



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MIAMI CITY BALLET**

### **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season to be Reimagined Amid Pandemic**

#### **Help Keep Dancers on Their Toes with Newly Launched \$4M Dancer Support Fund**

**Miami Beach, FL August 18, 2020** – With the health and well-being of its dancers, staff, patrons, and community-at-large of utmost priority, [Miami City Ballet \(MCB\)](#) announces that all scheduled venue performances for the 2020/21 season at the Arsht, Broward, and Kravis Performing Arts Centers will not go on as previously planned. While the pandemic presents never before seen challenges, one thing remains: MCB will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, dedicated as a love letter to the community, and is looking forward to sharing in the coming months, a reimagined season of new digital works, outdoor performances, and online premieres of some of the company’s most memorable performances – all highlighting the organization’s impressive rise to becoming one of the nation’s top ballet companies.

In addition, the company has launched a [Dancer Support Fund](#) with a \$4 million fundraising goal. MCB’s family of dancers, production team, wardrobe department and entire Artistic staff are the heart of the company. This fund directly benefits the entire Artistic staff, helping to cover wages, health insurance and benefits, helping to safeguard their health and economic well-being over these uncertain times.

Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko states, “We believe that now more than ever our communities need the healing power of the arts and Miami City Ballet is united in our commitment to provide a season of dance that will offer our audiences an opportunity to engage with the company in new and imaginative ways. While we solidify our plans for a reimagined season, we felt it was important to inform our patrons, especially our devoted subscribers, the lifeblood of our company, that our previously scheduled venue performances will not go on as planned. The health and well-being of our dancers, staff, patrons, and audiences takes precedence and we felt it imperative that we make a decision that protects everyone. Until we can all meet again, we have established a Dancer Support Fund to help meet the health and economic needs of our dancers and Artistic staff. We do hope current subscribers, if they are able, will consider donating the value of their subscription to our Dancer Support Fund.”

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez adds, “As we take stock of where we are today, one thing remains true, the importance of our mission to deliver experiences that are joyful, uplifting, healing, and inspiring to our communities is greater than ever and remains at the forefront of our hearts and minds at Miami City Ballet. While the COVID-19 pandemic certainly presents unforeseen challenges, it also offers a unique opportunity for creative experimentation, collaboration, and innovation. As we thoughtfully think through ways to connect with our community, we look forward to sharing with you, new programs and performances through both the digital and physical space in the coming weeks and months, and until we are back together in our theater.”

Current 2020/21 season subscribers will receive an automatic credit for the value of their subscription. Subscribers can choose to use their credit in several ways including donating to MCB’s Dancer Support Fund, a certificate to use for performances that will be announced in coming months, a refund, or a combination of the aforementioned.

Subscribers may contact our Customer Relations Team Monday-Friday 10:00am-5:00pm at 305.929.7010 or [CustomerRelations@miamicityballet.org](mailto:CustomerRelations@miamicityballet.org).

To make a gift to the Dancer Support Fund please contact Gradon Hadaway at [gradon.hadaway@miamicityballet.org](mailto:gradon.hadaway@miamicityballet.org) or 786.364.4566.

Media inquiries, please contact Amber Dorsky at [Amber.Dorsky@miamicityballet.org](mailto:Amber.Dorsky@miamicityballet.org) or 305.929.7000 x7189.

## **ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLE**

Miami City Ballet, celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, has a diverse roster of 50 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130 works. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 125,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and tours to major cities domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles and Paris.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round and grants more than \$650,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet’s Community Engagement programs and initiatives touch the lives of more than 14,000 young people, seniors, and community members, annually.

Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko and Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez lead the company. Lopez was recently awarded the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018 and was named one of “The Most Influential People in Dance Today.” She is on the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees, the first artist to ever serve on its Board.

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.

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Major funding for Miami City Ballet is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a national foundation with strong local roots, investing in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. The Foundation's goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which they believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

Major funding is also provided by the Ford Foundation, working with visionaries on the frontlines of social change worldwide.

Miami-Dade County support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

Performances and programming in Miami Beach is provided with the generous support of the City of Miami Beach and the Cultural Arts Council.

Support for Miami City Ballet in the Palm Beaches is generously sponsored in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.

Broward County funding is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.