Profile: John J. Cimino, Jr.

**John J. Cimino, Jr.** is founding president and CEO of **Creative Leaps International** (1992), **Associated Solo Artists** (1972) and **THE RENAISSANCE CENTER** **for Knowledge Integration, Interdisciplinary Thinking and Advanced Applications of Imagination** (2018). Educated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (biology & physics), the State University of New York at Albany (learning theory), and the Manhattan and Juilliard Schools of Music (music & voice), Cimino holds a uniquely interdisciplinary perspective and works across multiple disciplines dedicated to learning, leadership and human development. As a consultant and advisor to universities, his special focus is connectivity across disciplines and departments (sometimes called *knowledge integration within the* *connected university*) and the centrality of creativity, leadership and the arts in the intellectual and personal development of students and faculty.

As a consultant and champion of the arts and cross-boundary thinking in business and professional life, Cimino has brought his "Concerts of Ideas" and other innovative programs into projects of the White House, the United Nations, the Center for Creative Leadership, the Council for Excellence in Government, the District of Columbia's Center for Excellence in Municipal Management, and the leadership training programs of dozens of Fortune 500 companies including GE, IBM, Pfizer, The World Bank, Macquarie Banking and Finance, The Bank of Montreal, McDonnell Douglas, the SC Johnson Company, Starbucks Coffee Company and to numerous universities and professional groups worldwide.

Special projects include presentations before the Global Leadership Forum (Istanbul), the International Organization Development Association (Guanajuato), The European Summit on the Arts and Business (Castle Borl, Slovenia), the Organizational Behavior Teaching Society (Irvine, Ca), the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Alexandria, VA), the Society for College and University Planning (Chicago), the Association for Managers of Innovation, The International Creativity and Innovation Networking Conferences (Greensboro), and the Middle East HR and Leadership Conference (Dubai), among many others.

Other projects include “The 50+20 Project: Business Education in the Coming Decades” in partnership with the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative, the World Business School Council for Sustainable Business, and the United Nations-supported initiative “Principles for Responsible Management Education”; the North African Partnership for Economic Opportunity (Aspen Institute, US State Department); the University Summit on Interdisciplinary Research and Education at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, University of Illinois; and a special project with Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, purposed to introduce and apply the innovative Creative Leaps International arts-driven methodology with leaders in academia, business and government across the country and into the Outback.

Cimino is also an award-winning performing artist and composer, a recipient of more than 20 national and international awards as an operatic and concert artist, performing to acclaim throughout Europe, the USA and around the world, including productions of LA BOHEME (Academy of Music, Philadelphia, opposite tenor Luciano Pavarotti), LUISA MILLER (International Verdi Festival of Busseto, Italy, opposite tenor Carlo Bergonzi), and MADAMA BUTTERFLY (New Jersey State Opera, opposite soprano Anna Moffo).

Cimino has also served as a teaching artist and artist/scholar in residence in countless communities in upwards of 30 states in the course of his 40 year career as a leader and pioneer in this field. His work encompasses arts-leveraged learning in all subject areas for students K-12, integrative leadership and creativity studies for college and university students, and advanced professional development for teachers, school leaders, and the rising generation of teaching artists and educational innovators.

Cimino has also served as Education and Artistic Director for the *Tenth Anniversary Tribute to the Search and Rescue Community of 9/11* and as Education Advisor for the *Artists for Amnesty Project* of Amnesty International USA. Humanitarian projects include performances for First Responder teams at Ground Zero following 9/11; resilience retreats for the Southeast Louisiana Chapter of the American Red Cross in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; and programs for staff and volunteers of the Aids Resources Coordination Committee of New York State.

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