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## RELEASE

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THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRESENTS  
*CALEIDOSCÓPIO!*  
THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR, ROSE OF THE COMPASS & PARTHENIA  
WITH KENT TRITLE & RAYMOND NAGEM, CONDUCTORS



*Concert includes 13<sup>th</sup> century Cantigas de Amigo and symphonies by Leonora Duarte*

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The Cathedral of St. John the Divine's Great Music in a Great Space concert series presents *Caleidoscópico!*, a performance by the Cathedral Choir, Rose of the Compass and Parthenia, **on Monday, May 23 at 7:30pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street).** The concert will be held in person and available to livestream.

The performance invites audience members to sunny Portugal for an exploration of rarely heard works, including the remarkable 13<sup>th</sup> century female-voiced *Cantigas de Amigo*; a Sinfonia by Leonora Duarte (1610-1678), a converso of Portuguese Jewish descent; and sacred and secular works of the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Vicente Lusitano, who was likely the first Black composer published in Europe. Kent Tritle conducts, and organist and Minister of Music at The Brick Presbyterian Church Raymond Nagem, and recorder player and Rose of the Compass director Nina Stern, are featured.

The performance will take place in person at the Cathedral. The concert will also be available livestream on the Cathedral's website on May 23 and for 30 days following the concert, made

possible by a generous grant from NYSCA. Students are eligible for one free ticket at the door with a valid ID. For tickets and more information, [visit the Cathedral's website](#).

All visitors to the Cathedral are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination and wear a mask for entry. For more details and information on all the Cathedral's programs and services, visit [stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org).

### **About the Artists**

**Ara Dinkjian** is an Armenian born in America in 1958. As a child he learned several western and eastern instruments. In 1980 he graduated from the Hartt College of Music, earning the country's first and only special degree in the instrument for which he has become most well-known—the oud (an ancient fretless lute). Dinkjian's groundbreaking and highly influential group Night Ark was among the first world-music fusion ensembles, and recorded four CDs for RCA/BMG and PolyGram/Universal. A renowned composer, Dinkjian's pieces have been recorded throughout the world by acclaimed musicians and singers in 16 different languages. He has given concerts in 24 countries. In 2002, Dinkjian represented Armenia in the *First International Meeting Of The Oud* in Thessaloniki, Greece. His composition "Homecoming" ("Dinata, Dinata") was performed at the closing ceremonies of the 2004 Athens Olympics. He has since recorded twelve CDs of his original music, including three with his current group, The Secret Trio.

**Raymond Nagem** is Minister of Music at The Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, and a member of the organ faculty at Manhattan School of Music, where he teaches organ literature, service playing, and improvisation. He completed his D.M.A. at The Juilliard School in 2016, where he was a student of Paul Jacobs.

A native of Medford, Mass., Dr. Nagem attended the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School and began organ lessons there with John Dunn. He earned his B.A. from Yale University in 2009, studying the organ with Thomas Murray, and his M.A. in 2011 from Juilliard.

Prior to his appointment at Brick, he served for eleven years at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he was Associate Director of Music and Organist. His album *Divine Splendor*, recorded on the Great Organ of St. John the Divine, is available on the Pro Organo label. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring of 2020, Dr. Nagem began a weekly online recital series from the cathedral, *Tuesdays at 6*, featuring a diverse range of music spanning the entire organ repertoire. In his spare time, he enjoys running, cycling, and crossword puzzles.

Born in Turkey, **Tamer Pinarbasi** started his kanun lessons at the age of 10, made his first of hundreds of recordings at 13, with top Turkish artists. Starting age 17, he began concertizing throughout Europe, and he has shared his music with diverse audiences over the years. After years of musical training and thousands of performances throughout the world, Tamer moved to Unites States and branched out to explore Jazz, funk, flamenco, classical and contemporary music that has continued to this day. His diverse recordings reveal the range of his artistry from jazz standards to micro-tonal eastern music with string orchestrations as well as his unique compositions.

Tamer's unique technical approach, playing with all ten fingers rather than the traditional two index finger-strumming, as well as his knowledge of both the eastern micro-tonal (makam) system and western harmony, paved the way for him becoming one of the world's greatest kanun virtuosos. He has also invented a new kanun design, made to suit his unorthodox technique of playing with his fingernails rather than a tortoise-shell pick (mizrab). Since moving to United States, he has continued to develop his compositional and performance styles in many diverse musical environments, including the New York Gypsy All-Stars and The Secret Trio.

As a recording artist and a member of NY Gypsy All Stars and Secret Trio bands, Tamer's most recent CD releases, *Romantech* and *Soundscapes*, feature his distinctive composing and arranging. He is currently touring with NYGAS and Secret Trio around the world; participating in workshops at prestigious institutions; and working on his solo album soon to be released.

**Nina Stern** has carved a unique and extraordinarily diverse career for herself as a world-class recorder player and classical clarinetist. Stern performs widely as a soloist and a principal player with prominent orchestras such as The New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of Saint Luke's, Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Lafayette, and American Classical Orchestra. She has recorded for Erato, Harmonia Mundi, Sony Classics, Newport Classics, Wildboar, Telarc and Smithsonian labels. Stern's latest projects include performances of traditional music of Eastern Europe, Armenia, and the Middle East as a soloist and with the ensembles Rose of the Compass and East of the River. She was appointed to the faculty of Juilliard's Historical Performance program in 2012 and has served on the faculties of the Mannes College of Music – where she directed the Historical Performance Program from 1989 to 1996 – at the Civica Scuola di Musica (Milan, Italy), Oberlin Conservatory, and the Five Colleges in Massachusetts. Stern is the founder and artistic director of S'Cool Sounds, an award-winning, music education organization with the mission of using the power of music to inspire, educate, and connect children and communities in New York City and abroad. She serves as Director of Community Engagement for the Boston Early Music Festival.

**Kent Tritle** is one of America's leading choral conductors. Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by *The New York Times*, he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York's longest continuously performing professional chorus. In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and on the organ faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

4-time Grammy Award winner **Glen Velez**, described as the "Undisputed master of Frame Drums" (*The New York Times*) is an internationally acclaimed soloist and founding father of the modern frame drum movement. Velez is the first percussionist to gain international recognition as a solo artist and composer using frame drums. In 2014 Glen was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society "Hall of Fame." For over four decades, Velez has brought a new genre of drumming and composition to the contemporary music scene by creating his own performance style, inspired by years of studying frame drumming techniques from various cultures. Velez's

virtuosic combinations of hand movements, finger techniques, along with his original compositional and teaching style called *Handance Method*, which incorporates stepping, drum language and Central Asian Overtone singing (split-tone singing), has undoubtedly opened new possibilities for musicians around the globe, resulting in a shift in modern percussion. Glen is regarded as a legendary figure among musicians and audiences world-wide. [www.glenvelez.com](http://www.glenvelez.com)

**The Cathedral Choir** sets the standard for music making at St. John the Divine. Its members include some of New York City's finest choral performers who are also accomplished soloists in their own right. The Cathedral Choir provides music for the Sunday 11am Eucharist services throughout the year and also sings for other major feast days of the Christian calendar such as Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter. In addition, the choir serves as the core ensemble for the Cathedral's Great Music in a Great Space concert series.

The viol quartet **Parthenia** brings early music into the present with its repertoire that animates ancient and fresh-commissioned contemporary works with a ravishing sound and a remarkable sense of ensemble. These "local early-music stars," hailed by *The New Yorker* and music critics throughout the world, are "one of the brightest lights in New York's early-music scene."

Parthenia is presented in concerts across America, and produces its own series in New York City, collaborating regularly with the world's foremost early music specialists. The quartet has been featured in prestigious festivals and series as wide-ranging as Music Before 1800, the Harriman-Jewell Series, Maverick Concerts, the Regensburg Tage Alter Musik, the Shalin Liu Performing Arts Center, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Yale Center for British Art, Columbia University's Miller Theatre, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Parthenia's performances range from its popular touring program, When Music & Sweet Poetry Agree, a celebration of Elizabethan poetry and music with actor Paul Hecht, to the complete viol fantasies of Henry Purcell, as well as the complete instrumental works of Robert Parsons, and commissions and premieres of new works annually. Parthenia has recorded *As it Fell on a Holie Eve - Music for an Elizabethan Christmas*, with soprano Julianne Baird, *Les Amours de Mai*, with Ms. Baird and violinist Robert Mealy, *A Reliquary for William Blake*, *Within the Labyrinth*, and *The Flaming Fire*, with vocalist Ryland Angel and keyboard player Dongsok Shin. Parthenia's newest CD release features composers Kristin Norderval, Frances White, and Tawnie Olson: *Nothing Proved: New works for viols, voice, and electronics*.

**Rose of the Compass** was founded in 2010 by recorder virtuoso and early music specialist Nina Stern in collaboration with luminaries of New York's world music scene. The ensemble, which released its first CD in 2011, explores repertoire from diverse traditions, creating a musical space unifying East and West. For the past several years, the ensemble has collaborated with Kent Tritle and the choir of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, presenting innovative programs such as *The Ornament of the World: Music of Multicultural Spain*, *The Wingèd Lion: Venice and the Orient*, *The Glory of Constantinople*, and *The Four Quarters of Jerusalem*, which was also released as an album on the Pro Organo label in 2015. In 2018, Rose of the Compass and the Cathedral Choir collaborated on the world premiere of Robert Sirota's *Immigrant Songs*, a work that pays homage to New York's identity as a melting pot of humanity.

### **About Great Music in a Great Space**

Revived in 2011, Great Music in a Great Space reprises the legendary concert series first held at

the Cathedral in the 1980s. Great Music in a Great Space presents choral, orchestral, and instrumental music, in the magnificent, deeply spiritual setting of the world's largest Gothic cathedral. The beloved holiday traditions of the Christmas Concert and New Year's Eve Concert for Peace are an integral part of our concert series. Joined by Rose of the Compass, Musica Sacra, and the Oratorio Society of New York, the Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and a remarkable artistic team of organists and soloists bring the beloved space of the Cathedral to life with this transcendent music.

### **About The Cathedral**

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cathedral has responded to changing needs in the local community and across the city and state. People from many faiths and communities worship together in daily services held online and in person; the soup kitchen serves roughly 50,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs to safely provide resources and aid to the hardest-hit New Yorkers; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

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