

78TH SEASON OF

CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART | DECEMBER 21, 2019



FROM A WALL STENCIL
GRAY MAINE 1800



East of the River, photo by Ran Biran

PROGRAM

East of the River

Nina Stern and Daphna Mor, directors

Daphna Mor, voice, recorders

Nina Stern, recorders, chalumeau

Ara Dinkjian, oud

Tamer Pinarbasi, kanun

Jesse Kotansky, violin

Tal Mashiach, bass

Shane Shanahan, percussion

Solstice: Darkness Is Your Candle

December 21, 2019 | 3:30 p.m.

West Building, West Garden Court

Komitas Vardapet (1865–1935)

“Groong”

Gusan Sheram (1901–1973)

“Bardezum”

Traditional Moroccan

Text by R. Abraham Haza Girundi (Spain, 13th century)

“Achet Ktana”

Traditional Andalusian

“Lama bada”

Traditional Sephardic

“Adío Querida”

Traditional Bulgarian

Sandansko Horo

Shane Shanahan

Solstice

English, 14th century
(London, British Library, Add. MS 28850, *Robertsbridge Codex*)
Petrone

Traditional Macedonian
Makedonsko Sedenka (Kopanica)

Traditional Bulgarian
Belasicko Horo
Bučimiš

Ara Dinkjian
“Slide Dance”

Traditional Sephardic Song
Instrumental interlude by Kane Mathis
“Hija Mia”

THE ENSEMBLE

East of the River was founded by internationally renowned recorder players Nina Stern and Daphna Mor. The project explores gems of the European classical repertory together with haunting melodies and virtuosic dances of traditions to the East, arranged and interpreted by musicians whose backgrounds include classical, jazz, and world music. Together the music and musicians create the unique blend that is East of the River.

Stern and Mor have appeared as a duo with such varied groups as the New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and world music ensemble Pharaoh’s Daughter. They have performed at the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Music before 1800 concert series, as well as at Bargemusic, Joe’s Pub, and (Le) Poisson Rouge. They have appeared on concert series that include Early Music Now (Milwaukee), San Francisco Early Music Festival Concert Series, the Academy of Early Music (Ann Arbor), and the Five Boroughs Music Festival (New York). Their festival appearances include Connecticut Early Music, Madison Early Music, Seattle Early Music, Indianapolis Early Music, and the Chautauqua Institute. Known for their innovative programming, East of the River was invited for three consecutive years to perform for WQXR/WNYC’s *Live at the Greene Space*. The ensemble has released two albums: *East of the River* and *Levantera*.

PROGRAM NOTES

Solstice: Darkness Is Your Candle

Inspired by ancient communal gatherings celebrating the winter solstice, East of the River explores music of the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Armenia, and the Middle East, presenting the earliest songs and traditional instrumental repertory of these extraordinary cultures. The musicians take the audience on a spiritual journey from the darkest of darks back to light. We begin in a contemplative lunar mood and gradually shift, giving way to daylight and rebirth and highlighting the yearning for new beginnings at the time of the winter solstice. *“Darkness is your Candle...you must have shadow and light source both.”* Rumi

Program note by East of the River

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Eighth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, concerts are held in the West Building, West Garden Court.

Inscape Chamber Orchestra DC Youth Orchestra

Music by Beethoven, Respighi, and Stravinsky.
December 22, 3:30 p.m.

Eunice Kim, violin Xavier Foley, bass

Program includes baroque, Irish, Latin, and contemporary music.

This concert is part of a series of performances by female violinists, showcasing the brilliance and stylistic versatility of the instrument.

January 5, 2020, 3:30 p.m.

Imani Winds Catalyst Quartet

(im)migration

Featuring a new work by Jessie Montgomery inspired by the Great Migration of African Americans.

January 12, 3:30 p.m.

Concerto Italiano

Venezia Roma Napoli

Works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel, Scarlatti, and others.

January 19, 3:30 p.m.

General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

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cover Mildred E. Bent, *Design from Gray, Maine 1800 (no. 1): From Proposed Portfolio “Maine Wall Stencils,” 1935/1942*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Index of American Design, 1943.8.18116

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