

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lumen Christi Gospel Choir Invited to Perform Robert Ray's Gospel Mass at Carnegie Hall

New York, N.Y. – May 24, 2018

Outstanding music program
receives special invitation

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) announced today that Lajos Gergó and the Lumen Christi Gospel Choir have been invited to participate in a performance of Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass* on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at Isaac Stern Auditorium in Carnegie Hall under the baton of DCINY Artistic Director, Dr. Jonathan Griffith. These outstanding musicians will join with other choristers from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Dr. Griffith will serve as conductor of the performance and clinician for the residency.

Why the invitation was extended

Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for DCINY states: "The Lumen Christi Gospel Choir received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional quality of their audition recording."

"It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York. These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community's recognition and support."

The singers will spend 5 days and 4 nights in New York City in preparation for their concert. "The singers will spend approximately 9-10 hours in rehearsals over the 5 day residency," says Griffith. "Not all of the time is spent in rehearsals, since there is so much history and culture to see in New York City. However, the performance is the primary purpose for their visit to the city." Members of the community are encouraged to give financial support in sending these singers to New York by contacting Lajos Gergó via email at gergo@inf.elte.hu.

Composer Robert Ray

Dr. Ray received his Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Northwestern University. He has appeared as piano soloist with the Kirkwood Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern University Orchestra, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, and Seoul (Korea) Philharmonic Orchestra. He came to the University of Missouri – St. Louis from the University of Illinois, Urbana, where he served as accompanist coach for the Strings Department and established the Black Student Chorus.

Choruses under his direction have appeared in concert with Ossie Davis, Max Roach, the late James Cleveland, Edwin Hawkins, and many other recording artists. Professor Ray has served as the Repertoire and Standards Chair for Ethnic Music and Multi-Cultural Perspectives for the American Choral Directors Association (Southwestern Division) and has appeared as a lecturer and clinician at numerous universities and colleges, as well as MENC, ACDA, and IAJA conventions. He is the composer of *Gospel Mass* and other works published by Hal Leonard. Recently, he conducted the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in *A Gospel Christmas*, where the orchestra version of his *Gospel Magnificat* was premiered.

Professor Ray served as accompanist for singers William Warfield and Robert McFerrin and is in frequent demand as a speaker, adjudicator, and guest conductor. In 1997, Professor Ray served as guest conductor for the Europa Cantat in Linz, Austria, and in July 2000 he conducted the European Youth Choir for a two week concert tour.

Conductor Jonathan Griffith

Dr. Jonathan Griffith, conductor, co-founder, and artistic director of Distinguished Concerts International New York, is an active conductor, educator, lecturer, and consultant. His conducting credits include the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Salt Lake City; Manhattan Philharmonic and New England Symphonic Ensemble, both in performances at Carnegie Hall; Nova Amadeus Orchestra, Italy; the European Symphony Orchestra, Spain; Bohuslava Martinu Philharmonia and Philharmonia Chorus; Virtuosi Pregensis Chamber Orchestra, Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, and Dvorák Chamber Orchestra, Czech Republic; Bialystok State Philharmonic, Poland; and several regional orchestras and choruses in the U.S. As the conductor of the world premiere of Earnestine Rodgers Robinson's *The Nativity* in Carnegie Hall, he was featured in an interview which aired on National Public Radio's Morning Edition, and also appeared in two recent documentaries about Ms. Robinson and her music—"Hidden Treasure" and "Sounds of a Miracle".

During the summer of 2007 he conducted his ensemble, the Jonathan Griffith Singers, in performances of Verdi's *Requiem* at two historic venues in Italy—the Church of Santa Marie Sopra Minerva in Rome and the Cathedral Duomo in Pisa. He made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 1989. His 45+ Carnegie Hall appearances include the U.S. premieres of BBC's Planet Earth documentaries, and the Master Musicians of Joujouka and most recently was heard on television in *The Last Enemy* (Magnus Fiennes), *The Passion* (Debbie Wiseman), and *Planet Earth* (George Fenton).

DCINY Productions

Founded by Iris Derke and Jonathan Griffith, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) is the leading producer of dynamically charged musical excellence. With its unforgettable concert experiences in renowned venues, empowering educational programs, and its global community of artists and audiences, DCINY changes lives through the power of performance.

Tickets

For more information on tickets, group sales or other special offers, please contact us at 212-707-8566 Ext. 307, or BoxOffice@DCINY.org.

Contact, Interviews, and Photos

To acquire high-resolution images of DCINY performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for media use, interviews, and press requests, please contact Press@DCINY.org.

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