



Lourdes Lopez
Artistic Director

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Tania Castroverde Moskalenko
Executive Director

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Miami City Ballet & Paul Taylor Dance Company present *ViVa*
A digital world premiere choreographed by Amy Hall Garner
Filmed on location in Miami and New York City
Thursday, April 1, 2021



(Miami, FL) – [Miami City Ballet](#) (MCB) and [Paul Taylor Dance Company](#) (PTDC) are pleased to announce the premiere of *ViVa*. Created in response to the pandemic, *ViVa* marks the first collaboration between two venerable giants in dance. Choreographed by genre-blurring dancemaker **Amy Hall Garner**, *ViVa* was created remotely and filmed on Miami’s famed Lincoln Road, MCB’s first home, and at the Paul Taylor Studios in Manhattan’s vibrant Lower East Side. It will premiere on both companies’ social media channels beginning **Thursday, April 1, 2021**.

ViVa is a vivacious, bursting with passion, rhythmically driven work set to Antonio Vivaldi’s *Concerto for 4 Violins in B Minor*, and an eponymous salute to the composer and the coupled lineage of ballet and modern dance. The spirited work stars the exuberant MCB soloist **Samantha Hope Galler** and **John Harnage**, PTDC member, Miami native and Miami City Ballet School alumnus.

“I made this work remotely through Zoom. For both dancers, it was the first time being back in the studio, on the marley after nearly a six-month hiatus,” says Amy Hall Garner. “*ViVa* is very fast-paced but also controlled and articulated. It was made to show how dance and dancers continue to move together through distance and circumstance while sharing the passion and intimacy of their relationship with this beloved art form. It was a pleasure to connect the language of both ballet and modern into one choreographic voice.”

“Collaborating with Paul Taylor Dance Company—one of America’s most innovative, acclaimed, and pioneering modern dance companies, for the first time, seems a bit overdue considering MCB’s long enjoyed history of performing many of Taylor’s most beloved works,” says MCB Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez. Giving this gift of dance to both of our audiences while sharing our mutual love and respect for these two different yet inextricably connected art forms, is a spectacular treat. *ViVa* brilliantly connects two of America’s greatest culturally diverse meccas – Miami and New York—created during a time of isolation, we celebrate the joy that is dance, these two magnificent global cities, and the unbreakable bonds that tie us together.”

PTDC Artistic Director Michael Novak says, "I have long been inspired by our partnership with Miami City Ballet, a renowned and dynamic company that performs more Taylor repertory than any other dance company save our own. For decades, this relationship has grown more connected and I am thrilled to create a new form of collaboration: a chance for both our audiences to see our companies together - side-by-side - to celebrate our dynamism, power, and beauty. The commission of Amy Hall Garner's "*ViVa*" illustrates how two companies, from different aesthetic backgrounds and located in different parts of the country - during a global pandemic - can come together to create new art."

ViVa is one of two digital commissions generously funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. *Places* by Claudia Schreier, “performed with verve and wit,” (The New York Times) premiered November 2020. Filming was made possible with the generous support of Michael Comras and The Comras Company, South Florida’s most recognized name in retail leasing, marketing, and development.

In May 2020, MCB premiered [*A Dance for Heroes*](#) by choreographer Durante Verzola. Commissioned by MCB Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez, *A Dance for Heroes* was created to honor first responders and essential workers.

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet, celebrating its 35th 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, serving more than 12,000 people annually in schools and communities; our free programs use the power of dance to uplift, teach and bring joy.

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.

ABOUT PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

"The American spirit soars whenever Taylor's dancers dance." – San Francisco Chronicle

Dancemaker Paul Taylor first presented his choreography with five other dancers in Manhattan on May 30, 1954. That modest performance marked the beginning of 64 years of unrivaled creativity, and in the decades that followed, Mr. Taylor became a cultural icon and one of American history's most celebrated artists, hailed as part of the pantheon that created American modern dance.

The Paul Taylor Dance Company has traveled the globe many times over, bringing Mr. Taylor's ever-burgeoning repertoire to theaters and venues of every size and description in cultural capitals, on college campuses and in rural communities – and often to places modern dance had never been seen before. The Taylor Company has performed in more than 500 cities in 64 countries, representing the United States at arts festivals in more than 40 countries and touring extensively under the aegis of the U.S. Department of State. In 1997 the Company toured throughout India in celebration of that nation's 50th Anniversary. Its 1999 engagement in Chile was named the Best International Dance Event of 1999 by the country's Art Critics' Circle. In the summer of 2001 the Company toured in the People's Republic of China and performed in six cities, four of which had never seen American modern dance before and has since returned on four separate multi-week tours. In the spring of 2003 the Company mounted an award-winning four-week, seven-city tour of the United Kingdom. The Company regularly tours throughout North America, South America, Asia and Europe.

While continuing to garner international acclaim, the Paul Taylor Dance Company performs more than half of each touring season in cities throughout the United States. In celebration of the Company's 50th Anniversary and 50 years of creativity, the Taylor Foundation presented Mr. Taylor's works in all 50 States between March 2004 and November 2005. That tour underscored the Taylor Company's historic role as one of the early touring companies of American modern dance.

Beginning with its first television appearance for the Dance in America series in 1978, the Paul Taylor Dance Company has appeared on PBS in ten different programs, including the 1992 Emmy Award-

winning *Speaking in Tongues* and *The Wrecker's Ball* -- including *Company B*, *Funny Papers*, and *A Field of Grass* -- which was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1997. In 1999 the PBS *American Masters* series aired *Dancemaker*, the Academy Award nominated documentary about Mr. Taylor and his Company. In 2013, PBS aired *Paul Taylor Dance Company in Paris*, featuring *Brandenburgs* and *Beloved Renegade*. The 2014 documentary *Paul Taylor Creative Domain* won critical and public acclaim for its revelation of Mr. Taylor's creative process, as it followed the famously private choreographer and his Company through the entire process of creating a new work from initial concept to opening night.

ABOUT THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

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. For more, visit kf.org. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has been a generous supporter of Miami City Ballet with over \$11 million in cumulative giving since the company's founding.

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