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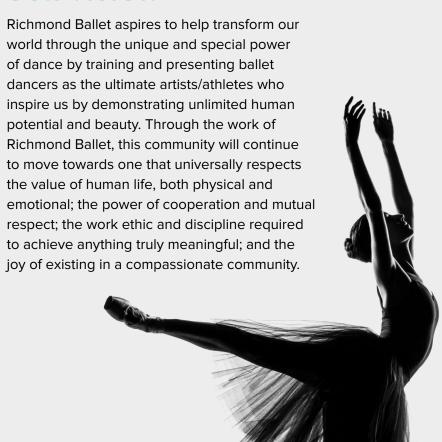
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OUR MISSION

The mission of Richmond Ballet is to awaken and uplift the human spirit both for audiences and dancers.

As The State Ballet of Virginia, Richmond Ballet is committed to presenting ballet performances which keep meaningful works of dance alive, as well as producing and fostering new works; providing the finest training to its dancers and students; enhancing community life by providing significant education and community engagement programs; and building an institution of integrity that fulfills its responsibilities to the art form, its employees, and to the community.

OUR VISION



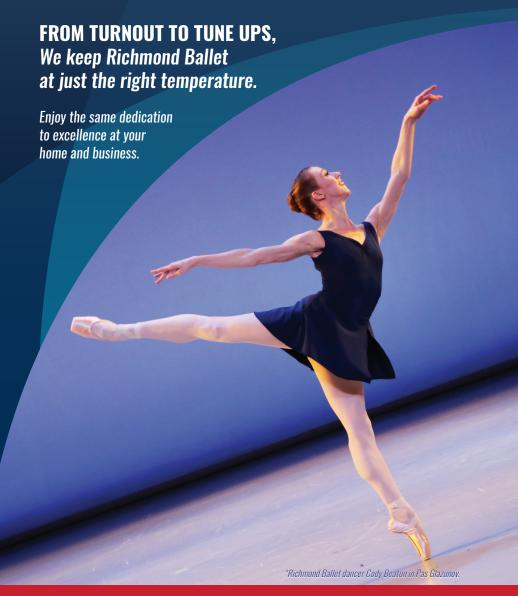


20/21 SEASON

Stoner Winslett, Artistic Director
Ma Cong, Associate Artistic Director
Brett D. Bonda, Managing Director
Malcolm Burn, Artistic Associate & Ballet Master
Judy Jacob, Artistic Associate & School Director
Erin Freeman, Resident Conductor

Lauren Archer Abi Goldstein Eri Nishihara
Cody Beaton Sabrina Holland Izabella Tokev
Marty Davis Khaiyom Khojaev Ira White
Trevor Davis Naomi Wilson

Kate Anderson, Jackson Calhoun, Patrick Lennon, Jack Miller, Naomi Robinson, Marjorie Sherman, Raquel Smith, Ronald Wagstaff





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MAY 11-23, 2021 • RICHMOND BALLET STUDIO THEATRE

May 21 at 6:30pm, May 22 at 8:30pm, May 23 at 4:30pm

SOME KIND OF PEACE

Choreography by Levi Philip Marsman Music by Ólafur Arnalds and Nils Frahm Costume Design by Emily Morgan Lighting Design by Christopher Devlin Hill

Kate Anderson, Marty Davis, Sabrina Holland, Khaiyom Khojaev, Patrick Lennon, Raquel Smith, Izabella Tokev, Naomi Wilson

> I. Personal Space Ensemble

> II. *Panic* Khaiyom Khojaev

III. My Kind of Peace Sabrina Holland and Marty Davis

IV. The Distance Between Ourselves

Ensemble

V. *Hope* Ensemble

This piece is dedicated to Kamal Johnson.

"Loom" "Woven Song" "Spiral" "Undone" composed by Ólafur Arnalds. Used with permission by Universal Music Enterprises, G. Shirmer Inc and Wise Music

"You (Bug Lover Rework)" by Nils Frahm. Used with permission by Erased Tapes Music and Manners McDade Music Publishing Ltd

SWEET BITTER LOVE

Choreography by Carmen de Lavallade

Music sung by Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway

Costume Design by Geoffrey Holder

Lighting Design by Chenault Spence

Cody Beaton and Trevor Davis

"Until It's Time For You To Go" Written by Buffy Sainte-Marie. Published by Gypsy-Boy Music Inc [ASCAP].

Used by arrangement with Kobalt Songs Music Publishing.

"For All We Know" Written by J. Fred Coots and Samuel Lewis. Published by Toy Town Tunes, Inc. (ASCAP), John F. Coots Jr. Trust Music (ASCAP), and Sis N Bro Music Company (ASCAP) administered by Round Hill Carlin LLC and Wixen Music Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"Sweet Bitter Love" by Van McCoy, courtesy of Van McCoy Music, Inc (BMI)

Costumes courtesy of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

World Premiere: December 7, 2000, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center, New York Richmond Ballet Premiere: May 7, 2019, Richmond Ballet Studio Theatre, Richmond, Virginia

EXCERPTS FROM WHO CARES?

Choreography by George Balanchine
Music by George Gershwin
Adapted and Orchestrated by Hershy Kay
Staging by Jerri Kumery
Costume Reconstruction by Tamara Cobus
after Original Design by Karinska
Original Lighting Design by Richard Moore

Somebody Loves Me (1924)

Kate Anderson, Naomi Robinson, Marjorie Sherman, Raquel Smith, Izabella Tokev

Bidin' My Time (1930)

Jackson Calhoun, Khaiyom Khojaev, Patrick Lennon, Jack Miller, Ronald Wagstaff

The Man I Love (1924)
Sabrina Holland and Marty Davis

I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise (1922)

Naomi Wilson

Embraceable You (1930) Eri Nishihara and Ira White

Fascinatin' Rhythm (1924)
Lauren Archer

Who Cares? (1931)
Cody Beaton and Trevor Davis

My One and Only (1927)
Abi Goldstein

Liza (1929) Marty Davis

I Got Rhythm (1930) Entire Cast

The performance of excerpts from Who Cares?, a Balanchine Ballet, is presented by arrangement with The George Balanchine Trust and has been produced in accordance with the Balanchine Style and Balanchine Technique Service standards established and provided by the Trust.

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"WHO CARES?" (George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin) ©1931 (Renewed) WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

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World Premiere: February 5, 1970, New York City Ballet, New York State Theater, New York, New York Richmond Ballet Premiere: November 14, 1986, Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts, Richmond, Virginia

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RICHMOND BALLET | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Stoner Winslett is the founding Artistic Director of the Richmond Ballet professional company. Her unique, strong partnership with the community has built a fine civic organization into an important national dance force through working toward a clear and shared vision. In the 41 years under Ms. Winslett's direction, Richmond Ballet has established the first major company of professional dancers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, commissioned nearly

75 original works from over 35 choreographers from around the world, introduced the much-acclaimed *Minds In Motion* program into Virginia schools and now Israel, and renovated and occupied its landmark downtown building on Canal Street. She led the Company through its New York debut at The Joyce Theater in 2005, with return productions in 2008, 2010, and most recently in May 2017, and directed its international debut in London in 2012, in a highly acclaimed run at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Theatre. The Company conducted its first tour to China in May of 2015, with performances at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing and the Shanghai Grand Theatre.

Ms. Winslett received her early training from Ann Brodie, Aldofina Suarez, and Michael Lland in Columbia, South Carolina, and later trained at the American Ballet Theatre School and the North Carolina School of the Arts on scholarship. After knee injuries curtailed her performing career, she pursued a course of independent study at Smith College, where she graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. In 2005, she was awarded the Smith Medal, which is the highest honor the College can confer on an alumna.

Ms. Winslett's vision for the organization has always encompassed not only performing but also the training of artists and the education of the community, which are necessary to both preserve the heritage and explore new directions for the Company. Richmond Ballet reaches over 100,000 people annually across the Commonwealth and beyond, and

boasts an impressive repertory with a foundation of full-length classics and 20th-century masters (George Balanchine, John Butler, Agnes de Mille, Jose Limón, and Anthony Tudor, among others), coupled with a strong commitment to new works, nine of which are are Ms. Winslett's own choreography and include her highly acclaimed version of *The Nutcracker*. The Ballet's scope also includes a school, the School of Richmond Ballet, which opened its dance studios 46 years ago and now serves more than 900 students annually; and many outreach programs featuring the unique *Minds In Motion* program now in its 26th year. The organization operates from a state-of-the-art training and performance center on Canal Street, developed in 2000 under the direction of Ms. Winslett and the Ballet's Board.

Ms. Winslett is one of the longest tenured artistic directors of a major ballet company and one of the few female artistic directors in the United States. She has received countless awards and recognitions at local, state, and national levels, and remains an active leader in the country's performing arts community that includes serving as a former Vice Chair of Dance/USA, as the President of the John Butler Foundation, and a U.S. delegate to the 2014 U.S.-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange in Beijing. Recognized as a leader in diversity and inclusion in the ballet field, in 2017 Ms. Winslett was part of a small group of artistic directors invited by Dance Theatre of Harlem to begin discussions addressing these issues throughout the field. This two-day exchange of ideas launched The Equity Project, a 3-year cohort led by Dance Theatre of Harlem, International Association of Blacks in Dance, and Dance/USA and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Although sessions with this alliance of 21 ballet companies including The State Ballet of Virginia concluded January 2020, the promotion of equitable representation throughout the ballet industry remains ever-present at the heart of Richmond Ballet. Despite these many distinctions, Ms. Winslett often states that her highest honor has been the privilege to work with the talented professionals and dedicated community members who have made a real difference in the world by building Richmond Ballet.

RICHMOND BALLET | ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Ma Cong was named Richmond Ballet's Associate Artistic Director in June 2020. He has been widely recognized by the dance world as a bold, bright, and inspired choreographer. Critics have described his choreography as being powerful and passionate. Having started his dance career at the Beijing Dance Academy, where he trained in the art of Chinese classical dance, he danced with The National Ballet of China from 1995 until 1999, prior

to joining Tulsa Ballet. As a choreographer, Ma was described by The Washington Post as "Powerful" and Houston's En Pointe as having "swiftly risen to become one of America's most exciting choreographers." Ma has created many original works for companies worldwide. His first creation for Richmond Ballet Ershter Vals was performed for sold out audiences at the Royal Opera House in London in 2012 and at The Kennedy Center in 2015. Also in 2015, Ma's creation Lift the Fallen was included in Richmond Ballet's Road to China program for its five-city tour through China. His New York City balletic premiere was in 2017 when Richmond Ballet performed his Lift the Fallen at The Joyce Theater. Among his many personal and professional achievements, Ma was named one of the "25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine in 2006 for his dancing and choreography works as well as The Choo-San Goh award in 2007. In 2008, Ma was the winner of the 21st Century Choreographic competition and also received the "Audience Favourite" and "Editor's Choice Award" from *Pointe Magazine*. In 2013, Ma was named as one of Joffrey Ballet's "Choreographers of Color Award" winners. Ma made his Broadway debut in 2017 while working with Julie Taymor on the revival of David Henry Hwang's Tony Award-winning play M. Butterfly, starring Clive Owen. In 2018 Ma's Glass Figures premiered at The Joyce Theater in New York and received rave reviews from audiences and critics alike. His most recent world premiere, a full-length creation for Tulsa Ballet, Tchaikovsky - The Man Behind the Music, has been celebrated as one of his greatest achievements as an artist and storyteller.

RICHMOND BALLET | MANAGING DIRECTOR



Brett Bonda, is now in his 36th season with Richmond Ballet, having served the organization as a dancer, administrator, educator, and director. A dancer with the professional company from 1985-1995, Mr. Bonda performed much of the company's repertory, dancing lead roles in ballets such as *Rodeo* and *Coppélia*, and appearing in the premiere of Stoner Winslett's original work, *Ancient Airs and Dances*. After learning of the

outreach work done through Lori Klinger and the National Dance Institute, Mr. Bonda elected to retire from the stage to become the Education and Minds In Motion Director for Richmond Ballet, Mr. Bonda served as the program's artistic and administrative coordinator for 16 years. Additionally, Mr. Bonda has served as the Ballet's Company Manager, Tour Manager, and video producer, before stepping into his current role as Managing Director, where he has worked closely with members of the Ballet's Board to oversee the organization's strategic planning and governance, and to initiate the Road To China project in 2014. Mr. Bonda's work with Richmond Ballet has been recognized both statewide and nationally: he has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and as a juror for the Coming Up Taller Awards, and he is a board member for Virginians for the Arts. In 2001, Mr. Bonda received Richmond Magazine's Theresa Pollak Award for Excellence in the Arts and, in the summer of 2014, he represented the United States at the U.S.-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange in Beijing alongside U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Richmond Ballet Artistic Director Stoner Winslett. Mr. Bonda is an alumnus of Virginia Intermont College.



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RICHMOND BALLET | COMPANY ARTISTIC TEAM

Malcolm Burn (Artistic Associate and Ballet Master), a New Zealand native, is in his 34th year with Richmond Ballet. During his 25-year dancing career, he performed in companies such as London Festival Ballet, The Royal New Zealand Ballet, The National Ballet of Zimbabwe, Ballet West, and P.A.C.T. Ballet in South Africa where he won the Ivan Soloman Award for Best Male Dancer in 1973, 1976, and 1980. A Richmond Ballet company dancer from 1987 to 1993, Mr. Burn remains fondly remembered for his principal roles in full-length ballets, for the memorable works created on him, and especially for his riveting portrayal of "Death" in The Green Table. He became a Company ballet master upon retirement from dancing with Richmond Ballet and was named an Artistic Associate in 1999. As ballet master, Mr. Burn has re-staged many of the classic full-length ballets and choreographed his own versions of Romeo & Juliet and Cinderella, as well as other shorter pieces including Pas Glazunov and A Tribute. Prior to coming to Richmond Ballet, Mr. Burn was co-director of Ballet Arizona. He is also currently a répétiteur for The John Butler Foundation

Judy Jacob (Artistic Associate and School Director) is from Detroit, where she studied ballet with Evelyn Smith. She trained in London, England, with Anne Heaton, John Field, and Valerie Taylor, and at Butler University (B.A.) and Indiana University (M.S.) with George Verdak, William Glenn, Peggy Dorsey, Anton Dolin, and Kenneth Melville. After graduation, Ms. Jacob danced professionally with Memphis Ballet, performing principal roles such as the Sugar Plum Fairy (The Nutcracker), Swanhilda (Coppélia), and the title role in Cinderella. She also created roles in ballets by choreographers Ron Cunningham, Jill Eathorne Bahr, Norbert Vesak, Robert Kelley, and Philip Jerry. Ms. Jacob was the Associate Artistic Director of Fort Wayne Ballet prior to joining Richmond Ballet in 1995. She was Assistant Ballet Master of the Richmond Ballet professional company for two years and became Director of the School of Richmond Ballet in 1998.

Jerri Kumery (Ballet Master)

began her studies with Roman Jasinski and Moscelyn Larkin in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and later studied at the School of American Ballet.

In 1977, she was invited to dance with New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. Ms. Kumery has served as répétiteur for Ballet Teatro Lírico Nacional and Pacific Northwest Ballet, and from 1990-2007 was Ballet Master/Associate Artistic Director of North Carolina Dance Theatre under the direction of Salvatore Aiello. Ms. Kumery was awarded an Arts & Science Council Fellowship for her meritorious contribution to the artistic community in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is the curator of The Salvatore Aiello Trust and serves as a répétiteur with The George Balanchine Trust.

Igor Antonov (Richmond Ballet II Director and Ballet Master) was born in Zaporozie, Ukraine. Upon graduation from the Kiev Choreographic Institute, he joined the Donetsk Ballet (Ukraine) as a soloist. In 1990, he was invited to join Richmond Ballet, where for five seasons he danced leading roles in works by George Balanchine, John Butler, Antony Tudor, William Soleau, Malcolm Burn, and Stoner Winslett. During that time, he was also a medalist and best couple award winner at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi. For the next several

years, he danced with Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf, Germany, and made guest appearances with major ballet companies in Berlin, Madrid, and Nice. In 2003, he returned to Richmond Ballet, and while continuing to perform with the Company, he began conducting rehearsals and teaching at the School of Richmond Ballet. After his retirement from the stage, Mr. Antonov stepped into the role of leading Richmond Ballet II.

Erin Freeman (Resident Conductor)

serves in multiple capacities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and maintains a national presence through Guest Conducting engagements. Freeman holds a joint position as Director of the award-winning Richmond Symphony Chorus and Director of Choral Activities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Additionally, she is the Artistic Director of Wintergreen Music and Resident Conductor of the Richmond Ballet. Guest conducting engagements include the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Neglia Ballet, South Carolina Philharmonic, Savannah Symphony, Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Symphony (continued on next page)

RICHMOND BALLET | COMPANY ARTISTIC TEAM cont.

Orchestra, and additional ensembles in Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Illinois. In recent seasons, Freeman made her debut at Symphony Hall in Boston with Berkshire Choral International, conducted multiple engagements with the Richmond Symphony and Richmond Ballet, premiered with the Portland (Maine) Symphony, and led an international ensemble of singers and the Orchestre Symphonique

Bel'Arte at La Madeleine in Paris.

During the pandemic, Freeman
devised and led a new Wintergreen
Music Online Community, created
a choral ideo project for VCU
Choirs called *Adaptation 2020*,
and programmed a full 20-21
season of virtual programming for
the Richmond Symphony Chorus.
Freeman holds degrees from
Northwestern University, Boston
University, and Peabody
Conservatory.





RICHMOND BALLET | COMPANY DANCERS



Lauren Archer is originally from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After finishing her training at the Ellison Ballet Professional Training

Program, she spent one year in Richmond Ballet II before joining the professional company in 2014. When off the stage, Lauren creates fashion and lifestyle content for Felix & Flora. She has also started a flower business, Monarch Flower Farm, with fellow company dancer, Cody Beaton.



Cody Beaton, of Round Rock, Texas, began her training at the Austin Conservatory of the Arts. She continued on to join

the Colorado Ballet for one season. She has been with Richmond Ballet since 2008 and recently married fellow company dancer Trevor Davis. She enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with Trevor and their three cats.



Marty Davis
began his training
at the age of seven
in Los Angeles,
California, with
Meridith Baylis.
When he was 13,

he continued his training with Philip and Charles Fuller while attending Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. Marty attended summer programs at San Francisco Ballet and Boston Ballet, where he was invited to continue his studies through the company's trainee program. He then went on to dance with Kansas City Ballet for six years. This is his eighth season with Richmond Ballet.



Trevor Davis began ballet at the age of six in Los Angeles, California, with Meridith Baylis. At the age of 12,

he continued under the direction of Philip and Charles Fuller and soon attended the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He studied with various scholarship programs through Kaatsbaan International Dance Center, Jacob's Pillow, and Boston Ballet. After two seasons as a trainee in Boston, Trevor joined Richmond Ballet in 2008 as an apprentice and became part of the professional company in 2010.



Abi Goldstein, of Sarasota, Florida, began her professional training at The Sarasota Ballet School. She attended summer

programs at the School of American Ballet and Miami City Ballet School. As a trainee at Boston Ballet for two seasons, Abi performed with both the company and Boston Ballet II. Abi spent two years with Richmond Ballet II and is excited to begin her seventh season with the professional company.



Sabrina Holland of Frankfort, New York, began her training at Ballet Arts. She furthered her education by studying at Canada's

National Ballet School for four years. After graduating, she spent one year as a trainee with The Washington Ballet. She attended many summer programs, including at Boston Ballet and with an exchange program through the John Cranko School in Stuttgart, Germany. Sabrina spent two years dancing in Richmond Ballet II, and this is her seventh season in the professional company.



Khaiyom Khojaev was born in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. At the age of 10, Khaiyom was accepted in the National Tajik

Choreographic School. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to Russia to study at the Perm State Choreographic College. He studied there for eight years and learned from some of Russia's finest teachers. By the end of his education, Khaiyom's repertoire surpassed most others. In 2016, Khaiyom competed in Arabesque Ekaterina Maximova Ballet Competition. Khaiyom joined Richmond Ballet II in August 2016 and is thrilled to be starting his third season with the professional company.

RICHMOND BALLET | COMPANY DANCERS continued



Eri Nishihara, originally of Japan, began her training in Reno, Nevada. She holds a BFA in Ballet from the University of

Utah, where she studied for two years before joining Richmond Ballet II. In her spare time, she enjoys being outdoors and spending time with friends. Eri is thrilled to be dancing her fourth season in the professional company.



Izabella Tokev
was born in Las
Vegas, Nevada.
From an early age
she found her
love for dance.
She continued

her ballet training in Las Vegas, focusing on the Russian Vaganova method. At the age of 16, she moved to Russia to study at Perm State Choreographic College. In August of 2016, Izabella joined Richmond Ballet's second company. After three years in RBII, she was accepted into the main company.



Ira White, native to Richmond, Virginia, discovered his love for dance through Richmond Ballet's *Minds In Motion* program.

Soon after, he signed up for ballet and other countless classes that Richmond Ballet offered. Through the years, he rose through the ranks of the School, including a year spent in its trainee program and three seasons in the second company. He is proud to be in his sixth year with the main company.



Naomi Wilson, of Brandon, Mississippi, trained under David Keary of Ballet Mississippi for four years. At 17 she joined

Miami City Ballet's pre-professional program for two years. Following, she auditioned for Richmond Ballet and spent one year as a trainee.

After two years in Richmond Ballet II, Naomi is excited to begin her first season with the main company.





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RICHMOND BALLET | MAY ARTISTS

George Balanchine (1904-1983) (Choreographer, *Who Cares?*)

is widely regarded as the leading contemporary choreographer in the world of ballet. He was born in 1904 in St. Petersburg, Russia, and entered the Imperial Ballet School at age ten, graduating in 1921. In 1924, he and a small group of dancers received permission to travel to Europe as the Soviet State Dancers. Serge Diaghilev saw the company in Paris and engaged Balanchine for his historymaking group, The Ballet Russe. After Diaghilev's death, Balanchine left The Ballet Russe and eventually made his way to New York. In 1934, Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein, an American dance enthusiast, founded The School of American Ballet. The School eventually became the training ground for New York City Ballet, which Kirstein and Balanchine established in 1948. New York City Ballet has since become one of the finest companies in the world. Balanchine was one of the most prolific and sought-after contemporary choreographic geniuses, and his work changed the nature of ballet around the world.

Tamara Cobus (Costume Designer, Who Cares?) was previously the Costume Director for Richmond Ballet. Originally hailing from Salt Lake City, Utah, she has designed and created for many theatre and dance companies, as well as for ad agencies and the general public. Cobus' designs can be seen inmany Richmond Ballet works. Most recently, Cobus held the position of Costume Director at Atlanta Ballet.

Carmen de Lavallade (Choreographer, Sweet Bitter Love)

began her professional debut at the age of 17 with the Lester Horton Dance Theatre in Los Angeles, California in the role of Salome. She made her Broadway debut in the show House of Flowers, written by Truman Capote with music by Harold Arlen. Shortly after, following her cousin Janet Collins as principal dance artist with the Metropolitan Opera's productions of Aida and Samson and Delilah, she returned in 1992 to choreograph Porgy and Bess, Die Meistersinger, Rusalka, and Lucia de Lammermoor. She has worked with some of the most exciting choreographers in the dance world, including her husband Geoffrey Holder, Alvin Ailey, Glen

Tetley, and John Butler to name a few. She joined Mr. Butler's company in 1958, and in 1959 appeared in the original performances of Carmina Burana at the New York City Opera. The company appeared in the 1958, 1959, and 1965 Spoleto "Festival of Two Worlds" in Italy, and in 1960, premiered Portrait of Billie at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. In the late sixties, she joined the Yale Repertory Theatre where she taught movement to the actors and joined the company as an actor in the productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, and Macbeth, performed the role of Linda Loman with the Trinity Square Players production of Death of a Salesman, and received the Clarence Bayfield Award presented by Actor's Equity for her role of Emila in the production of Othello with Earle Hyman. She can be seen in the John Sayles film Lone Star and Big Daddy. She has worked with the icons of the jazz world, Duke Ellington, Bill Evans, Wynton Marsalis, Jan Ira Bloom, and Benny Goodman. Carmen has received honorary Doctors of Fine Arts from the Boston Conservatory of Music, Adelphi University, and the Juilliard School of Music. Carmen was awarded the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor on December 3, 2017.

Christopher Devlin Hill (Lighting Designer, some kind of peace) is happy to return to the Richmond Ballet production team to lead the lighting department for an 8th season. Working as part of a team to produce live stage art is something he has always loved and Richmond Ballet provides him with a sense of pride in his work. Having worked on musicals, opera, dance, and dramas, Chris brings an eclectic work experience that helps further Richmond Ballet's mission. Chris has designed lighting for Richmond Ballet over the years, primarily on tours as well as for the School of Richmond Ballet. Chris has worked for several theaters...including the Athens Theater in Deland FL, as well as Drama works in West Palm Beach, FL. A few of Chris' most enjoyable designs have been The Producers (Athens Theater, 2019) and all of the Richmond Ballet School performances during his tenure. Chris would like to thank Kristen and Styx for their love and support.

Geoffrey Holder (Costume Designer, Sweet Bitter Love)

With an award-winning career as a dancer, choreographer, director, costume designer and visual artist, Geoffrey Holder has aptly been described as a "Renaissance man in an (continued on next page)

RICHMOND BALLET | MAY ARTISTS continued

age of specialists." Born into an artistic family in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Mr. Holder's career began as a member and later the director of the Holder Dance Company – a dance ensemble founded by his brother Boscoe. With the company, Mr. Holder toured the West Indies and Puerto Rico before making his New York stage debut in 1954. It was at this pivotal point in his career and due to his impressive stature he was chosen to perform in Harold Arlen's Broadway musical House of Flowers where he originated the role of Samedi, a Haitian conjurer. This would mark the beginning of a distinguished Broadway career, which included two Tony Awards for Best Direction and Best Costume Design for the highly regarded musical The Wiz (1975). In 1978, he would strike gold again with his Broadway hit Timbuktu!, which he directed and choreographed. As a choreographer, Holder created classic works for both the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, for which he also created the costumes and music for the *Prodigal Prince* (1967) and the Dance Theatre of Harlem, for which he also created the costumes and music for Dougla (1974). He

was perhaps most publicly recognized for such roles as the villain Baron Samedi in the James Bond classic, Live and Let Die (1973), as Punjab in *Annie* (1982) and as the international spokesperson for the 7-Up "uncola" advertising campaign. Mr. Holder was also an accomplished painter, having won a Guggenheim Fellowship for his work and author of numerous books including Black Gods, Green Islands (1959), and Geoffrey Holder's Caribbean Cookbook (1979). His artistic achievements have been chronicled in the book Geoffrey Holder: A Life in Theater, Dance and Art by dance critic Jennifer Dunning (2001). Geoffrey Holder and his wife, Kennedy Center Honoree Carmen de Lavallade, were married for nearly sixty years. Their partnership and artistic excellence was captured in the film Carmen & Geoffrey (2004).

Jerri Kumery (Répetitéur, Who Cares?) see Company Artistic Team, page 16.

Levi Philip Marsman (Choreographer, some kind of peace) was born and raised in Boston, MA and is Artist in Residence at the Boston Arts Academy. He began his training at the Boston Arts Academy, OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center, and Jeanette Neill Dance Studio as a scholarship recipient in their Boston Youth Moves Program. After graduating from the from the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Levi was awarded a place in the Scholarship Program at The Ailey School. He later enrolled in the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program, which lead to an invitation to join Ailey II by former director, Sylvia Waters before graduation. Levi's performance credits include the Radio City Christmas Spectacular (New York), Movements Dance Company (Jamaica), OrigiNation (Boston), Lula Washington Dance Theatre (Los Angeles), Reed Dance (Pittsburgh) and PHILADANCO! (Philadelphia). Levi is currently on faculty at Urbanity Dance and in the Ailey Extension program at the Ailey School and has been Artist in Residence at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and Teacher In Residency for Urbanity Dance. As a choreographer, he has created works for institutions such as Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Encore!, the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Sharron Miller

Academy for the Performing Arts, Alexander W. Dreyfoos School for the Arts, Marygrove College, Renaissance High School, Boston Youth Moves, Dean College, Endicott College, Eastern Michigan University, Wheaton College, Georgetown University's Black Movements Dance Theatre, the Joffrey School, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, The Ailey School, Reed Dance, the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach, Ballet Ecclectica at Center of Creative Arts, OrigiNation and MOVE(NYC). He has worked extensively with his mentor Christopher Huggins as co-choreographer and collaborator for dance companies and schools such as Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Duke Ellington School for the Arts, and the Juilliard School. Levi's awards include Contemporary Dance Silver Medalist of the 4th Seoul International Dance Competition, 2007 Young Professionals Awardee -Martha Hill Dance Fund, Best Performance at the 10th Annual Oakland Dance Festival in Michigan and first recipient of the 2016 Ballet Inc. Emerging Choreographer Award. He was recently asked to perform an original solo in the 2018 Boston Contemporary Dance Festival (continued on next page)

RICHMOND BALLET | MAY ARTISTS continued

and was one of two guest choreographers to create a new work for Urbanity Dance in Boston in their "Urbanity NeXt" Project in 2017. He was commissioned by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to create a new work entitled *Colorful* in conjunction with the opening of their exhibit "Boston's Apollo" and is excited to create for Richmond Ballet this season.

Emily Morgan (Costume Designer, some kind of peace) is a designer whose work spans multiple genres. As Costume Director for Richmond Ballet her design credits include Realms of Amber, City Life, Polaris, Gloria, Portrait of Billie, An Open Letter..., Pas Glazunov, and Notturno among others. Prior to joining Richmond Ballet, Morgan designed for a number of dance projects, including Round My World for Parsons Dance (premiered at New York's Theater), as well as Canvas, a Joyce world premiere for the Vail International Dance Festival with Keigwin and Co. featuring principals from New York City Ballet. Morgan has also designed for both opera and theatre. Her work has been featured in a wide variety of projects in New York City, regional theatres around the United States, as well as through international tours and collaborations. She holds an M.F.A. from the University of California, San Diego. More of her work can be seen at www.emilycostumes.com.

Richard Moore (Lighting Designer, Who Cares?) Since 1980, Richard Moore has worked with the Richmond Ballet both as a freelancer and as a resident employee, designing lights, technical directing, production managing, and consulting. As Lighting Designer, Richard has illuminated more than 175 theatre and dance shows in numerous cities, including Richmond, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, DC, Princeton, Kansas City, and Philadelphia. In 1989, Richard returned to Seattle, home of his MFA, where he co-founded a corporate events production company, TPN, which designs and manages large-scale corporate stage presentations for many Fortune 500 clients. At its peak, TPN employed 92 full-time staff, executing over 200 events per year. In 2009, Richard sold his half of TPN to his business partner

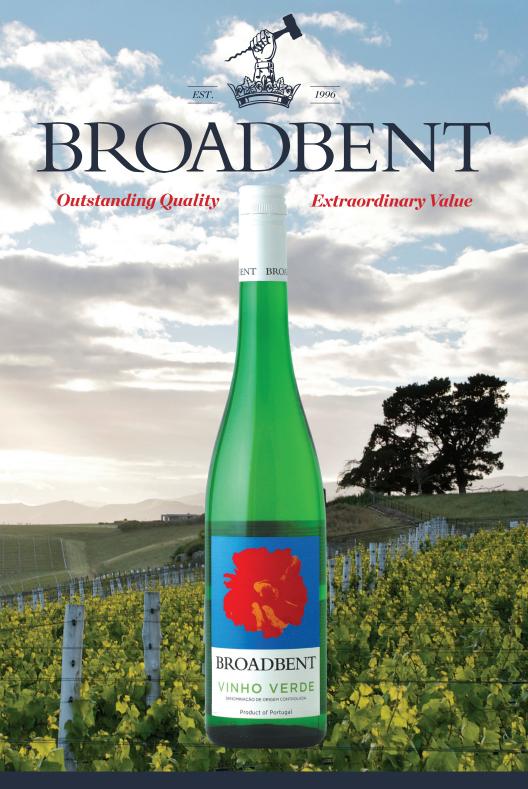
and became mostly retired, while continuing to design and consult with the Richmond Ballet and also guest teaching and designing at University of Puget Sound. Richard's favorite part of working with Richmond Ballet is watching dancers creatively and willingly encourage each other to collaborate. He has been married to Suzanne Fry, another Richmond Ballet emerita of production, for 39 years.

Chenault Spence (Lighting Designer, Sweet Bitter Love) has been a lighting designer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 1970. During this time, his work for the company has been seen in New York at the City Center, Metropolitan Opera House, New York State Theater and in tours of the United States, Europe, Russia, South America, Africa, and Asia. There have been several television productions for PBS, ABC and networks in more than twenty countries. He has toured with the Ailey Company and other dance companies in most of the United States and 70 countries. He has also been a resident designer with Erick Hawkins, Jose Limón, Dance Theater of Harlem, Ice Theatre of New York, Cortez and Company,

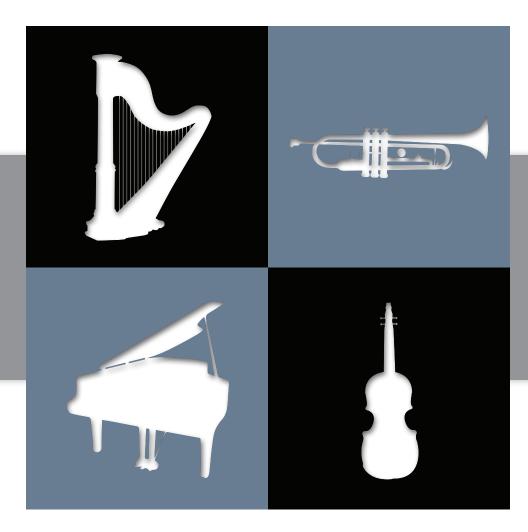
Saeko Ichinohi, SwingDance America, Broadway Dancin!, Connecticut Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, Juilliard Dance Ensemble, Bat-Dor Dance Company, American Dance Machine, and National Ballet of Iran and has been a guest designer for ballet and modern dance companies and opera throughout the world. As lighting designer for The Opera Company of Philadelphia, he received Emmys for The Damnation of Faust and for Un Ballo in Maschera with Luciano Pavarotti. This company's tour of La Bohème with Maestro Pavarotti was performed and televised in Italy and China. His work in theatre and cabaret has been seen in the United States, Europe, and South America. Recently he created the lighting for the Art of the Early Music company's production of an original theatre/early music work, Artemisia, in New York.

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Kiki Smith

We extend our gratitude to the members of the Encore Society who are helping to secure the future of Richmond Ballet by including the organization in their charitable planning. *List as of June 30, 2020.*

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RICHMOND BALLET | THE NUTCRACKER

As our beloved scenery and sets for *The Nutcracker* approach 17 years of wear and tear, we were excited to receive a special challenge grant from the **Mary Morton Parsons Foundation** in the amount of \$350,000. This generous pledge allowed us to move toward the process of recreating all of the visual art that supports the dancing in *The Nutcracker*. Richmond Ballet extends its gratitude to the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation for their gift and the following individuals and foundations who met the match challenge.

\$50,000-\$100,000

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RICHMOND BALLET | THE RUBY SLIPPER PROJECT

In honor of Artistic Director Stoner Winslett's 40th season in 2019-20, female community leaders joined together with a goal of raising \$400,000 towards Richmond Ballet's Endowment Fund. The Ruby Slipper Project was inspired by Ms. Winslett's immeasurable contributions to the ballet community throughout the Commonwealth as well as her national and international successes. The outpouring of generosity for her years of dedication to ballet ultimately raised \$600,000. Richmond Ballet extends its heartfelt thanks to all who were a part of this unforgettable project that will benefit the ballet for years to come.

Kelly Chopus, *Project Chair* Meg Clinard, *President, Board of Trustees* Kathleen Maccio Holman, Chair, Board of Trustees William G. Hancock, Campaign Director

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Richmond Ballet is grateful for its longstanding partnership with The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation which dates back to 1989. As part of the celebration of Stoner Winslett's 40th Anniversary Season, a \$100,000 gift was made in her honor towards the Endowment Fund of Richmond Ballet. This generous gesture towards Ms. Winslett's artistry and tenure is deeply appreciated.

RICHMOND BALLET | ROAD TO THE FUTURE

The Road to the Future was the largest campaign ever undertaken by Richmond Ballet. Individuals, Foundations, Corporations and Public entities joined together in raising \$10.4 million. We were thrilled to announce the successful completion of the campaign from the Dominion Energy Center's Carpenter Theatre stage on opening night of The Nutcracker in 2019. Who could have predicted that The Road to the Future would take such an unexpected detour just three months later? The efforts of those involved in The Road to the Future and the generosity expressed by so many has helped tremendously as we approach the unknowns of the coming season. Richmond Ballet salutes all the donors of this important campaign and thanks them for placing us on a firmer financial footing just when we needed it the most.

Questions or comments about the above donor listings? We want to hear from you! Please contact Susannah Piersol at 804.344.0906 x247 or spiersol@richmondballet.com.



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