

PRESENTS

THE MUSIC OF **DINOS CONSTANTINIDES**

WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 AT 8:00 PM



Dinos Constantinides, Composer

DISTINGUISHED CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director

Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

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Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)

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Presents

THE MUSIC OF DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

Featured Artists

Maria Asteriadou, Piano
KU Chamber Players,
Peter Isaacson, Conductor
Johanna Cox Pennington, English Horn
Kurt Nikkanen, Violin
Esther Waite, Flute
Gabriela Werries, Harp

Sandra Moon, Soprano
Christopher Lowry, Viola
Caio Diniz, Cello
Perla Fernandez, Violin
Mireille Lopez, Violin
Luis Casal, Violin
Isaac Casal, Cello

Program

Piano Concerto No. 2 (*Grecian Variations*) for Piano and Chamber Orchestra, LRC 261
(15 min.)

Maria Asteriadou, Piano
KU Chamber Players, Peter Isaacson, Conductor

***Threnos of Creon* for English Horn and String Orchestra, LRC 218** (12 min.)

Johanna Cox Pennington, English Horn
KU Chamber Players, Peter Isaacson, Conductor

Concertino - *Mountains of Epirus* for Violin and String Orchestra, LRC 72 (12 min.)

- I. At the Village
- II. Country Fair

Kurt Nikkanen, Violin
KU Chamber Players, Peter Isaacson, Conductor

Intermission

Concerto for Flute, Harp, and Orchestra - Piano Version, LRC 268b (13 min.)

- I. Reflections
- II. Hymn
- III. Dance

Esther Waite, Flute
Gabriela Werries, Harp
Maria Asteriadou, Piano

***Reflections II* for Voice and Viola, LRC 86a (15 min.)**

Poetry: "How Do I Love Thee?" by Elizabeth Browning

Sandra Moon, Soprano
Christopher Lowry, Viola

***Kaleidoscope Fantasy* for Solo Cello, LRC 26 (12 min.)**

Caio Diniz, Cello

***Hellenic Dance* for Two Violins and Viola, LRC 15b (5 min.)**

Perla Fernandez, Violin
Mireille Lopez, Violin
Christopher Lowry, Viola

Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra - Piano Version, LRC 275b (14 min.)

- I. Assemblages
- II. Tender Conversation
- III. Finale

Luis Casal, Violin
Isaac Casal, Cello
Maria Asteriadou, Piano

Program Notes

By Dinos Constantinides

Piano Concerto No. 2 is a modal work based on a famous Greek folk tune. It is extremely rhythmically energetic, with a harmonic language that uses chord planning and bitonal effects. The piece was published in Greece by Editions Philippe Nakas as a solo piano piece and it is distributed by Magni Publications. The present work is an extension of the original Op.1, Theme and Variations for solo piano. It employs chamber orchestra and it is expanded in its thematic and harmonic language. It is published by Magni Publications. This concerto is dedicated to the Greek pianist Maria Asteriadou.

Threnos of Creon for English Horn and String Orchestra, LRC 218 was written for and dedicated to oboist Sarah Mueller, who gave its world premiere with the Louisiana Sinfonietta at the George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium, Washington DC, on May 23, 2004. The music derives from the last portion of the composer's opera *Antigone*. It depicts the state of mind of King Creon at a time when he had lost everything in life: children, wife, and the respect of the citizens of his kingdom Thebes. It is a lament throughout the work, portraying resignation, sadness, and drama.

Concertino - Mountains of Epirus for Violin and String Orchestra, LRC 72 was written in memory of the composer's mother and father. The piece is modal and employs characteristics of Greek rhythm, syncopated figurations, and polychordal sonorities. The composition was originally written for violin and piano. The work was premiered in 1980, with the composer as soloist, at the celebration of the North and South American Orthodox Church. Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Senator Edward Kennedy, the Mayor of Atlanta, and others officials were among the audience of 5000. The members of the orchestra were drawn from Georgia State University.

My composition ***Concerto for Flute, Harp, and Orchestra - Piano Version, LRC268b***, is written for and dedicated to Iris Derke and DCINY in celebration of their ten-year anniversary in 2018. Iris suggested the work be a companion of the famous Concerto for Flute, Harp, and Orchestra by W.A. Mozart, but with Greek ideas against a backdrop of my native country, Greece. I used some materials from my past work in new combinations. For instance, in the first movement, "Reflections," a whole tone figure stated by the flute and harp as well as some cadences are drawn from an old work of mine using the poetry of the great contemporary poet Constantine Kavafis. The second movement, "Hymn," employs the Delphic Hymn, dated from around 200 B.C. and found in Delphi. I used this music for an LSU theatre production of Sophocles' play *Oedipus Rex*, directed by Bill Harbin. The final movement, "Dance," is a setting of traditional Greek dances that share their modal quality and lively, mixed meter rhythms. In reality, the entire piece is derived from my background as a Greek musician.

Reflections II for Voice and Viola, LRC 86a is a setting of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's immortal poem "How Do I Love Thee?" The composer tried to convey the dramatic and passionate ideas of the poem through word painting. Both parts, voice and viola, employ very expressive lines. This piece was written for soprano Rosaline Rees and violist Jerzy Kosmala, who presented the work in Stuttgart, Germany, at the International Viola Congress in June 1982. This work received First Prize, the Glen Award, at L'Ensemble Competition. *Reflections* is a series of works written for chamber groups and voice. The music evokes images based on either the composer's past experiences or the poetry.

Kaleidoscope Fantasy for Solo Cello, LRC 26 is a concise version of an earlier multimedia work entitled "Kaleidoscope for Soprano, violin, cello, piano, and two slide projectors." About this latter work the composer wrote: "For a long time I have had the desire to work with 'multimedia', and conceived the idea of writing this specific composition after studying some children's paintings. These paintings were done entirely through instinct with very little regard for the traditional methods, which stem from education and experience. They gave me certain impressions, which I felt could be transformed into musical sounds. The slides were done from the paintings or a portion of them and give no clear images. They create certain color moods. The words of colors and certain vague images were transformed into two letter series (twenty-four letters of the alphabet) which themselves stand for certain pitches. Two letters, "j" and "z", represent a slide-effect upwards and downwards respectively. These two series pervade the entire work." The final version of the work is a composition for solo cello that is presented today.

Hellenic Dance for Two Violins and Viola, LRC 15b was initially commissioned by my violist friend Yiannis Vatikiotis who was at that time the violist of the Hellenic Trio. My first work of the piece was done in 1970, using as material Greek modes and rhythms. Actually, it uses at the very beginning very clearly the Phrygian mode. Sometimes moves to other modes, but basically the Phrygian mode is very prominent. The form of the piece clearly A-B-A, in which the B section is slower than the A. The piece keeps fast tempos at the beginning, because of its virtuoso, colorful and rhythmic nature. This piece was commissioned by the Baton Rouge String Trio, who premiered the piece in 1970.

Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra - Piano Version, LRC 275b was completed for Isaac and Luis Casal in June of 2017. It was composed in memory of Essy Casal, the mother of the Casal brothers. It was commissioned by the Festival Alfredo De Saint Malo to be presented in Panama in 2018. This work is based upon the personal experiences and associations of the composer. In all sections, the entire composition is a constant transformation of a single motive that the composer remembers from his youth when he played violin for the Greek cinema. Divided into three parts, the piece portrays three different scenes of simple, everyday happenings.



Meet the Artists

Dinos Constantinides is presently Boyd Professor, the highest academic rank at Louisiana State University, and head of the Composition area. 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, Nuernberger 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 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.

His music has drawn praise from *Fanfare* magazine which has written, “Constantinides’s Symphony (No. 2) is a splendid work—an eclectic blend of styles that effortlessly coheres, and produces a highly satisfying synthesis unique to this composer.” The New York Times has stated, “His 1977 setting of the text by Sophocles, the *Lament of Antigone*, in a New York premiere, proved a solemn, impassioned utterance,” and London’s Opera magazine wrote, “On first hearing one was struck by the beauty of much of the choral writing...complex and often arresting score.”

This is DCINY’s 12th presentation of the music of Dinos Constantinides.



Heralded as “an artist with intense personality, virtuosic flair, unusual poise and intimate contact with style” by The New York Times, Greek pianist and Steinway artist, **Maria Asteriadou** is an acclaimed soloist, chamber musician and pedagogue. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music, Maria Asteriadou has appeared in recitals and as soloist with orchestras playing in major concert halls in 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, among others.

A devoted chamber musician, Dr. Asteriadou has participated as a guest artist/faculty member at many festivals in the United States and abroad. Her enthusiasm for contemporary music has resulted in prestigious premieres and recordings on the BIS label by many of Greece’s most prominent composers. Maria Asteriadou is Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at Kutztown University and piano faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, Precollege Division. She is also the artistic director of the Kutztown University Summer Chamber Music Festival.



Peter Isaacson, Director of the Kutztown University Orchestra and Assistant Professor of violin holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky, a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. Over the last decade, Dr. Isaacson has served as conductor for the Hardin-Simmons University Orchestra, Abilene Collegiate Orchestra, Abilene Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Faculty Chamber Orchestra at Encore/Coda, and as a guest conductor with the Abilene

Philharmonic. During his tenure at Hardin-Simmons University, he directed productions of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, *Il Impresario*, Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Die Fledermaus* by Strauss and Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

As an active performer, Dr. Isaacson has performed with the Kutztown Chamber Music Festival, the Abilene Chamber Players, Soundscapes, the Lenape Chamber Ensemble, Craftsbury Chamber Players and the Absolute Ensemble in New York City. He has also performed on the Musica Viva concert series, the Focus Festival, Music at Marvin, San Angelo Museum concerts and the Wednesdays at One concert series in Alice Tully Hall. His performances have been broadcast on the Woodsongs Radio Hour and WRGV Public Radio in Georgetown, Kentucky. Dr. Isaacson has recorded chamber works by Josef Rheinberger for Centaur Records and has performed concerts with the Abilene Chamber Players in London, England, the Ambrosianum Foundation at the Sala Falck and the Conservatorio di Milan in Milan, Italy.



The **KU Chamber Players** is the elite ensemble of Kutztown University, established in 2015 as the main chamber orchestra of the University with the intention of performing a variety of music from different periods and encompassing a wide gamut of styles, with or without conductor. Founded to advance both chamber music and individual performance skills, the Chamber Players' model is inherently versatile and mobile because of its compact size and serves as a musical ambassador representing the quality of the music department at

Kutztown University. The Chamber Players have given exciting performances with young talented musicians both from the University and other institutions, including

the Curtis Institute, Manhattan School of Music, and Columbia University, as well as KU faculty members. They perform regularly in retirement communities, high schools and festivals including the Cape May Summer Festival. The 2019 season will include performances with renown guest artists Kurt Nikkanen and Daniel Gaisford and marks the inception of its Educational Outreach Program for public elementary and middle schools throughout the region.

KU Chamber Players: Alejandro Ortega, Jennifer Rubio, Lydia Harris, Esther Brink, Nicolás Gómez Amín, Laura Salcie Oliviedo, Mary Grace Harris, Alexis Hartman, Abdiel Cruz, Brendan Bordick-Lesavage, Margaret McFadden, Laura Keim, Ethan Gallagher, Sophia Tornay, Michael Shefflin, Adriana Howden, Kim Webster, Rebecca Deller, Peyton Williams, Benjamin Jones, Valerie Trollinger, Anthony Delp, Christopher Rimanic, Christina Baker, Katherine McGrath, Brock Heckman, Noah Adams, Douglas McCaskey



An acclaimed performer and teacher, **Johanna Cox Pennington** has been the oboe professor at Louisiana State University School of Music since 2011 and a member of the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra since 2002. A graduate of Northwestern University and the Eastman School of Music, Pennington was chosen for Eastman's Freiburg Exchange Program which took her to Germany to study with soloist Heinz Holliger at the Freiburg Musikhochschule. Of her solo debut at Carnegie Hall in 2005, the New York Concert

Review stated, "...her technique is absolutely first rate, Miss Cox played with beautiful tone, even in the highest register and at the loudest dynamic. She is an oboist that any orchestra would be fortunate to have on its roster." Pennington won her first concerto competition in her hometown of Rochester, NY at age 17 and was a featured soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. She can be heard on Albany Records with the Prairie Winds and the Musical Arts Quintet. A spirited musician, Ms. Pennington has performed with many notable orchestras including the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Chicago Symphony. She has taught oboe clinics, given master classes, performed as concerto soloist with orchestra and in recitals at major universities, taking her in recent years to Europe, South America, Asia and throughout the U.S. Ms. Pennington is a productive, highly accomplished performer and researcher whose substantial progress in performing and commissioning music was one of the many reasons she was awarded a prestigious ATLAS grant (Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars) from the Louisiana Board of Regents. Albany Records released her first solo CD, "Orion Nocturne," in August

of 2018, which includes music she commissioned and premiered. “Johanna will have a positive impact on the world of music, on those who study with her, as well as those who hear her perform.” —Eastman School of Music.



American violinist **Kurt Nikkanen** is an international soloist of the highest order. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, he began his violin studies at the age of three, later studying with Roman Totenberg and Jens Ellerman. At twelve he gave his Carnegie Hall debut, performing with the New York Youth Symphony; two years later he was invited by Zubin Mehta to perform the Paganini Concerto No.1 with the New York Philharmonic for a Young People's Concert. He studied with Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School. Nikkanen regularly receives invitations from leading orchestras and presenters in the USA and Europe, and has toured Japan and the Far East. He has worked with many of the world's most renowned conductors, including Hirokami, Jarvi, Kreizberg, Fischer, Litton, and Nelsons. In North America he has appeared with the symphonies of Dallas, Saint Louis, Detroit, the Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Cleveland Orchestra, and in Europe with the BBC Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Rotterdam Philharmonic, and the Dresden Staatskapelle. Nikkanen is presently the concertmaster of the New York Ballet Symphony Orchestra.



Esther Waite is associate professor of flute at Bob Jones University (Greenville, SC). She directs the University Flute Choir, teaches several woodwind courses, and serves as the woodwind program coordinator. Dr. Waite received her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in flute performance at Louisiana State University, where she held the teaching assistantship for Katherine Kemler's flute studio. Her interest in Russian composers led to her doctoral dissertation topic of the 1960 flute sonata by the Soviet composer Edison Denisov. She also holds a master's degree from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she was a teaching assistant for Tadeu Coelho. Dr. Waite plays orchestral flute and piccolo throughout the Upstate of South Carolina, and has appeared as a soloist with Camerata Panamá and the Louisiana Sinfonietta. She has given workshops

on extended techniques and coached chamber music at several summer music programs, including Musica Piccola (Winston-Salem, NC), LSU Honors Chamber Winds Camp (Baton Rouge, LA), and Inspiration and Praise Flute Masterclass (Greenville, SC). Dr. Waite has served as president of the South Carolina Flute Society.



Gabriela Werries, originally from Bucharest, Romania, began her harp studies at the age of 10 at the George Enescu Music High School. She received her bachelor degree in harp performance from the Music University of Bucharest in 2004. After teaching harp in Romania for several years, she came to the United States in 2006 to pursue her master's degree in harp performance. While completing a doctorate in harp performance, she taught harp at Louisiana State University's Performing Arts Academy, and upon graduation became the teacher at LSU's harp studio. Dr. Werries is an accomplished

solo performer and also has experience playing in orchestral settings (including Opera Louisiane, Louisiana Sinfonietta, Baton Rouge Symphony, Acadiana Symphony of Lafayette, LA, and the Gulf Coast Symphony of Biloxi, MS). She has appeared as soloist with orchestras in Romania and the US, and has won multiple harp competitions in Romania and Bulgaria, as well as concerto competitions in the U.S.



American soprano **Sandra Moon** made her professional debut in the role of Frasquita in Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's staging of *Carmen* with Placido Domingo at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Her first engagement in Europe was at the Stadttheater in Aachen where she sang such roles as Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Pamina, Susanna, Oscar, and Norina. From 1992 - 1997 Sandra was engaged at the Badisches Staatstheater in Karlsruhe where her repertoire was extended to such roles as Mimi, Liu, Manon, Donna Anna, Adina, Fiordiligi, and Maria

Stuarda. At Munich's Gärtnerplatz Theater, where she was engaged from 1997 until 2012, some of her roles included Violetta, Butterfly, Giovanna d'arco, Amalia in *I Masnadieri*, Martha, Agathe, and Alice Ford. Her extensive repertoire of over 100 roles has led her to other cities including Düsseldorf, Cologne, Berlin, Dresden, Paris, Warsaw, Mallorca, Zürich, and Vienna.

Sandra Moon made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the role of Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with James Levine conducting. She has since sung at the Met in roles such as Cleopatra in Händel's *Giulio Cesare*, Flower Maiden in *Parsifal*, and Zdenka next to Renee Fleming's Arabella. In 2005 she made her Carnegie Hall debut with the role of Ännchen in *Der Freischütz* under the baton of Eve Queler and the Opera Orchestra of New York. While working in Europe, Sandra has been able to focus on baroque repertoire. She has sung in the Händel Festivals of Karlsruhe and Halle, as well as the Dresden Music Festival. Some of her baroque repertoire includes the Bach *Passions*, as well as the roles of Asteria in *Tamerlano*, Onoria in *Amadigi*, Fulvia in *Ezio*, and Emilia in Ferrandini's *Catone in Utica* which has been released on Oehms Classic CD. Sandra Moon is a native of Dayton, Ohio and received her musical training from the Cincinnati-Conservatory of Music as well as being in the young artist programs of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Sante Fe Opera. Sandra Moon is currently Assistant Professor of Voice at Louisiana State University. She recently tackled the massive role of Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's *Master Class*.



Nashville native **Christopher Lowry** is emerging as one of the leading violists and most performed composers of his generation. A two-time prizewinner in the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, Grand Prize winner in the 2015 Lewisville Lake Symphony International String Competition, winner of the 2017 Sousa/ABA/Ostwald Composition Award, and first prize winner of Cuarteto Jose White's 2018 "Nuestra America" Award, Lowry has won awards in many local and national concerto competitions as well as composition competitions such as the Dallas Winds Fanfare Contest, The

American Prize in Composition, World Projects Composition Competition, Salford International Composers Contest, NAFME Composition Competition, and Anton Stadler International Bass Clarinet Composition Competition. Lowry has appeared as soloist with the Lewisville Lake Symphony, Acadiana Symphony, Louisiana Sinfonietta, Nashville Sinfonietta, LSU Symphony and Philharmonia, University of Maine Symphony Orchestra, Vanderbilt University Orchestra, and Eastern Music Festival Orchestra, among others. Lowry is currently principal violist with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, violist of the Lagniappe Trio, and guest violist for the Carlos Chavez String Quartet (Mexico City).

Lowry's music has been recorded by the Brno Philharmonic for Ablaze Records and performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Studebaker

Theater, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, and the Ryman Auditorium by ensembles such as the Nashville Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Imperial Symphony, Nashville Philharmonic, Louisiana Sinfonietta, LSU Symphony, and Vanderbilt Wind Symphony, among many others. Lowry's self-recorded/produced debut solo CD, *The Viola in the Twenty-First Century*, features his own music in addition to pieces by Peter Dayton and Christopher Hallum; he can also be heard performing the music of Dinos Constantinides on Magni Publications. Lowry holds both a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master's degree from LSU and a Bachelor's Degree from Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. His primary viola instructors include Elias Goldstein, Kathryn Plummer, and Mary Helen Law; his principle composition instructors include Dinos Constantinides, Michael Alec Rose, Michael Kurek, Michael Slayton, and Stan Link.



Caio Alves Diniz is a Brazilian cellist born in the year 1994 in João Pessoa, PB. He began his early studies at age eight under the mentorship of Professor Felipe Avellar de Aquino at the Federal University of Paraíba, and of his own father, Albergio Diniz. Since the beginning of his career, Caio has been an avid performer - debuting at the age of 16 when he toured the state of Pernambuco performing Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* with the symphony orchestra of the Conservatório Pernambucano de Música. At age 17 Caio Diniz became a member of the renowned Quinteto da Paraíba. With the group, he traveled around Brazil to perform in significant events such as

the Virada Cultural de São Paulo and 100 years of Gonzagão. During his time with the Quintet, Caio shared the stage with artists like Chico César, Lucy Alves, and DuOfel.

Caio Alves Diniz moved to the United States in 2013, where he has earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from the Louisiana State University (LSU) in the studio of Professor Dennis Parker. Throughout his time at LSU, Mr. Diniz earned multiple awards for his playing and musicianship. For two consecutive years (2014, 2015) he was the recipient of the Baton Rouge Philharmonic Music Club Scholarship. In 2016, he received the Ms. Carruth Jones Award, given by the Music Club of Baton Rouge, and 3rd prize in the 2016 LSU Concerto Competition. Later that year, Mr. Diniz led the Orquestra Municipal de João Pessoa in the performance of Shostakovich's first Cello concerto. In 2017 he went on to win First Prize in the 2017 NOLA Chamber Fest Competition.



Originally from Xalapa, Mexico, **Perla Fernández** holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University. She is currently a violinist with the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra as well as a professor of violin at both the Universidad Veracruzana and the Higher Musical Education Institute from the State of Veracruz. She moved to the United States in 2012 as a Fulbright Scholar and received her Master of Music Degree from the University of Maine in Orono, where her principal teacher was Dr. Anatole Wieck. In Mexico, she served as Concertmaster of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Sonora, teacher of the Youth Orchestra of Sonora, and violinist of the Symphonic Orchestra of Sinaloa. Perla had her solo debut with the Youth Orchestra of the State of Veracruz, performing Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1. She was a member of the first generation of students who graduated from the Higher Musical Education Institute from the State of Veracruz, where she studied with Manuel Lozano and Carlos Marrufo.

Fernández was a violinist in the Louisiana Sinfonietta. Perla has performed in Europe, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and the U.S. She has also participated in Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Tennessee, 2015; Monteux School of Conductors, Maine, 2013; Musica en Compostela Festival, Spain, 2013; and Alfredo Saint Malo Festival, Panama, 2010. She was a Faculty Member of the MESDA Group (Music Education for Social Development Agency) during the Festival “Acordes de Esperanza” in Barahona, Dominican Republic. Passionate about chamber music, she took Second Prize in the National Chamber Music Competition with the group “Quinteto Xalapa,” Mexico City, 2014; she also was a jury member of the Mateo Oliva National Chamber Music Competition, Naolinco, Mexico, 2015. Perla has been violin and chamber music teacher at the Naolinco International Music Festival from 2016 to 2019.



Originally from Orizaba, **Mireille Lopez** began her violin studies with Professor Iris Arellano and completed her degree with the highest average of her generation in the Facultad de Musica of the Universidad Veracruzana under the tutelage of the Italian maestro Rino Brunello. In recent years, she has also received instruction from maestro Kees Hulsmann in Holland and master classes with Theodora Geraets and Kati Sebestyen, among others. She has attended numerous important national and international courses and festivals, such as the Bay View Music Festival in Michigan; Youth Orchestra of the Americas (YOA), under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel; Instrumenta Festival; Chamber

Music Festival of San Miguel de Allende; Académie Musicale de Morges, Switzerland; Festival do Inverno of Campos do Jordao, Brazil, in which she served as concertmaster of the orchestra; and recently in the University Courses of Spanish Music in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. She has performed as a soloist on several occasions with orchestras such as the Youth Symphony of the State of Veracruz, Symphony of the School of Music of the UV, Chamber Orchestra of the SEV, Chamber Orchestra of Xalapa, OSUAEH, and Orquesta Sinfonica de Xalapa. As a teacher she has taught at the EMBA, in the port of Veracruz, in addition to private lessons. Since 2006, she has been a member of the Orquesta Sinfonica de Xalapa, as well as a dedicated chamber musician with various ensembles, among which the "Trio de Cuatro" stands out in recent years. She is currently studying for a Master's degree in Humanistic Education.



One of Panama's leading violinists and violists, **Luis Casal** was awarded "Remarkable Citizens of Panama 2015" by Panama's National Commission Pro Civic Values and Morals. The Panama News cites: "Panama does have a worthy classical scene, and right at the top of it we find Luis Enrique Casal." He is vice president of the Sinfonía Concertante Foundation of Panama, an honorary academic adviser to the Alfredo Saint Malo Music Festival, and viola instructor at The Juilliard School's Music Advancement Program (MAP), violin/viola instructor at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, the

Washington Heights Community Conservatory of Fine Arts, and the Opportunity Music Project. He has performed and/or given master classes in the Bahamas, England, France, Japan, Italy, Spain, the United States, and Uruguay.

Mr. Casal has held the position of Principal Violist ad honorem of the National Symphony of Panama, Principal Violist of the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra, Concertmaster of the Butler Symphony Orchestra in Butler, Pennsylvania, and guest concertmaster of the Altoona Symphony Orchestra. He is co-founder and member of the Camerata Alfredo De Saint Malo, and currently performs as concertmaster of the Camerata Washington Heights, principal second violin of the Musica De Camara String Orchestra (New York), principal violist of the Metro Chamber Orchestra, and violist of the Paramount Chamber Players. Recent commitments have included performances and tour with his brother Isaac's project, Ensemblast. Mr. Casal is also enthusiastic about collaborating with modern composers having premiered pieces by Dinos Constantinides, Carlos Bernal, Alexandra Dubois, Jorge Figueroa, Mikolaja Gorecki, Howard Lew, Ricardo Risco, and Bartosz Smoragiewicz.



Isaac Casal served as member of the Louisiana Sinfonietta Chamber Orchestra under the renowned composer and conductor Dinos Constantines. In 2003 he became the first Panamanian to join the Youth Orchestra of the Americas (YOA) international tours performing alongside renowned conductors such as Carlos Miguel Prieto, Isaac Karabtchevsky, Valery Gergiev, Benjamin Zander, Gustavo Dudamel, and Plácido Domingo. At the age of 25, Isaac founded Sinfonía Concertante Foundation of Panama (FUNSINCOPA). He is also the Artistic Director and founder of the Alfredo Saint-Malo

Music Festival of Panama (ASMF), an annual one-week festival that saw its inception on May 25, 2007 and has become one of the most important music festivals of the Central American region. In June 2015, the ASMF received the award “Anita Villalaz,” granted by the Anita Villalaz Panama national cultural award commission. In April 2016, Isaac received an award for his “Cultural Achievements” by the Youth Orchestra of The Americas. In May 2015, Isaac received the award “Ciudadanos Notables de Panama 2015” (Remarkable Citizens of Panama 2015), granted by the Panama’s National Commission of Pro Civic Values and Morals. In 2013, he was invited to participate by the Salzburg Global Seminar to the “Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Leaders II.” In 2012, he received the Hildegard Behrens Foundation Young Artist Humanitarian Award. In the same year, the Junior Chamber International of Panama City awarded Isaac the Outstanding Musician in the Culture category. He has degrees from Florida International University, Baylor University, and Southern Methodist University, where he earned the prestigious Artist Certificate as a student of Andres Diaz in May 2010 and in 2015 his Doctoral in Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University under the virtuoso cellist Dennis Parker. Presently, he is Visiting Cello Professor at the University of Panama School of Music.

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2019-2020 DCINY Season

Friday, October 4, 2019

Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall

DCINY ARTIST SERIES

Elzbieta Wolenska, Flute

Zhang Moru, Piano

Monday, October 14, 2019

Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall

DCINY ARTIST SERIES

Loralee Songer, Soprano

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Sing! Christmas Dreams

Martin and Sorenson: *Christmas Dreams* (NY Premiere)

Joseph M. Martin, Composer/Conductor

Heather Sorenson, DCINY Composer-in-Residence
and Piano

Martin: *Christmas Evergreen*

Joseph M. Martin, Composer/Conductor

McDonald and Raney: *Sing Christmas*

Mary McDonald, Composer/Conductor

Joel Raney, DCINY Composer-in-Residence and Piano

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and
Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

The Holiday Music Of Eric Whitacre

Join Eric and the Distinguished Concerts Singers and
Orchestra in a festive matinee featuring new takes on
classics such as *Carol of the Bells*, *O Christmas Tree*,
Christmas Time is Here, *Silent Night*, *Lux Aurumque*, and
many more.

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and
Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Messiah... Refreshed!

George Frideric Handel: *Messiah*

Thomas Beecham/Eugene Goossens' 1959 Re-

Orchestration for full symphony orchestra

Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director
and Principal Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and

Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Pre-Concert Holiday Handbell Music

The Great Christmas Ring

Kevin McChesney, Conductor

Monday, December 2, 2019

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

The Holiday Music of Mark Hayes and Pepper Choplin

Hayes: *Magnificat*

Selections of Holiday Favorites

Mark Hayes, Composer/Conductor

Choplin: *Heaven's Child*

Pepper Choplin, Composer/Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and

Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Monday, January 20, 2020

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

The Music of Sir Karl Jenkins

Jenkins: *The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace*

(20 Year Anniversary)

Jenkins: *Miserere: Songs of Mercy and Redemption*

(North American Premiere)

Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director

and Principal Conductor

Sir Karl Jenkins, CBE, DCINY Composer-in-Residence

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and

Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall

DCINY ARTIST SERIES

Rachel Holmes, Soprano

2020 DCINY Season, continued

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Perpetual Light

Rutter: *Requiem*

Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director
and Principal Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and
Distinguished Concerts Singers International

The Music of Worthington, Gottschalk, and others

Miran Vaupotic, Guest Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra

Monday, February 17, 2020

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Who Are The Brave: Music in Honor of President's Day

The Music of Mack Wilberg

Mack Wilberg, Composer/Conductor

The Music of Joseph Martin

Joseph M. Martin, Composer/Conductor

Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*

Hanson: *Song of Democracy*

Robert Istad, Guest Conductor

Christopher W. Peterson, Guest Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and
Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Monday, March 16, 2020

Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center

The Music of Ola Gjeilo

Brian Schmidt, Guest Conductor

Cameron LaBarr, Guest Conductor

Ola Gjeilo, DCINY Composer-in-Residence, Piano

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Monday, March 23, 2020

David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center

Calling All Dawns: The Music of Christopher Tin and Dan Forrest

Forrest: *Jubilate Deo*

Warren Cook, Guest Conductor

Tin: *Calling All Dawns*

Christopher Tin, Composer/Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and

Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Joliet Township High School Band

Don Stinson, Director

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Total Vocal with Deke Sharon

A celebration of contemporary A Cappella with singers
from all over the world. Join arranger/producer Deke
Sharon, along with music from 'Pitch Perfect' and 'The
Sing-Off' for this exciting annual event at Carnegie Hall!

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Sounds of a New Generation

The Music of Greg Gilpin

Greg Gilpin, Composer/Conductor

Music for Women's Voices

Janet Galván, Guest Conductor

Nuria Fernández Herranz, Guest Conductor

Featuring Distinguished Concerts Singers International

Diamond Bar High School Band

Steve Acciani, Director

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