

*Concerto of Psalms for Violin and Clarinet with Orchestra (1999)*

Dinos Constantinides

1. *From the Heart Out of the depths...*
2. *Eternal Song The heavens declare...*
3. *Paeon Praise ye...*

"The *Concerto of Psalms* was commissioned by Elsa and Walter Verdehr, professors of music at Michigan State University and members of the famed Verdehr Trio. The work was inspired by three Psalms: No. 19, 130, and 150 respectively. The entire composition is controlled by a series of vertical sonorities which appear in various transpositions and instrumental combinations throughout the work.

The first movement is rhapsodic in character and uses a great deal of instrumental color. A haunting opening leads to a quasi-religious modal chant in the solo clarinet. It is followed by a restless middle section and then the movement returns to its initial meditative mood. The second movement begins with quotations of Mozart works, leading to a lyrical celestial tune sung by both solo instruments. The finale is an exuberant, happy work, full of rhythms and intricate solo passages for the soloists. In the middle of the movement, a returning quasi-passacaglia section contrasts with the dance-like opening and leads to the modal chant of the first movement along with an eastern-like tune, ending in a frenzied conclusion."

—Dinos Constantinides

The world premiere of *Concerto of Psalms* was on November 14, 1999 with the Louisiana Sinfonetta, First Baptist Church Orchestra, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with the composer conducting.

Dinos Constantinides (born 1929, Ioannina, Greece) received Diplomas in Theory and Violin at the Greek Conservatory in Athens, Greece and a Diploma in Violin at the Juilliard School. He completed the Master of Music degree at Indiana University and the Ph.D. in composition at Michigan State University. He also studied at Brandeis University, Meadowmount School of Music, and the Athens Conservatory. His teachers included Tony Schultze, Marios Varvoglis, Yannis Papaionnou, Leda Kouroukli, Olga Menjou, George Lykoudis, Ivan Galamian, Dorothy Delay, and Josef Gingold. He was a violinist with the State Orchestra of Athens and the Indianapolis Symphony and he served as concertmaster with the Baton Rouge Symphony.

Constantinides has written over two hundred thirty compositions for all mediums, and his music has been performed throughout the world. He has received rave reviews for his orchestral music performed by numerous orchestras in the United States and other countries including Australia, Bulgaria, China, the Czech Republic, England, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Taiwan. His music has been recorded on over forty CDs.

Constantinides is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prizes in the 1981 Brooklyn College International Chamber Competition and the 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference; he won Grand Prize in the 1997 Delius Composition Contest. He also received the 1985 American New Music Consortium Distinguished Service Award, the 1989 Glen Award of l'Ensemble of New York, the Artist of the Year Award of Louisiana, several Meet the Composer grants, and numerous ASCAP Standard Awards. His teaching achievements include a 1994 White House Commission on Presidential Scholars' Distinguished Teacher Award and a National Foundation for Advancements in the Arts Award.

Constantinides has served on the Board of Directors for the Society of Composers, the College Music Society, the National Composers of the USA, and the Music Teacher National Association. He has been an evaluator for the MacArthur Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

He joined the faculty at Louisiana State University in 1978 and was honored with the Boyd Professorship of Composition, the highest honor bestowed upon professors at LSU, in 1986. He is also Music Director of the Louisiana Sinfonietta and the prestigious Louisiana State University Festival of Contemporary Music.

Additional information is available at <http://wp.music.lsu.edu/faculty-staff/constantinides-dinos/>.