78th Season of Concerts
National Gallery of Art | December 21, 2019

From a Wall Stencil
Gray Maine 1800
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)
“Achot Ktana”

Traditional Andalusian
“Lama bada”

Traditional Sephardic
“Adio Querida”

Traditional Bulgarian
Sandansko Horo

Shane Shanahan
Solstice
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.
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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