AESOP'S FABLES

Created by Jim West and Marshall Izen
Performed by Jim West and John Rochette

Program

The Tortoise and the Hare.....*Music from Scarlatti*

The Stag at the Pool.....*Music from Beethoven*

The Fox and the Grapes..... *Music from Beethoven*

The Fox at the Well.....*Incidental music*

The Wind and the Sun.....*Music from Chopin*

The Lion and the Mouse.....*Incidental music*

The Cat and Her Tail..... *Music from Rossini*

Voices by
Tyler Bunch, Nina Dova, Benjamin Howard,
Marshall Izen, Jane Smulyan, and Jim West

Puppet construction of
Aesop, Moral and Ditto Bird
by Ryan Simms

JIM WEST graduated from Otterbein College with a degree in drama, and he continued his studies in New York at the Herbert Berghof Studio and at Parsons School of Design. He developed and performed the shadow puppets for the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Manon* and has appeared on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," introducing Fred Rogers and countless children to the art of creating hand shadows. For many years, Jim worked with award-winning puppeteer, Marshall Izen. Together, Jim and Marshall co-authored *Why the Willow Weeps*, a Doubleday picture book, and recently won the Parents Choice Award for *The Dog Who Sang at the Opera*, a picture book for Harry Abrams Publishers. For over twenty years, Jim has performed nationally before hundreds of thousands of children. His current repertoire includes *Aesop's Fables*, *Animal Crackers*, *Mozart*, *Monsters & Matisse*, *Pop-Ups*, *Puppets & Parades*, *Dinosaurs!*, and his newest creation, *Aesop's Fables II*.

JOHN ROCHETTE is having a blast out on the road with friend and fellow puppeteer Jim West. John is a Jersey boy born and raised and now lives in the big city Manhattan. His work in the industry includes: NY and regional musical theater, Shakespeare, contemporary drama, improv comedy, drums, guitar, classical voice performance, the Blueman Group, Renaissance Festivals, and now principal work on the soap operas All My Children and Guiding Light. John is a Rutgers University graduate and proud member of AFTRA and Actor's Equity.

MARSHALL IZEN, who co-created this production, has had a distinguished career performing for children. His work in television won him two Emmy Awards. Theatreworks/USA presented Marshall's live children's programs for over twenty years until he retired from national touring nine years ago. Since then, Izen, a lifelong pianist, has realized another career goal: a solo performance at Carnegie Hall!