



New York City Ballet Returns to Chicago for First Time in Nearly Two Decades as Part of Harris Theater for Music and Dance Anniversary Season

NYCB pairs foundational works from Balanchine and Robbins with contemporary choreography from Abraham, Peck, Tanowitz and Wheeldon in the Company's first return to the Harris stage since 2006 performances

Chicago, IL, March 7, 2024 – This month, **The Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance** will welcome **New York City Ballet (NYCB)** for four days of performances as part of the Harris' 20th anniversary season. NYCB's long-anticipated return to Chicago is exemplary of the Harris' commitment to bring pioneering artists from around the globe to Chicago, in addition to supporting its world-class Resident Companies. NYCB will present three dynamic programs that bridge past and present—***An Evening with New York City Ballet, Masters at Work: Balanchine + Robbins***, and ***21st Century Choreography***—pairing classical favorites by **George Balanchine** and **Jerome Robbins** with work from contemporary talents **Kyle Abraham, Justin Peck, Pam Tanowitz, and Christopher Wheeldon**. Helmed by **Artistic Director Jonathan Stafford** and **Associate Artistic Director Wendy Whelan**—both of whom were NYCB Principal Dancers when the Company last took the stage at the Harris Theater nearly 20 years ago—NYCB returns to the Harris during its own milestone season: the Company's 75th anniversary. NYCB's three programs will run from **Wednesday, March 20, to Saturday, March 23**.

"The New York City Ballet's 2006 performance at the Harris marked a pivotal moment in our institutional history—the beginning of our *Harris Theater Presents* series, which has continued in full force over the past 18 years and has helped to solidify the Harris as an anchor of Chicago's arts ecosystem," says **Lori Dimun, Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols President and CEO of the Harris**. "To welcome the company back in such a landmark year—and to have Wendy and Jonathan return for these public performances and our anniversary celebration—is a truly remarkable full circle moment. This programming looks towards the future while paying homage to the bedrock of our organizations; I can think of nothing more fitting than this particular blend of classical and contemporary ballet and live music."

"New York City Ballet is thrilled to return to Chicago during our 75th anniversary season with repertory favorites by our co-founding choreographers George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, and 21st-century works created by four of today's most acclaimed choreographers," says **Jonathan Stafford, Artistic Director of NYCB**. "We are grateful to the Harris for inviting us to return during our diamond anniversary year and are looking forward to introducing a new generation of NYCB dancers to Chicago audiences."

For the Harris performances, NYCB will be dancing works from the repertoires of two foundational choreographers, including **George Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*** and ***Serenade***, as well as **Jerome Robbins' *In the Night***. In the ***21st Century Choreography*** program, NYCB highlights a new generation of iconic choreographers: **Justin Peck, Pam Tanowitz, Christopher Wheeldon, and Kyle Abraham**. Peck's ***Partita***, featuring eight dancers in sneakers, takes inspiration from its score, Caroline Shaw's Pulitzer Prize-winning a cappella ***Partita for 8 Voices***, and includes set design by the artist **Eva LeWitt**. ***Partita*** marks Peck's 22nd piece created for NYCB, where he was a former Soloist, and now serves as Resident Choreographer and Artistic Advisor. His work was most recently seen in Chicago in February with his production of ***Illinoise*** at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Shaw's music makes another appearance in Pam

Tanowitz's ***Gustave le Gray No. 1***, in which four dancers interact with an onstage pianist. Tanowitz is the founder of Pam Tanowitz Dance, an internationally celebrated post-modern dance company. Wheeldon's ***Liturgy***, set to music by Arvo Pärt, is a contemplative pas de deux with a hushed, mystical quality. Wheeldon is a former NYCB Resident Choreographer who performed with the Company for seven years. Recent performances of his work in Chicago include The Joffrey Ballet's annual holiday production of *The Nutcracker* at the Lyric Opera House, and *MJ the Musical*, which he directed and choreographed, at the James M. Nederlander Theatre last fall. Finally, in ***Love Letter (on shuffle)***, MacArthur Fellow Kyle Abraham's work for 16 dancers features music by the Grammy Award-winning singer and producer James Blake. The work of Abraham, who creates for his own acclaimed dance company A.I.M as well as other companies around the world, was most recently seen in Chicago by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Auditorium Theatre and by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago at the Museum of Contemporary Art, both last March.

New York City Ballet Principal Dancers for the Harris Theater performances are scheduled to include: **Tyler Angle, Chun Wai Chan, Adrian Danchig-Waring, Emilie Gerrity, Joseph Gordon, Anthony Huxley, Isabella LaFreniere, Sara Mearns, Roman Mejia, Mira Nadon, Tiler Peck, Unity Phelan, Taylor Stanley, Peter Walker, Indiana Woodward, and Andrew Veyette**. All performances will be accompanied by the **New York City Ballet Orchestra**.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, the New York City Ballet will perform an exclusive program at the Harris Theater's 20th anniversary celebration ***An Evening with New York City Ballet***. The performance will feature works from both programs, including ***Serenade, Liturgy, and Partita***, after which guests with tickets to the seated dinner will adjourn to the Art Institute of Chicago for an evening of celebration and support for the Harris. For more information or to support the event, please contact Caity Kirchberg at ckirchberg@harristheaterchicago.org or 872-263-0843. Tickets to the performance only can be purchased [here](#).

Programming Details

An Evening with New York City Ballet

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 / 6:00PM

Serenade

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

(*Serenade for Strings*)

Choreography by George Balanchine*

Costumes by Karinska

Original Lighting by Ronald Bates

Lighting by Mark Stanley

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Liturgy

Music by Arvo Pärt

Choreography by Christopher Wheeldon

Costumes by Holly Hynes

Lighting by Mark Stanley

Partita

Music by Caroline Shaw

Choreography by Justin Peck

Scenery by Eva LeWitt

Scenery supervised by Mark Stanley

Costumes by Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung

Lighting by Brandon Stirling Baker

Masters at Work: Balanchine + Robbins

Thursday, March 21, 2024 / 7:30PM

Saturday, March 23, 2024 / 2:00PM

Serenade

Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

(Serenade for Strings)

Choreography by George Balanchine*

Costumes by Karinska

Original Lighting by Ronald Bates

Lighting by Mark Stanley

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In the Night

Music by Frédéric Chopin

Choreography by Jerome Robbins

Costumes by Anthony Dowell

Lighting by Jennifer Tipton

The Four Temperaments

Music by Paul Hindemith

Choreography by George Balanchine*

Lighting by Mark Stanley

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21st Century Choreography

Friday, March 22, 2024 / 7:30PM

Saturday, March 23, 2024 / 7:30PM

Partita

Music by Caroline Shaw

Choreography by Justin Peck

Scenery by Eva LeWitt

Scenery supervised by Mark Stanley

Costumes by Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung
Lighting by Brandon Stirling Baker

Liturgy

Music by Arvo Pärt
Choreography by Christopher Wheeldon
Costumes by Holly Hynes
Lighting by Mark Stanley

Gustave Le Gray No. 1

Music by Caroline Shaw
Choreography by Pam Tanowitz
Costumes by Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung
Lighting by Davison Scandrett

Love Letter (on shuffle)

Music by James Blake
Choreography by Kyle Abraham
Costumes by Giles Deacon
Costumes supervised by Marc Happel
Lighting by Dan Scully

Tickets to the above performances can be purchased at the Harris box office, or at the link [here](#).

Leadership support for the 2023-24 season is provided by: Irving Harris Foundation and Joan W. Harris, Harris Family Foundation and Caryn and King Harris, Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols, Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes, Abbott, Shana and Peter M. Ellis and Reed Smith LLP, Merrilyn J. Kosier and James F. Kinoshita, Northern Trust and Claire and Michael O'Grady, Nancy and Scott Santi, and Cunard.

The Travelers Companies, Inc. is the Global Sponsor of New York City Ballet.

About the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance

The Harris Theater is Chicago's home for music and dance, connecting diverse audiences with artists from across the city, the nation, and the world. An anchor institution of Millennium Park and the first multi-use performance venue built in downtown Chicago since 1929, the Harris was established in 2003 to create a much-needed home for the city's vibrant community of midsize performing arts organizations. Today, the nonprofit Harris Theater features some of the most diverse arts and culture offerings in the city, from its Chicago-based Resident Companies to the world-renowned visiting artists who perform on its stage through the *Harris Theater Presents* series.

The Harris represents a distinctive model for artistic excellence, collaboration, and creative symbiosis, making the performing arts relevant and accessible to the widest possible audience. Acting as both a home

base for and a supportive partner of its Resident Companies, the Harris provides state-of-the-art performance space and ongoing support to nearly 30 Chicago-based performing arts organizations. Its 1,500-seat multi-use theater brings innovative and boundary-pushing productions from more than 32 countries across six continents to Chicago, creating unique opportunities for dialogue between Chicagoans and the world's leading artists, thinkers, and innovators. The organization's signature *Harris Theater Presents* series has featured acclaimed artists and ensembles including Joyce DiDonato, Batsheva Dance, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, English National Ballet, Joshua Bell, Monteverdi Choir, Angélique Kidjo, and Paris Opéra Ballet. The Theater's education and community engagement initiatives build bridges between artists and community members, providing master classes, artist talks, and free tickets for more than 35 partner organizations throughout Chicago.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, Chicago's home for music and dance in Millennium Park, visit harristheaterchicago.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About New York City Ballet

New York City Ballet, one of the foremost ballet companies in the world, was founded in 1948 by the legendary choreographer George Balanchine and arts patron Lincoln Kirstein, and quickly became world-renowned for its athletic and contemporary style. Jerome Robbins joined NYCB the following year and, with Balanchine, helped to build its extraordinary repertory. Today NYCB continues to be inspired by its founders who envisioned an authentically American expression of ballet with a company that reflects the rich cultural diversity of our city and nation. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Jonathan Stafford, Associate Artistic Director Wendy Whelan, and Executive Director Katherine Brown, NYCB remains dedicated to its primary objectives: to preserve the ballets, dance aesthetic, and standards of excellence created and established by its founders; to develop new work that draws on the talents of contemporary choreographers and composers and speaks to the time in which it is made; and to make ballet accessible to the widest possible public through touring, education programs, the creative use of media, and other outreach efforts. To learn more about NYCB, visit nycballet.com.

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