

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Les Ms. Women's Choir

Invited to Perform at Carnegie Hall with Nancy Menk

New York, N.Y. – April 5, 2018

Outstanding music program
receives special invitation

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) announced today that Dr. Valerie Long and Les Ms. Women's Choir have been invited to participate in a performance of *Magnificat - Music for Women's Voices* on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place on Sunday, March 17, 2019 in Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Dr. Nancy Menk. These outstanding musicians will join with other choristers from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Dr. Menk 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 Les Ms. Women's Choir received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers.

"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 Valerie Long via email at info@lesms.ca.

Conductor Nancy Menk

Nancy Menk holds the Mary Lou and Judd Leighton Chair in Music at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, where she is Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities, and Chair of the Music Department. She also teaches graduate conducting at the University of Notre Dame. At Saint Mary's College, Dr. Menk conducts the Women's Choir and the Collegiate Choir, teaches conducting, and prepares the Madrigal Singers for the annual Christmas Madrigal Dinners. Under her direction, the Women's Choir has performed on tour throughout the United States and it regularly commissions, performs, and records new works for women's voices for their CD series on the ProOrgano label. They have performed by invitation for divisional and national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, most recently for the 2016 Central Division Conference in Chicago. They were named second place winners of The American Prize in Choral Performance for 2012.

She is founder and conductor of the South Bend Chamber Singers, an ensemble of 32 select singers from the Michiana area. They have been finalists for the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, given annually by Chorus America, and winners of the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming. The Chamber Singers were invited to perform for the American Choral Directors Association

Central Division Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana in March 2012. Both the Saint Mary's Women's Choir and the South Bend Chamber Singers regularly commission, perform, and record new works. Dr. Menk is also conductor of the 110-voice Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus.

Nancy has been a conducting participant in the National Conductor's Symposium with the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the Oregon Bach Festival. She is Editor of the Saint Mary's College Choral Series, a distinctive series of select music for women's voices published by earthsongs of Corvallis, Oregon. She contributed a chapter for the new book, "Working with Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success," published by GIA. Dr. Menk serves regularly as a guest conductor and choral adjudicator throughout the United States. She has conducted All-State Choirs in Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, North Dakota, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. In August 2011, she served as guest conductor for the Hong Kong Youth Music Camp Chorus. She has conducted 6 Carnegie Hall concerts, including the Carnegie Hall premiere of American composer Carol Barnett's *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*. She returned to NYC in November 2014 to conduct a concert of music by American composer Gwyneth Walker at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. In October 2016, she became the first woman to program and lead a subscription concert of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, conducting works by C.P.E. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, and Igor Stravinsky.

She holds the B.S. and the M.A. degrees in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the M.M. and the D.M.A. degrees in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

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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