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MIAMI CITY BALLET CELEBRATES SPRING 2023 WITH THREE WORLD PREMIERES, TWO TITANS OF CHOREOGRAPHY, AND FIRST MARTHA GRAHAM IN REPERTORY

Conclusion of 37th Season Welcomes Juan José Escalante As New Executive Director

(Miami Beach, FL — January 27, 2023) – Under the steadfast artistic direction of **Lourdes Lopez, Miami City Ballet** (MCB) concludes its 37th season of dance with three distinct programs over the course of Winter and Spring 2023. Firmly making its mark as one of the country's premier dance companies, MCB also welcomes new Executive Director **Juan José Escalante** into the fold as they embark on an ever-ambitious spring season that includes three world premieres from as many noteworthy choreographers, including choreographic stars **Amy Hall Garner** and **Pontus Lindberg**, works from greats **George Balanchine** and **Jerome Robbins**, and the addition of the company's first **Martha Graham** work to its repertoire. Additionally, the company will present **free** performances throughout South Florida of a second Amy Hall Garner work, ***Rita Finds Home***, a family-friendly collaboration with the **Joffrey Ballet**. The annual MCB Gala, hosted by "So You Think You Can Dance" Executive Producer **Nigel Lythgoe** and celebrating Lourdes Lopez's decade of accomplishments with MCB, will feature excerpts from Robbins' glorious *West Side Story Suite* on **Thursday, March 30**. For more information, please visit www.miamicityballet.org.

The culmination of a hallmark year of bold dance innovation and honoring the vast history of the art form, Miami City Ballet is poised to deliver program after program of dance at the highest level throughout South Florida. Tickets, starting at \$30, are available online miamicityballet.org/subscriptions or by phone at 305.929.7010 or toll-free at 877.929.7010.

Current Executive Director of National Dance Institute Juan José Escalante makes a Miami homecoming as he steps into the role of Miami City Ballet's Executive Director this spring. Not only does Mr. Escalante have a history with the company—having worked with MCB early in his career, during its formative years—but also brings more than 30 years of artistic leadership to help guide Miami City Ballet further along its meteoric path to success. In addition to his tenure as Executive Director for José Limón Dance Company in New York City, he has previously

served in the same position for two other Florida-based companies: Ballet Florida and Orlando Ballet.

“I am beyond grateful to return to the place where it all started,” says Escalante. “South Florida has always embraced me with open arms, and to help usher in even more artistic achievements for the incomparable Miami City Ballet is an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.”

With the start of Escalante’s tenure, MCB kicks off a spring itinerary filled to the brim with exciting new works—both world premieres and new to the company’s repertoire—as well as sure-fire hits from some of the world’s greatest dancemakers. February and March see the company perform its first-ever Martha Graham work, the joyous *Diversion of Angels*, as part of a mixed bill entitled **Modern Masters**. The evening will also include **José Limón**’s pivotal *The Moor’s Pavane*, based on Shakespeare’s *Othello*, as well as world premiere works from two of the dance world’s most inventive choreographers: *Resplendent Fantasy* by Black American choreographer Amy Hall Garner, and *Petrichor* by in-demand Swedish dancemaker Pontus Lindberg.

April’s action-packed triple bill, **Fresh & Fierce**, is for the fashion lovers, musical theatre fans, and dance aficionados alike. Jerome Robbins’ *West Side Story Suite* brings the magic of the classic musical to the concert dance stage, while Balanchine’s *Divertimento No 15*, set to Mozart’s eponymous music, will dazzle audiences. The stunning program is rounded out by *Sentimento*, a new commission by Miami City Ballet School alum **Durante Verzola**, set to music by **Ernesto Lecuona** with costumes designed by fashion icon **Esteban Cortázar**.

The season concludes in May with a double dose of more Balanchine and Robbins in a program entitled **Entradas**, this time featuring Robbins’ famed *Afternoon of a Faun* and the company premiere of his Greek-inspired work *Antique Epigraphs*. The pair of Balanchine pieces, *Symphony in Three Movements* and *Square Dance*, perfectly demonstrate the company’s artistic prowess and see them finish the season with the technical attack and fiery spirit for which they are known.

Below is a full schedule for the Spring 2023 season of Miami City Ballet:

Modern Masters

Diversion of Angels (Graham/Dello Joio)

The Moor’s Pavane (Limón/Purcell)

Petrichor (Lindberg/Glass)

Resplendent Fantasy (Garner/Davis, Dove, Komitas)

Arsht Center, Feb 10-12; Kravis Center, Feb 17-19; Broward Center, Mar 4-5

Special FREE Family-Friendly Program

Rita Finds Home

Choreographed by Amy Hall Garner

A Collaboration with the Joffrey Ballet

Performed by Miami City Ballet School Pre-Professional Students

Sanctuary Of the Arts, Feb 4-5; Adrienne Arsht Center, Feb 11

Society of the Four Arts, Feb 25; Haulover Beach, Mar 12

[Registration is Required for Free Tickets](#)

MCB’s West Side Story Gala – Thursday, March 30

Featuring excerpts from Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite*
Celebrating Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez's decade of accomplishments with MCB
Honoring John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and President/CEO Alberto Ibarguen
Hosted by "So You Think You Can Dance" Executive Producer Nigel Lythgoe

Fresh & Fierce

West Side Story Suite (Robbins/Bernstein)
Divertimento No 15 (Balanchine/Mozart)
Sentimento (Verzola/Lecuona)

Arsht Center, Apr 14-16; Kravis Center, Apr 21-23; Broward Center, Apr 29-30

Entradas

Afternoon of a Faun (Robbins/Debussy)
Square Dance (Balanchine/Vivaldi/Corelli)
Antique Epigraphs (Robbins/Debussy)
Symphony in Three Movements (Balanchine/Stravinsky)
Kravis Center, May 12-14; Arsht Center, May 19-21

Flexible *Create Your Own Series* subscriptions are available. Select from three or four performance combinations at your choice of theater on any available date.

Subscriptions may be purchased through the Miami City Ballet Box Office, Monday – Friday, 9am – 7pm, Saturday, 12pm – 4pm.

Online: miamicityballet.org/subscribe
Phone or text: 305.929.7010 or Toll Free 877.929.7010
Mail: 2200 Liberty Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139
* *Programming and dates are subject to change.*

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet has a diverse roster of 53 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.

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez leads 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. For more information on Miami City Ballet and its programs, visit www.MiamiCityBallet.org. Connect with Miami City Ballet on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#)

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has been a generous supporter of Miami City Ballet with over \$13 million in cumulative giving since the company’s founding. Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit KF.org.

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 provided by the City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Arts Council, and the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commissioners.

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 of Broward County, Florida, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

The Company is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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