



June 3, 2019

## **MIAMI CITY BALLET RETURNS FROM ACCLAIMED PERFORMANCES AT JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

### **Miami City Ballet Featured in Ballet Across America A Week-Long Festival Celebrating Women's Creativity and Leadership in Ballet**

The Company Unites with Legendary Dance Theatre of Harlem in  
World Premiere of Kennedy Center Commission by Renowned Choreographer Pam Tanowitz

MIAMI BEACH, FL – (June 3, 2019) Miami City Ballet opened its 2019-20 season by headlining Ballet Across America, together with the Dance Theatre of Harlem during a weeklong festival from May 28 – June 2, celebrating women’s creativity and leadership in ballet at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

This season’s engagement took deeper looks at companies led by distinguished Artistic Directors Lourdes Lopez and Virginia Johnson with their respective companies, Miami City Ballet (MCB) and Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH). Each company performed separate programs and additionally, came together in a shared program for one night, which included a world premiere Kennedy Center commission by renowned choreographer Pam Tanowitz.

“As two of the most recognizable female artistic directors in the field, both Lopez and Johnson are responsible for not only overseeing the legacies of their celebrated companies but also building upon those foundations. With each company imprinting its own unique signature on the future of ballet and dance, both women have used their positions to champion equity in the art form and create work reflective of their communities,” said Meg Booth, Director of Dance Programming at the Kennedy Center.

Lopez and Johnson are both credited as women who have taken the helm and are bringing big new ideas to the art form: crafting new ballets, shaping a vision of what a ballet can be in the 21st century, and building company ranks that are reflective of American society. In the male-dominated led industry of ballet, Miami City Ballet is the only major ballet company, globally, led by two women at the helm: Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez and Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko.

"This festival places a spotlight on the diversity of creative contributions led by women in this field, bringing to light the importance and value of continued cultivation and support for women in the variety of creative and leadership roles and its profound impact on future generations and in turn on our communities. It's been an honor and a thrill to perform at the nation's capital and share the stage with the historic Dance Theatre of Harlem, and have this important conversation in our nation's capital." said Miami City Ballet Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez.

Recognized as one of "The Most Influential People in Dance Today" and bestowed the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018, Lopez danced under legendary giants, George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins as the first ever Hispanic Principal of the New York City Ballet. She was also the first artist and dancer to serve on the Ford Foundation board, and in 2012 she became the first female to lead a major ballet company. As the Artistic Director of Miami City Ballet, she has been leading the nationally renowned dance company to new artistic heights and in turn through her leadership, MCB has played a vital role in strengthening Miami's artistic and cultural identity, contributing to its economic and social vitality.

"As one of the anchor arts institutions in South Florida, Miami City Ballet has played a significant vital role in creating and enriching the city's arts and culture in the last few decades. We're proud of the important part Miami City Ballet plays in the cultural landscape of South Florida as well as our role as cultural ambassador for our namesake City," said Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko.

During the Festival, MCB performed Justin Peck's *Heatscape* —a work that perfectly merges ballet and guerilla street art (by Shepard Fairey), inspired by Miami's Wynwood district and in celebration of one the cities and communities it serves. Also included in the program was George Balanchine's joyful *Walpurgisnacht* Ballet, Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Carousel pas de deux*, and Twyla Tharp/Jerome Robbins's co-choreographed energetic work, Brahms/Handel.

The Miami City Ballet Home Season opens October 19 with 16 weeks of performances across Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach through April 26, 2020. For more information about the dynamic new programming or about subscription packages, visit [miamicityballet.org](http://miamicityballet.org).

#### ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet (MCB), now in its 34th season, has grown to 53 dancers and a repertoire of more than 100 ballets. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 100,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School's faculty, challenging syllabus, and affiliation with Miami City Ballet make it a place where all students — from children to adults — receive comprehensive dance training. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round, granting more than \$500,000 in scholarships annually. More than 500 adults participate in a vibrant community division.

Miami City Ballet was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. It is headquartered in Miami Beach, FL, at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

Funding Credits:

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