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# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Kinard Middle School Choirs Invited to Perform at Carnegie Hall with Composer/Conductor Alexander L'Estrange

NYC, N.Y. – March 2, 2018

Outstanding music program receives special invitation

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) announced today that Scott Wheeler and the Kinard Middle School Choirs have been invited to participate in a performance of *Zimbe!* by Alexander L'Estrange on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place on Friday, May 24, 2019 in Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Composer and Conductor Alexander L'Estrange. These outstanding musicians will join with other choristers from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Alexander L'Estrange 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 Kinard Middle School Choirs received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional recommendation given by Alexander L'Estrange.

"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 4 days and 3 nights in New York City in preparation for their concert. "The singers will spend approximately 9-10 hours in rehearsals over the 4 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 Scott Wheeler at [swheeler@psdschools.org](mailto:swheeler@psdschools.org).

Composer Alexander L'Estrange

Alexander L'Estrange (b.1974) is an English choral composer and arranger of international acclaim. Educated at Oxford he gained a First Class Honours Master of Arts degree in Music. His music combines his background in the English choral tradition with his love for jazz harmony and groove.

L'Estrange is best known for his grand-scale choral fusion works which draw together singers of all ages. The first of these was *Zimbe! Come sing the songs of Africa!* which received over 150 performances

worldwide within its first five years and quickly established his reputation as one of Britain's most popular living composers. *Zimbe's* success has spawned a series of large-scale community choral commissions. His sacred choral works have been recorded by the award-winning chamber choir Tenebrae on a disc entitled *On Eagles' Wings*. His song output includes *Love's Philosophy*, three settings of poems by Shelley, Tennyson and Byron.

L'Estrange arranges for world-class a cappella groups The Swingle Singers, Voces8 and The King's Singers, for whom he wrote and produced their *Great American Songbook* album. As Consultant Editor of Faber Music's popular Choral Basics series, he has written hundreds of arrangements of songs from across the musical spectrum.

#### 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](mailto: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 Andrew Ousley at Unison Media at 212-707-8566 Ext. 316, or [Press@DCINY.org](mailto:Press@DCINY.org).