

*Kismet* (1997)

Christodoulos Geogiades

*Oriental Lilt: Allegro gusto*

*Paidouchka: Vivo*

*Ravel & Rachmaninoff Drinking Their Coffee in Istanbul: Andante*

*Mozart's Abduction To The Seraglio: Ala Marcia e brioso*

“‘Destiny/Fate’ relating to the fact that the Greeks—although being the cradle of Western European civilization—still inhabit and nurture an oriental way of existence. And what is more, they feel at home this way. As the poet, Nicos Demou, puts it: ‘Greece is the most oriental part of Europe and the most European part of the Orient.’

This short suite opens with a typical *tsifteteli* dance rhythm. The second movement, *Paidouchka*, is an irregular bar of 5/8 which may have its origins in Bulgarian folk music, although it is much used in Greek dance music and song. The slow third movement is most probably the heart of that oriental world—full of eastern promise and languor. Finally a boisterous Turkish march with clashing cymbals, bass drums and...a hint of Wolfgang Amadeus!

*Kismet* also exists in a piano version. This trio, however, is dedicated to the Verdehr Trio for its World Premiere in Cyprus, March, 1998.”

—Christodoulos Geogiades

The world premiere of *Kismet* was on March 13, 1998 at the Ambassador’s Residence, Larnaca, Cyprus.

Christodoulos Geogiades (born 1943, Cyprus) has been involved with music since an early age. He composed as a child, but when he moved from Cyprus to study and live in Vienna at the age of fourteen, his aspirations as a composer were put on hold and he focused all his energy into mastering the piano and its vast repertoire. He graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music with distinction, and during the course of his study, was awarded a diploma at the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. He then won a scholarship to study at the Moscow Conservatory for two years, after which he completed his studies in New York with Manos Hadjidakis.

As a solo performer, Geogiades has toured widely throughout America, Europe, the Middle and Far East, and Mexico. He records regularly for the BBC and often plays on Radio 3. He has appeared as soloist with the Scottish National Orchestra at the Patras Festival. His many recordings include works by Skalkottas and the Schönberg School, Frescobaldi, Schumann, Poulenc, Manos Hadjidakis, and a song cycle of works by Constantinos Lignos and Geoffrey Alvarez, and settings of poems by Polly Hope.

Geogiades has made eleven programs about music appreciation for Cyprus Television and has worked in collaboration with dancers, singers, and writers as he believes in bringing many art forms together into one work.

In 1989, after a gap of thirty years, he started composing again. He has written over seventy-five works for different forces.