

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

Fantasia for Stelios and Yiannis
for violin and viola

LRC 244



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Duration: 00:14:00

AS PROLOGUE:

Both Stelios Canfantaris, violinist, and Yiannis Vatikiotis, violist, were my colleagues and friends in the early years of my career, after graduating from the Greek Conservatory in Athens during the late 1950's.

I was good friends with Stelios, and, as I was a violinist and a composer and he a violinist and conductor, we worked together frequently. He was a very quiet, warm and easy going person even before he became a famous violin teacher credited with bringing up international violinists such as Demertzis and Kavakos. Even when I had left Greece, I was aware of his excellent violin class.

Yiannis, another good friend of mine, was also quiet and easy going, like Stelios, with a wry sense of humor. I worked with him also as a composer as he performed several of my viola works. We were both members of orchestras in Athens. Yannis and I had a common interest in the U.S. He had been here to study as had I, and we decided to continue our study and careers here. As it turned out, it was only me who left Greece.

In our youth, Stelios, Yiannis, and I were meeting all the time to have serious discussions on all topics, but usually on musical matters. We took great pleasure in our discussions – those were good years with two wonderful friends. They have been very greatly missed.

D.C.

The music of Greek born composer Dinos Constantinides has been performed throughout the world. He is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prizes in the 1981 Brooklyn College International Chamber Competition, the 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference, and the 1997 Delius composition Contest Grand Prize. He also received the 1985 American New Music consortium Distinguished Service Award, the 1989 Glen Award of l'Ensemble of New York, several Meet the Composer grants and numerous ASCAP Standard Awards. In 1994 he was honored with a Distinguished Teacher White House commission on Presidential Scholars.