dona Nobis Pacem
Nina Nash-Robertson, *Guest Conductor*
Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Saturday Evening, June 17, 2017, at 7:00
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
**Song/Play**
Alberto Grau: La Doncella
Cristian Grases, *Guest Conductor*
Alberto Grau: La Avispa Brava (World Premiere)
María Guinand, *Guest Conductor*
Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Distinguished Concerts Singers International
Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra (NC)
Ernest Pereira, *Director*

Monday Evening, June 26, 2017, at 7:00
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall
**Canta! Canta! Canta!**
The Music of Francisco Núñez
Francisco Núñez, *Composer/Conductor*
Distinguished Concerts Singers International
Cabrillo College (CA)
John D. Anderson, *Director*
Cheryl M. Anderson, *Director*

For DCINY's full season listing, visit www.DCINY.org

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