

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

The Peddler's Dream

for Reader and String Quartet

LRC 260



magni

Magni Publications

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

The Peddler's Dream for Reader and String Quartet

LRC 260

The Peddler's Dream is the twelfth in a series of musical stories for children, involving small ensembles, reader, and solo instruments. It is adapted from a folk tale found in Joseph JACOB's *ENGLISH FAIRY AND OTHER FOLK TALES* as well as in numerous other countries' folklore. **The Dancing Turtle** (1999), **The Singing Cucaracha** (2000), **Lazy Jack** (2001), **The Penguin Parade** (2002), **The Dancing Shoes** (2003) **Anansi and the Hat Shaking Dance** (2006), **The Cat that Walked by Himself** (2007), **How the Camel Got His Hump** (2008), **The Magic Pot** (2009), **The Frog Prince** (2010) and **the Magic Snake** (2011) are the previous pieces in the series.

....

The music of Dinos Constantinides has been performed throughout the world. He is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prize in the 1981 Brooklyn College International Chamber Opera Competition and the 1985 First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference. 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 the 1994 he was honored with a Distinguished Teacher White House Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Judy Constantinides has been a storyteller and children's librarian for over forty years. She has a BA in English from the University of Rochester and an M. S. in Library Service from Columbia University. She is retired from the East Baton Rouge Parish Library where she worked as a Children's Librarian for over 14 years, serving as Head of Children's Services at Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library for six years. She also reviews children's books for the *School Library Journal*, and appears as storyteller often with the Louisiana Sinfonietta.

THE PEDDLER'S DREAM

Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was a peddler named John, who lived in the town of Wickenham in England. John was rather poor, and worked hard to feed his family, by printing and selling for a few pennies each small little paper books called “chap” books. These were the first books ever made just for children, and, because John made these particular books, people called him John “Chap” man.

Now, life was going along all right for John, except for one thing: he kept having the same dream night after night after night. In the dream, John could see the famous London Bridge over the River Thames, glistening in the moonlight, and the full moon itself, way up in the sky above, shining down, and the moon spoke and said:

*“Make your way to London town
Seek the Bridge, which there is found
You will hear some joyous news
To act upon it if you choose.”*

Well, John was not about to pack up and walk to London town, which was many days away from Wickenham, and what news could possibly be important enough to do so he could not imagine, so he kept going about his daily duties, and bringing home a few pennies each day—barely enough for his family to live on.

But the dream kept coming every night and keeping him awake, so finally one day, John packed up his knapsack, said goodbye to his wife and children and the town of Wickenham, and set off down the long road towards London, as the dream had directed.

He walked and walked for six days and finally reached London, a city full of people and noise. John made his way to the London Bridge, and for several days he waited there, walking back and forth across the bridge, waiting for the joyous news his dream had promised, but nothing happened. Nothing except that his feet got sore and his legs got tired from all the walking and his stomach was rumbling all the time for lack of food.

Finally, John gave up and turned to go home, convinced that his dream was just a dream. But as he left London Bridge, an innkeeper came out of an inn next to the bridge, walked up to John, put a hand out to stop him, and said:” Dear sir, I have watched you walk up

and down the bridge for days now—why are you wasting your time like this, when you should be making money by selling those little chap books I see in your sack?”

So John told the innkeeper about his strange dream, and his foolishness in coming to London. The innkeeper laughed heartily and said: “My good fellow, you have wasted all these days on a foolish dream when you could have been working? Just think what would have happened to me if I had done that! I had a dream too---the dream told me to go the village of Wickenham, find a certain peddler’s house and dig in his backyard under his apple tree, and I would find a chest of Roman gold—if I believed *that* dream, I would have lost two weeks of good trade at my inn—what foolishness!” And he walked back inside his inn, still chuckling.

But John had the last laugh—he turned and swiftly made his way out of London and towards Wickenham, for he had found the good news that he had been promised. When he reached home, he gathered his family and they dug in the backyard under their apple tree, and sure enough, there was a chest of Roman gold there. With the gold, the family was able to live comfortably ever after. But John Chapman still kept up his trade, making and selling little books for children, for he knew that books are much more precious even than gold!