

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES
STRING QUARTETS



DINOS CONSTANTINIDES STRING QUARTETS

String Quartet No. 2 (Mutability), LRC 062 (1979-1998)

The String Quartet No.2 (Mutability) was inspired by the poems of Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Mutability." All its movements center around the idea of constant change, but they are inter-related. The link between them is an old Greek popular tune that is employed throughout the composition. This tune is transformed in many ways and dispersed among the instruments in all the movements of the work. In the last movement, echoes of the Funeral March of Chopin culminate the mood of the entire composition. Movements No.1,2, and 4 are somber in character. They are dramatic and lyrical. Movement No.3 is jubilant, active and highly rhythmic. It is a kind of catharsis for the mood of the other movements. This quartet is a new version of the 1979 work which was premiered at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York the same year.

Dedications for String Quartet, LRC 018 (1970-1981)

Dedications for String Quartet is drawn from the atonal and twelve-tone studies for two violins in the composer's 20th Century Studies for

Two Violins. It is constructed in five short movements or "studies."

String Quartet No. 3, LRC 129 (2004)

String Quartet No.3 was inspired by the poem "Evangeline" by H. W. Longfellow.

Preludes for String Quartet, LRC 163b (1997)

This composition is part of a stage work entitled Dreams, Earth, and Heavens. All three preludes are based on a single musical idea that has been important in the life of the composer. In the first prelude, melodic lines from the First Delphic Hymn (c.138 B.C.) are used. The second prelude is based on palindromic phrases. The final prelude is modal in nature and is derived from his opera, Antigone.

Elegy for K for String Quartet, LRC 206 (2004)

Elegy for K is written for String Quartet or String Orchestra with an added String Bass part. It is dedicated to the memory of a friend of the composer.

String Quartet No. 1, LRC 008 (1967-2003)

String Quartet No. 1 (1967) is a serial work, like most of the composer's compositions from

this period. A figure of six notes pervades the first and third movements of the piece. The first movement is constructed in an imitative manner, ending on a rousing crescendo with superimposed ostinato patterns. The second movement is based on a four-note figure which outlines the interval of a major seventh and interweaves with the six-note figure of the first movement. The last movement is vivid and rhythmic, giving the motives of the first two movements a more energetic interpretation. The piece comes to a rousing close similar to that of the first movement.



DINOS CONSTANTINIDES -

Dinos Constantinides' works have been performed throughout the US, Europe and Asia by prestigious ensembles including the American Symphony Orchestra in New York; the Memphis and New Orleans Symphony Orchestras; the English Chamber Orchestra; the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic in the Czech Republic; the Athens State Orchestra in Greece and the Shenzhen Symphony in China.

He received the first prize in the 1981 Brooklyn

College International Chamber Opera Competition, the 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference, and the 1997 Delius Composition Contest. In 1985 he was honored with the American New Music Consortium Distinguished Service Award and in 1989 with the Glen Award of L'Ensemble of New York. He has received several Meet the Composer grants as well as yearly ASCAP Standard Awards. In 1994, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars honored him with a Distinguished Teacher Award.

Writing for the *New York Times*, Tim Page described Constantinides as a composer whose "music speaks simply, often combining Greek modes... with an attractive quality of ritual mystery." The Romanian newspaper *Cuget Liber* acclaimed; "The music of the Greek-American composer Dinos Constantinides seduced the listeners with its unusual warmth and sincerity." And the late Ernst Krenek described one of his works as follows: "There are many fascinating details...I am much impressed."

As the Director of the prestigious Louisiana State University Festival of Contemporary Music for 22 years, Constantinides presented the top composers of the continent including Carlos Chávez, John

Cage, Milton Babbitt, Karel Husa, and Ernst Krenek among others.

He has written over 250 compositions, most of them published, for all mediums including his opera *Intimations* winner of two Awards, his opera *Antigone* and six symphonies of which the 2nd Symphony earned him the Artist of the Year Award of Louisiana.

Constantinides has served on the Board of Directors of many national societies in the U.S.A., including the Society of Composers (SCI), College Music Society, National Composers of U.S.A. and Music Teacher National Association (MTNA). He is a member of ASCAP and has been an evaluator for the MacArthur Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

He was educated in Greece at the Ioannina, Greek, and Athens Conservatories and in the USA at the universities of Indiana, Michigan State and the Juilliard School. His teachers included Tony Schultze, Marios Varvoglis, Yannis Papaioannou, Leda Kouroukli, Olga Menjou, George Lykoudis, Ivan Galamian, Dorothy DeLay and Josef Gingold. Constantinides was a member of the violin section of the State Orchestra of Athens in Greece for over 10 years, and played

in the Indianapolis Symphony and Baton Rouge Symphony (Concertmaster) in the USA for many years.

He is presently Boyd Professor, the highest academic rank at Louisiana State University, head of the Composition area, and Music Director of the Louisiana Sinfonietta.

SINFONIETTA STRING QUARTET-

This string quartet includes members of the Louisiana Sinfonietta.

The Louisiana Sinfonietta is a professional ensemble of musicians led by composer, conductor, and LSU Boyd Professor Dinos Constantinides. The Sinfonietta maintains a high standard of excellence. The members' credentials include DMA degrees, doctoral candidates, teachers, graduates of the Juilliard School of Music, and former students of such illustrious teachers as Galamian. Many members of the Sinfonietta have performed as soloists with the Sinfonietta and elsewhere. Distinguished guest artists appear with the ensemble frequently. Over the years more than 100 soloists, both locally and nationally known, have appeared with the ensemble.

VALCOUR STRING QUARTET-

The Valcour String Quartet took its name from Valcour Aime, a man who has been called the Louis XIV of Louisiana. During the 19th Century, he oversaw the rebuilding of his family plantation, which produced sugar cane, coffee, and even wine. Aime was a noted patron of the arts, and though his plantation now lies in ruin, he is remembered through this string ensemble. The quartet was a resident ensemble of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. It has been performed extensively in southern Louisiana.

NEVKSY STRING QUARTET-

The quartet originally named the Quinten-Quartet was founded in 1995 by students of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. It is a string quartet based in St. Petersburg, Russia. They are noted for their award-winning performances of Russian music and their performances of contemporary music. One of its founding members, violist Vladimir Bystritsky, arranged in 2002 the recording of two works by Constantinides.

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

STRING QUARTETS



CRC 3037

DDD

String Quartet No. 2 (Mutability),
LRC 062 (1979-1998) (19:20)

Sinfonietta String Quartet

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------|------|
| 1 | I | Slow - Adagio | 5:55 |
| 2 | II | Slow | |
| | | | 3:24 |
| 3 | III | Scherzo - Allegro | 3:37 |
| 4 | IV | Moderato | 6:13 |

Dedications for String Quartet,
LRC 018 (1970-1981) (6:02)

Sinfonietta String Quartet

- | | | | |
|---|-----|--|------|
| 5 | I | | 0:36 |
| 6 | II | | 0:49 |
| 7 | III | | 1:15 |
| 8 | IV | | 1:37 |
| 9 | V | | 1:42 |

10 String Quartet No. 3,
LRC 129 (2004) 11:43

Sinfonietta String Quartet

Preludes for String Quartet,
LRC 163b (1997) (9:04)

Nevsky String Quartet

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---------|------|
| 11 | I | Dreams | 3:35 |
| 12 | II | Earth | 2:50 |
| 13 | III | Heavens | 2:38 |

14 Elegy for K for String Quartet,
LRC 206 (2001) (3:24)

Nevsky String Quartet

String Quartet No. 1,
LRC 008 (1967-2003) (11:39)

Valcour String Quartet

- | | | | |
|----|-----|----------|------|
| 15 | I | Moderato | 3:55 |
| 16 | II | Largo | 4:58 |
| 17 | III | Vivace | 2:44 |

Total Duration: 61:15



Recorded 1997-2008, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Engineered by Bill Kelley. String Quartet No. 1 Engineered by Robert Grace. Cover Design: Lenna Constantinides.