



The Hellenic Society Prometheas

Newsletter 27

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Mark Your Calendar

El Greco at the NY Met up to January 11, 2004

Works of El Greco (Domenikos Theotokopoulos born in Crete in 1541) from all over the world are brought together at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibit opened in November and will be open until January 11, 2004.

Prometheas Dance (Masquerade Ball), February 7, 2004

By popular demand, Prometheas will celebrate APOKRIES and its 25th Anniversary with a traditional dinner/masquerade ball at the Double Tree hotel in Rockville, MD on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004. Music will be provided by Achilleas and Compania ,and Discotheque Internationale. This promises to be a memorable event. Mark your calendar; don't miss it!! More details to follow!

Noteworthy News

Louisiana Sinfonietta announces - Dinos Constantinides

William Zagorski Picks of the Year-Fanfare Magazine-Crystal Recording CD945; Walter Verdehr, violin, Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, clarinet present Double Concertos for Clarinet, Violin, and Orchestra.

"The Verdehr Trio (violin, clarinet, and piano) has been building up an impressive discography on the Crystal label. This offering is Vol. 15 of that series, which boasts the virtues of worthy newly commissioned (by the Verdehr) scores performed with both grace and authority. The composers presented are far from household names, but given the Verdehr's advocacy, they ought to be. This release contains three splendid double concertos for violin and clarinet [Wallace, Constantinides, and Niblock], reducing the Verdehr Trio to a duo with an orchestral backdrop. Each of these three tonal, and for want of a better term, post-Romantic scores made for gratifying listening. I found the Constantinides *Concerto of Psalms* particularly fresh and arresting in its harmonic language and ethnic projection, and the performances by the Verdehr Duo and the two

orchestras faultless."

"I have encountered the music of Dinos Constantinides (b. 1929) before, and found it worthy of further study. He is currently Boyd Professor and Coordinator of Composition at Louisiana State University. His *Concerto of Psalms* alone makes this offering worth acquiring. Its harmonic language and orchestration are stunning and its ethnically Greek flavors are impossible to resist. This is music in the best traditions of Ravel - simultaneously parsimonious and powerful - and its journey from start to finish proceeds with a sureness of both technical and affective control that makes the trip a musical odyssey that far transcends its modes time parameters . Its title brings Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* to mind, and Constantinides hews to that master's minimalism, but with a far warmer and consoling message."

The *Concerto of Psalms* by Dinos Constantinides was commissioned by the Verdehrs and premiered with Louisiana Sinfonietta under the direction of the composer in 1999. The present cd was recorded with the Slovak Radio Orchestra with Jiri Tomasek conducting

Noteworthy Books

- "Alexander the Great, Son of the Gods" by Alan Fildes and Joanne Fletcher, Getty Publications, 2002
- "Mrs Papadakis and Aspasia" by Florence Wetzel, Writers Club Press, 2002