

**2015 // 16 SEASON**

**Northrop Presents**

# **ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER**

**Tue, Mar 1, 7:30 pm  
Carlson Family Stage**

*Open Door*  
*Cry*  
*Exodus*  
*Revelations*





Christine Tschida. Photo by Patrick O'Leary, University of Minnesota.

Dear Northrop Dance Lovers,

It's hard to believe that it's been 45 years since Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater first rocked our world here at Northrop. Starting with a single night engagement on February 22, 1971, the company has gone on to appear on the Northrop stage more than 18 times, delighting Minneapolis audiences and thousands of school children who have embraced this remarkable cultural treasure.

Can you imagine what it must have been like at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y in March of 1958, when Alvin Ailey first introduced his ensemble of young dancers to the world? It's a performance that lives in legend now, because it truly "changed forever our perception of American dance." From 92<sup>nd</sup> Street to 71 countries across six continents, the company's reach has exploded, and the audience continues to grow. At last count, an estimated 25 million people have witnessed their artistry in person, and millions more have seen their television broadcasts. No wonder Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has earned the title of "the World's favorite Dance Company."

Today, under the leadership of artistic director Robert Battle, and through the remarkable artistry of more than 30 extraordinary dancers, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater continues to celebrate the African-American cultural experience, and to preserve and enrich the American modern dance tradition. True to their illustrious heritage, the company will share with us tonight two of Mr. Ailey's most popular and critically acclaimed works: *Cry*—a work he originally created as a birthday gift for his mother—and the enduring *Revelations*.

But the company also continues to extend their legacy in dynamic new directions. Our program also contains two newly commissioned works by exciting choreographers: Ronald K. Brown's *Open Door*, and Rennie Harris' *Exodus*. Both are Minnesota premieres.

You'll probably sail out of Northrop tonight on a cloud of joy. And, I'm pleased to say that these amazing artists will share that same joy with 2,700 Minnesota school children tomorrow morning! I invite you to take pride in the fact that your contributions to Northrop make this kind of student performance possible.

So, thank you for being here, and a big thank you for helping Northrop share Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater with the next generation of dance lovers!

Sincerely,

Christine Tschida  
Director of Northrop

**NEXT UP AT NORTHROP:** Join us on Wed, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm when Mark Morris Dance Group performs Henry Purcell's hour-long opera, *Dido and Aeneas*. This timeless story of love and betrayal is danced to live music provided by a full Baroque Orchestra, chorus, and soloists.

Cover: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Rachael McLaren.  
Photo by Andrew Eccles

Northrop at the University of Minnesota

Presents

# ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

ALVIN AILEY, Founder  
JUDITH JAMISON, Artistic Director Emerita

**ROBERT BATTLE, Artistic Director**  
MASAZUMI CHAYA, Associate Artistic Director

## COMPANY MEMBERS

HOPE BOYKIN  
JEROBOAM BOZEMAN  
SEAN AARON CARMON  
ELISA CLARK  
SARAH DALEY  
GHRAI DEVORE  
SAMANTHA FIGGINS  
VERNARD J. GILMORE  
JACQUELINE GREEN  
DANIEL HARDER  
JACQUELIN HARRIS

COLLIN HEYWARD  
DEMETIA HOPKINS-GREENE  
MICHAEL JACKSON, JR.  
MEGAN JAKEL  
YANNICK LEBRUN  
RENALDO MAURICE  
MICHAEL FRANCIS MCBRIDE  
RACHAEL MCLAREN  
CHALVAR MONTIERO  
AKUA NONI PARKER  
DANICA PAULOS

BELEN PEREYRA  
JAMAR ROBERTS  
SAMUEL LEE ROBERTS  
KANJI SEGAWA  
GLENN ALLEN SIMS  
LINDA CELESTE SIMS  
JERMAINE TERRY  
FANA TESFAGIORGIS  
MARCUS JARRELL WILLIS

MATTHEW RUSHING, Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist

**BENNETT RINK, Executive Director**

Major funding for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, American Express, Bank of America, BET Networks, Bloomberg Philanthropies, BNY Mellon, Diageo, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, FedEx, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, The Hearst Foundations, The Prudential Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Southern Company, Target, The Wallace Foundation, and Wells Fargo.



This presentation of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

This presentation is also supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Crane Group, and General Mills Foundation.

**NORTHROP**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

# OPEN DOOR

(2015)

**Choreography by** RONALD K. BROWN  
**Associate Choreographer,** ARCELL CABUAG  
**Music by** LUIS DEMETRIO, ARTURO O'FARRILL, TITO PUENTE  
**Costumes by** KEIKO VOLTAIRE  
**Lighting by** AL CRAWFORD

LINDA CELESTE SIMS, MATTHEW RUSHING,  
GLENN ALLEN SIMS, JAMAR ROBERTS, DANIEL HARDER, RENALDO MAURICE,  
BELEN PEREYRA, FANA TESFAGIORGIS, AKUA NONI PARKER, SAMANTHA FIGGINS

The creation of *Open Door* is supported by commissioning funds from New York City Center.

Generous support is provided by The Jaharis Family Foundation,  
Tracy Elise Poole, and The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey—  
Sara & Bill Morgan New Works Endowment Fund

**Ronald K. Brown** founded Evidence, A Dance Company in 1985. He has worked with Mary Anthony Dance Theater and Jennifer Muller/The Works and has set works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Philadanco, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Philadanco, Muntu Dance Theater of Chicago, Ballet Hispanico, and MalPaso. Brown is the recipient of two Black Theater Alliance Awards, a Fred and Adele Astaire Award for Outstanding Choreography on Broadway for the Tony Award-winning *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, and an AUDELCO Award for his choreography for Regina Taylor's *Crowns*. Brown has also received the Doris Duke Artist Award, John Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Choreographer's Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, United States Artists Rose Fellowship, The Ailey School Apex Award for teaching, and a Def Dance Jam Mentor of the Year Award.

"La Puerta" by Luis Demetrio, performed by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. "All of the Americas" is the 2nd movement of "Afro Latin Jazz Suite" by Arturo O'Farrill, performed by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. "Vaca Frita" by Arturo O'Farrill, performed by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. "Picadillo" by Tito Puente, performed by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra.

## PAUSE





## **CRY** (1971)

**Choreography by** ALVIN AILEY  
**Restaged by** MASAZUMI CHAYA  
**Choreography coaching by** JUDITH JAMISON, DONNA WOOD SANDERS  
**Music by** ALICE COLTRANE, LAURA NYRO, CHUCK GRIFFIN  
**Costume by** A. CHRISTINA GIANNINI  
**Lighting by** CHENAULT SPENCE

*For all Black women everywhere—especially our mothers.*

RACHAEL MCLAREN

This new production of *Cry* is made possible with generous support from Judith McDonough Kaminski and Joseph Kaminski.

The original production of *Cry* was made possible, in part, by a grant from Ford Foundation.

"Something About John Coltrane" written by Alice Coltrane. Published by Jowcol Music. "Been on a Train" 100% Laura Nyro (BMI) – EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI). © 1971 EMI Blackwood Music Inc. All rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC., 424 Church Street, Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37219. All rights reserved. Used by permission. "Right On, Be Free" written by Chuck Griffin, performed by The Voices of East Harlem. Used with permission of the publisher, Really Together Music.

### **INTERMISSION**

# EXODUS

(2015)

**Choreography by** RENNIE HARRIS  
**Assistant Choreographer/Rehearsal Director,** NINA FLAGG  
**Music by** VARIOUS ARTISTS  
**Costumes by** JON TAYLOR  
**Lighting by** JAMES CLOTFELTER  
**Choreographer's Assistant,** MILLIE HECKLER

JAMAR ROBERTS,  
 MATTHEW RUSHING,  
 LINDA CELESTE SIMS, JACQUELIN HARRIS, BELEN PEREYRA,  
 JACQUELINE GREEN, AKUA NONI PARKER, GHRAI DEVORE, SARAH DALEY,  
 MICHAEL FRANCIS MCBRIDE, DANIEL HARDER, GLENN ALLEN SIMS,  
 RENALDO MAURICE, MICHAEL JACKSON, JR., CHALVAR MONTEIRO, YANNICK LEBRUN

The world premiere of *Exodus* is made possible  
 with leadership support from Melinda & Paul Pressler.

**Rennie Harris** was born and raised in an African-American community in North Philadelphia. In 1992, he founded Rennie Harris Puremovement, a hip-hop dance theater company dedicated to preserving and disseminating hip-hop culture. Voted one of the most influential people in the last 100 years of Philadelphia history, Harris has received several accolades, including the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the Governor's Arts Award, a United States Artist Fellowship, and an honorary doctorate from Bates College. *The London Times* wrote of Harris that he is "the Basquiat of the U.S. contemporary dance scene." Rennie Harris Puremovement was chosen by DanceMotion USA as one of four companies to serve as citizen diplomats, and toured in Egypt, Israel, Palestinian territories, and Jordan in 2012.

Original compositions by Raphael Xavier "A New Deal."

## INTERMISSION

# REVELATIONS

(1960)

**Choreography by** ALVIN AILEY  
**Music,** TRADITIONAL  
**Décor and costumes by** VES HARPER  
**Costumes for "Rocka My Soul" redesigned by** BARBARA FORBES  
**Lighting by** NICOLA CERNOVITCH

## PILGRIM OF SORROW

- I Been 'Buked**.....THE COMPANY  
 Music arranged by Hall Johnson\*
- Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel**.....MICHAEL FRANCIS MCBRIDE, DANICA PAULOS, FANA TESFAGIORGIS  
 Music arranged by James Miller+
- Fix Me, Jesus**.....GHRAI DEVORE, MARCUS JARRELL WILLIS  
 Music arranged by Hall Johnson\*

## TAKE ME TO THE WATER

- Processional/Honor, Honor**.....KANJI SEGAWA, MEGAN JAKEL, JERMAINE TERRY, SEAN AARON CARMON  
 Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts
- Wade in the Water**.....LINDA CELESTE SIMS, GLENN ALLEN SIMS, JACQUELINE GREEN  
 Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts  
 "Wade in the Water" sequence by Ella Jenkins  
 "A Man Went Down to the River" is an original composition by Ella Jenkins
- I Wanna Be Ready**.....MATTHEW RUSHING  
 Music arranged by James Miller+

## MOVE, MEMBERS, MOVE

- Sinner Man**.....MICHAEL JACKSON, JR., SEAN AARON CARMON, SAMUEL LEE ROBERTS  
 Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts
- The Day is Past and Gone**.....THE COMPANY  
 Music arranged by Howard A. Roberts and Brother John Sellers
- You May Run On**.....THE COMPANY  
 Music arranged by Howard A. Roberts and Brother John Sellers
- Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham**.....THE COMPANY  
 Music adapted and arranged by Howard A. Roberts

\* Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., publisher and copyright owner.  
 + Used by special arrangement with Galaxy Music Corporation, New York City.

All performances of *Revelations* are permanently endowed by a generous gift  
 from Donald L. Jonas in celebration of the birthday of his wife Barbara  
 and her deep commitment to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

## THE COMPANY

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled performance in March 1958 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance changed forever the perception of American dance. The Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 25 million people at theaters in 48 states and 71 countries on six continents—and has reached millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms. In 2008, a U.S. Congressional resolution designated the company as “a vital American cultural ambassador to the world” that celebrates the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance heritage. When Ailey began creating dances, he drew upon his “blood memories” of Texas, the blues, spirituals, and gospel as inspiration, which resulted in the creation of his most popular and critically acclaimed work, *Revelations*. Although he created 79 ballets over his lifetime, Ailey maintained that his company was not exclusively a repository for his own work. Today the company continues Ailey’s mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. In all, more than 235 works by more than 90 choreographers have been part of the Ailey company’s repertory. Before his untimely death in 1989, Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and over the next 21 years she brought the company to unprecedented success. Jamison, in turn, personally selected Robert Battle to succeed her in 2011, and *The New York Times* declared he “has injected the company with new life.”

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gratefully acknowledges  
**The Joan & Sandy Weill Global Ambassador Fund,**  
 which provides vital support for Ailey’s national and international tours.



The Company with Artistic Director Robert Battle, Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, and Rehearsal Director and Guest Artist Matthew Rushing. Photo by Andrew Eccles



### **ROBERT BATTLE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Robert Battle became artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011 after being personally selected by Judith Jamison, making him only the third person to head the

company since it was founded in 1958. Battle has a longstanding association with the Ailey organization. A frequent choreographer and artist-in-residence at Ailey since 1999, he has set many of his works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, and at The Ailey School. The company’s current repertory includes his ballets *No Longer Silent* and *Awakening*. In addition to expanding the Ailey repertory with works by artists as diverse as Kyle Abraham, Aszure Barton, Ronald K. Brown, Rennie Harris, Matthew Rushing, Hofesh Shechter, Paul Taylor, and Christopher Wheeldon, Battle has also instituted the New Directions Choreography Lab to help develop the next generation of choreographers. Battle’s journey to the top of the modern dance world began in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, Florida. He showed artistic talent early and studied dance at a high school arts magnet program before moving on to Miami’s New World School of the Arts, under the direction of Daniel Lewis and Gerri Houlihan, and finally to the dance program at The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy, where he met his mentor, Carolyn Adams. He danced with The Parsons Dance Company from 1994 to 2001, and also set his choreography on that company starting in 1998. Battle then founded his own Battleworks Dance Company, which made its debut in 2002 in Düsseldorf, Germany, as the U.S. representative to the World Dance Alliance’s Global Assembly. Battleworks subsequently performed extensively at venues, including The Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, American Dance Festival, and Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival. Battle was honored as one of the “Masters of

African-American Choreography” by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005, and he received the prestigious Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA in 2007. He has honorary doctorates from The University of the Arts and Marymount Manhattan College. Most recently Battle was named a 2015 Visiting Fellow for The Art of Change, an initiative by the Ford Foundation. He is a sought-after keynote speaker and has addressed a number of high-profile organizations, including the United Nations Leaders Programme and the UNICEF Senior Leadership Development Programme.



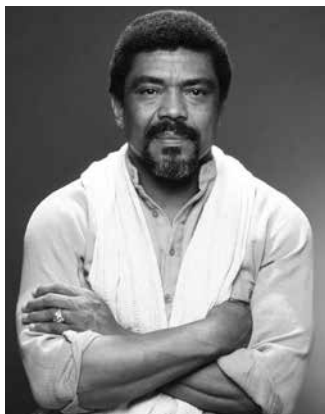
### **MASAZUMI CHAYA ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Masazumi Chaya was born in Fukuoka, Japan, where he began his classical ballet training. Upon moving to New York in December 1970, he studied modern dance and

performed with the Richard Englund Repertory Company. Chaya joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1972 and performed with the company for 15 years. In 1988, he became the company’s rehearsal director after serving as assistant rehearsal director for two years. A master teacher both on tour with the company and in his native Japan, he served as choreographic assistant to Alvin Ailey and John Butler. In 1991, Chaya was named associate artistic director of the company. He continues to provide invaluable creative assistance in all facets of its operations. Chaya has restaged numerous ballets by Alvin Ailey, including *Flowers* for the State Ballet of Missouri (1990) and *The River* for the Royal Swedish Ballet (1993), Ballet Florida (1995), National Ballet of Prague (1995), Pennsylvania Ballet (1996), and Colorado Ballet (1998). He has also restaged *The Mooche*, *The Stack-Up*, *Episodes*, *Bad Blood*, *Hidden Rites*, and *Witness* for the company. At the beginning of his tenure as associate artistic director, Chaya restaged Ailey’s *For ‘Bird’ - With*

## THE COMPANY

*Love for a Dance in America* program entitled *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: Steps Ahead*. In 2000, he restaged Ailey's *Night Creature* for the Rome Opera House and *The River* for La Scala Ballet. In 2002, Chaya coordinated the company's appearance at the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, broadcast on NBC. In 2003, he restaged *The River* for North Carolina Dance Theatre and for Julio Bocca's Ballet Argentina. Most recently, Chaya restaged *Pas de Duke, Vespers, Bad Blood, Love Songs, and Blues Suite* for the company. As a performer, Chaya appeared on Japanese television in both dramatic and musical productions. He wishes to recognize the artistic contribution and spirit of his late friend and fellow artist, Michihiko Oka.



### **ALVIN AILEY FOUNDER**

Alvin Ailey was born on January 5, 1931, in Rogers, Texas. His experiences of life in the rural South would later inspire some of his most memorable works. He was introduced to dance in Los Angeles by performances of

the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, and his formal dance training began with an introduction to Lester Horton's classes by his friend Carmen de Lavallade. Horton, the founder of one of the first racially-integrated dance companies in the United States, became a mentor for Ailey as he embarked on his professional career. After Horton's death in 1953, Ailey became director of the Lester Horton Dance Theater and began to choreograph his own works. In the 1950s and 60s, Ailey performed in four Broadway shows, including *House of Flowers* and *Jamaica*. In 1958, he founded Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to carry out his vision of a company dedicated to enriching the American modern dance heritage and preserving the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience. He established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center

(now The Ailey School) in 1969 and formed the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble (now Ailey II) in 1974. Ailey was a pioneer of programs promoting arts in education, particularly those benefiting underserved communities. Throughout his lifetime he was awarded numerous distinctions, including the Kennedy Center Honor in 1988 in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to American culture. In 2014, he posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, in recognition of his contributions and commitment to civil rights and dance in America. When Ailey died on December 1, 1989, *The New York Times* said of him, "you didn't need to have known [him] personally to have been touched by his humanity, enthusiasm, and exuberance and his courageous stand for multi-racial brotherhood."

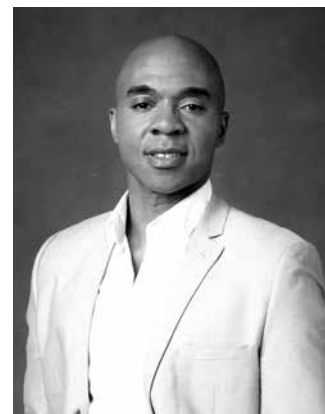


### **JUDITH JAMISON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITA**

Judith Jamison joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965 and quickly became an international star. Over the next 15 years, Ailey created some of his most enduring roles

for her, most notably the tour-de-force solo *Cry*. During the 1970s and 80s, she appeared as a guest artist with ballet companies all over the world, starred in the hit Broadway musical *Sophisticated Ladies*, and formed her own company, The Jamison Project. She returned to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1989 when Ailey asked her to succeed him as artistic director. In the 21 years that followed, she brought the company to unprecedented heights—including two historic engagements in South Africa and a 50-city global tour to celebrate the company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jamison is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them a prime time Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, a Kennedy Center Honor, a National Medal of Arts,

a Bessie Award, the Phoenix Award, and the Handel Medallion. She was also listed in "The *TIME* 100: The World's Most Influential People" and honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at the first White House Dance Series event. This year she became the 50<sup>th</sup> inductee into the Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance. As a highly regarded choreographer, Jamison has created many celebrated works, including *Divining* (1984), *Forgotten Time* (1989), *Hymn* (1993), *HERE... NOW*. (commissioned for the 2002 Cultural Olympiad), *Love Stories* (with additional choreography by Robert Battle and Rennie Harris, 2004), and *Among Us (Private Spaces: Public Places, 2009)*. Jamison's autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and published in 1993. In 2004, under Jamison's artistic directorship, her idea of a permanent home for the Ailey company was realized and named after beloved chairman emerita Joan Weill. Jamison continues to dedicate herself to asserting the prominence of the arts in our culture and she remains committed to promoting the significance of the Ailey legacy—using dance as a medium for honoring the past, celebrating the present, and fearlessly reaching into the future.



### **MATTHEW RUSHING REHEARSAL DIRECTOR AND GUEST ARTIST**

Matthew Rushing was born in Los Angeles, California. He began his dance training with Kashmir Blake in Inglewood, California, and later continued his

training at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He is the recipient of a Spotlight Award and a *Dance Magazine* Award and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He was a scholarship student at The Ailey School and later became a member of Ailey II, where he danced for a year. During his career, Rushing has performed as a guest artist for galas in Vail, Colorado, as well

as in Austria, Canada, France, Italy, and Russia. He has performed for Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, as well as at the 2010 White House Dance Series. During his time with the company, he has choreographed three ballets: *Acceptance In Surrender* (2005), a collaboration with Hope Boykin and Abdur-Rahim Jackson; *Uptown* (2009), a tribute to the Harlem Renaissance; and *ODETTA* (2014), a celebration of "the queen of American folk music." In 2012, he created *Moan*, which was set on Philadanco and premiered at The Joyce Theater. Rushing joined the company in 1992 and became rehearsal director in June 2010.

**PHOTOS:** Robert Battle, Masazumi Chaya, Judith Jamison, and Matthew Rushing. Photos by Andrew Eccles Alvin Ailey. Photo by Jack Mitchell

# THE DANCERS

**HOPE BOYKIN** (Durham, NC) is a three-time recipient of the American Dance Festival's Young Tuition Scholarship. She attended Howard University and, while in Washington, D.C., performed with Lloyd Whitmore's New World Dance Company. Boykin was a student and intern at The Ailey School. She was assistant to the late Talley Beatty and an original member of Complexions. Boykin was a member of Philadanco and received a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie). In 2005, Boykin choreographed *Acceptance In Surrender* in collaboration with Abdur-Rahim Jackson and Matthew Rushing for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Most recently she choreographed *Go in Grace* with award-winning singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock for the company's 50th anniversary season. Boykin joined the company in 2000.

**JEROBOAM BOZEMAN** (Brooklyn, NY) began his dance training under Ruth Sistaire at the Ronald Edmonds Learning Center. He later joined Creative Outlet, and was granted full scholarships at the Joffrey Ballet School and Dance Theatre of Harlem. Bozeman is a gold-medal recipient of the NAACP ACT-SO Competition in Dance. He performed in Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway musical *Aida* (international tour in China) and was a part of Philadanco, Donald Byrd's Spectrum Dance Theater, and Ailey II. Bozeman joined the company in 2013.

**SEAN AARON CARMON** (Beaumont, TX) attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and later graduated from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. He was a member of Elisa Monte Dance and subsequently originated the role of Phaedra in the 2010 Tony Award-winning revival of *La Cage Aux Folles*. Carmon also performed in the longest-running musical on Broadway, *The Phantom of the Opera*. He has appeared as a guest artist with the International Dance Association in Italy and with the Cape Dance Company in South Africa. As a choreographer and jazz teacher, he has taught at and set works, both original and as a répétiteur, on numerous high schools, colleges, and companies, both nationally and internationally. Carmon joined the company in 2011.

**ELISA CLARK** (Brandywine, MD) received her early training from the Maryland Youth Ballet and earned her BFA from The Juilliard School, under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy. She was a founding member of Robert Battle's Battleworks Dance Company from 2001-06, where she also served as company manager. In addition, Clark was a member of Mark Morris Dance Group and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, as well as a dancer at the Metropolitan Opera, where she worked with Crystal Pite, among others. She has assisted Battle in the creations of *Juba*, *Love Stories*, and *Awakening*,

here at Ailey, and currently stages his work nationwide. As a teacher, Clark has been on faculty at the American Dance Festival, taught numerous master classes throughout the world, and worked closely alongside Carolyn Adams. She is a 2008 Princess Grace Award winner. Clark joined the company in 2013.

**SARAH DALEY** (South Elgin, IL) began her training at the Faubourg School of Ballet in Illinois under the direction of Watmora Casey and Tatyana Mazur. She is a 2009 graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. Daley trained at institutions such as the Kirov Academy, National Ballet School of Canada, The San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and intensives at Ballet Camp Illinois and Ballet Adriatico in Italy. She is a recipient of a Youth America Grand Prix Award and an ARTS Foundation Award. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2011.

**GHRAI DeVORE** (Washington, D.C.) began her formal dance training at the Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center and was a scholarship student at The Ailey School. She has completed summer programs at the Kirov Academy, Ballet Chicago, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. DeVore was a member of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater 2, Hubbard Street 2, Dance Works Chicago, and Ailey II. She is a recipient of the Danish Queen Ingrid Scholarship of Honor and the Dizzy Feet Foundation Scholarship, and she was a 2010 nominee for the first annual Clive Barnes Award. DeVore joined the company in 2010.

**SAMANTHA FIGGINS** (Washington, D.C.) began dancing at Duke Ellington School of the Arts under the tutelage of Charles Auggins and Sandra Fortune-Greene and attended summer intensives at Dance Theatre of Harlem under the direction of Arthur Mitchell. She continued her education at SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. There she performed works by George Balanchine, Bill T. Jones, Paul Taylor, and Twyla Tharp. Upon graduating cum laude, Figgins became a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, performing works by Dwight Rhoden, Jae Man Joo, and Camille A. Brown. She also performed at the 2014 DanceOpen Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. Figgins was featured both on the cover of *Dance Spirit* magazine and in *Pointe* magazine's "10 Careers to Watch" in 2013. She has worked with Beyoncé and can be seen in the film *Enemy Within* alongside Tiler Peck and Matthew Rushing. Figgins joined the company in 2014.

**VERNARD J. GILMORE** (Chicago, IL) began dancing at Curie Performing and Creative Arts High School in Chicago and later studied at the Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre with Harriet Ross, Marquita Levy, and Emily Stein. He attended Barat College as a dance scholarship recipient and received first place in the all-city NAACP ACT-SO Competition in Dance in 1993. He studied as a scholarship student at The Ailey School and was a member of Ailey II. In 2010 he performed at the White House Dance Series. Gilmore is an active choreographer for the Ailey Dancers Resource Fund and has choreographed for Fire Island Dance Festival 2008 and Jazz Foundation of America Gala 2010; he also produced the *Dance of Light Project* in January 2010. Gilmore is a certified Zena Rommett Floor-Barre instructor. He continues to teach workshops and master classes around the world. Gilmore joined the company in 1997.

**JACQUELINE GREEN** (Baltimore, MD) began her dance training at the Baltimore School for the Arts under the direction of Norma Pera, Deborah Robinson, and Anton Wilson. She is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. Green has attended summer programs at Pennsylvania Regional Ballet, Chautauqua Institution, Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. She has performed works by a variety of choreographers, including Elisa Monte, Helen Pickett, Francesca Harper, Azsure Barton, Earl Mosley, and Michael Vernon Green is the recipient of a 2014 Dance Fellowship from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA and a 2015 Clive Barnes Award nominee. She is also the recipient of the 2009 Martha Hill Fund's Young Professional Award and the 2010 Dizzy Feet Foundation Scholarship. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2011.

**DANIEL HARDER** (Bowie, MD) began dancing at Suitland High School's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts in Maryland. He is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance, where he was awarded the Jerome Robbins/Layton Foundation Scholarship. He participated in the Holland Dance Festival with The Ailey School and as a member of the Francesca Harper Project. After dancing in the European tour of *West Side Story*, Harder became a member of Ailey II. He joined the company in 2010.

**JACQUELIN HARRIS** (Charlotte, NC) began her dance training at Dance Productions Studios under the direction of Lori Long. In 2010, as a finalist for the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, Harris received a silver ARTS award and was a semifinalist for the Presidential Scholar in the Arts. She attended summer programs at Jacob's Pillow and

Joffrey Ballet School, and has performed works by Kate Skarpetowska, Daniel Catanach, Troy Powell, and Erika Pujic. She graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2014.

**COLLIN HEYWARD** (Newport News, VA) began his training at The Academy of Dance and Gymnastics in Newport News under the direction of Linda Haas, and later at Denise Wall's Dance Energy in Virginia Beach. Heyward also attended several dance intensives, including Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts, and has performed works by Sidra Bell, Francisco Martinez, Elisa Monte, and Scott Rink. He has made guest appearances with Company Stefanie Batten Bland and in the revival of E. Clement Bethel's *The Legend of Sammie Swain* in Nassau, Bahamas. Heyward is also a featured dancer in the Fox Searchlight film *Black Nativity*. He graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance and was a member of Ailey II. Heyward joined the company in 2014.

**DEMETIA HOPKINS-GREENE** (Orange, VA) began her dance training at the Orange School of Performing Arts under the direction of her uncle, Ricardo Porter, and Heather Powell. She has studied at the National Youth Ballet of Virginia; Virginia School of the Arts; the Summer Dance International Course in Burgos, Spain; The Rock School; and Dance Theatre of Harlem School. Hopkins-Greene graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance in 2009 and was a recipient of a Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Arts in 2011. Hopkins-Greene was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2010.

**MICHAEL JACKSON, JR.** (New Orleans, LA) began his dance training at age 14 at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Charles Auggins. He became a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem Dancing through Barriers Ensemble in 2005. In 2006, he joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and in 2008 joined Philadanco, where he also worked as artistic director of D3. Jackson joined the company in 2011 and rejoined in 2015.

**MEGAN JAKEL** (Waterford, MI) trained in ballet and jazz in her hometown. As a senior in high school, she spent a year dancing with the City Ballet of San Diego. In 2005, Jakel was an apprentice and rehearsal director for the Francesca Harper Project. She graduated with honors in May 2007 from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. Jakel has performed works by choreographers David Parsons, Debbie Allen, Thaddeus Davis, Hans van Manen, and Dwight Rhoden. She was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2009.



# THE DANCERS

**YANNICK LEBRUN** (Cayenne, French Guiana) began training in his native country at the Adaclam School under the guidance of Jeanine Verin. After graduating high school in 2004, he moved to New York City to study at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Lebrun has performed works by choreographers Troy Powell, Debbie Allen, Scott Rink, Thaddeus Davis, Nilas Martins, Dwight Rhoden, and Francesca Harper. He was named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" in 2011, and, in 2013, *France-Amérique* magazine highlighted him as one of the 50 most talented French in the United States. Lebrun was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2008.

**RENALDO MAURICE** (Gary, IN) began his dance training with Tony Simpson and is a graduate of Talent Unlimited High School. He attended the Emerson School for Visual and Performing Arts and studied with Larry Brewer and Michael Davis. Maurice was a scholarship student at The Ailey School, has trained on scholarship at Ballet Chicago and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and had an internship at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. In 2008, he received second place in modern dance from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and received the Dizzy Feet Foundation Scholarship in 2009. In February 2012, Maurice was honored with the key to the city of Gary, Indiana, his hometown. He was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2011.

**MICHAEL FRANCIS MCBRIDE** (Johnson City, NY) began his training at the Danek School of Performing Arts and later trained at Amber Perkins School of the Arts in Norwich, New York. McBride attended Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts for two consecutive summers and was also assistant to Mosley when he set the piece *Saddle UP!* on the company in 2007. In January 2012, McBride performed and taught as a guest artist with the JUNTOS Collective in Guatemala. McBride graduated magna cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance in 2010 after he joined the company in 2009.

**RACHAEL McLAREN** (Manitoba, Canada) began her formal dance training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. After graduating from high school, she joined the Toronto cast of *Mamma Mia!* McLaren moved to New York City to study at The Ailey School as a scholarship student and later joined Ailey II. She has performed works by Karole Armitage, Dwight Rhoden, Francesca Harper, and Nilas Martins. McLaren joined the company in 2008.

**CHALVAR MONTEIRO** (Montclair, NJ) began his formal dance training at Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts and went on to study at The Ailey School. He received his BFA in dance from SUNY Purchase, where he performed works by Merce Cunningham, Helen Pickett, Doug Varone, Paul Taylor, Kevin Wynn, and Dianne McIntyre. Since graduating, Monteiro has worked with Sidra Bell Dance New York, Elisa Monte Dance, Keigwin + Company, and, most recently, Abraham.In.Motion. He has assisted Kyle Abraham in setting and creating work for Barnard College, Princeton University, Emory University, Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Wendy Whelan's *Restless Creature*. Monteiro was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2015.

**AKUA NONI PARKER** (Kinston, NC) began dancing at the age of three. She later moved to Wilmington, Delaware, and continued her training at the Academy of the Dance until she graduated high school. In 1999, she joined Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she danced leading roles in *Agon*, *Giselle*, and *The Four Temperaments*. In 2005, she joined Cincinnati Ballet, where she danced soloist roles in *Swan Lake* and *Lambarena*. In 2006, Parker joined Ballet San Jose, where she was the first African-American woman to dance the Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*. She teaches master classes throughout the country, has coached young dancers for YAGP, and worked on the film *Enemy Within* as a wardrobe consultant and rehearsal director. Since joining the company, she has had the pleasure of performing at the Gala of International Dance Stars. She joined the company in 2008.

**DANICA PAULOS** (Huntington Beach, CA) began her dance training at Orange County Dance Center in southern California and also studied in Los Angeles with Yuri Grigoriev. She graduated from the Professional Performing Arts School in New York and trained at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Paulos attended summer intensives at Kirov Academy of Ballet, The Juilliard School, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Jacob's Pillow. She has performed works by Robert Battle, Judith Jamison, Matthew Rushing, Hope Boykin, Erika Pujic, Christian von Howard, Earl Mosley, and Kate Skarpetowska. Paulos received a Level 1 Award as a YoungArts finalist by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. In 2015, she was featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine* as one of "25 to Watch." Paulos was a member of Ailey II and joined the company in 2014.

**BELEN PEREYRA** (Lawrence, MA) began her formal dance training at the Boston Arts Academy, where she graduated as valedictorian. She was also a member of Origination Cultural Arts Center in Boston. Upon moving to New York City, Pereyra was closely mentored by Earl Mosley and danced with Camille A. Brown & Dancers for three years, during which time she performed at The Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and Dancers Responding to AIDS' annual events Dance from the Heart and The Fire Island Dance Festival. Pereyra was an apprentice for Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company, and has performed with Lula Washington Dance Theater, Nathan Trice, and Roger C. Jeffrey. She assisted Matthew Rushing with his ballet *Uptown* for the Ailey company in 2009. Pereyra joined the company in 2011.

**JAMAR ROBERTS** (Miami, FL) graduated from the New World School of the Arts. He trained at the Dance Empire of Miami and as a scholarship student at The Ailey School. Roberts was a member of Ailey II and Complexions. He first joined the company in 2002.

**SAMUEL LEE ROBERTS** (Quakertown, PA) began his dance training under the direction of Kathleen Johnston and attended The Juilliard School. He performed in the first international show of *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* in Mexico City and danced with the New York cast from 1999-2004. Roberts performed during the award ceremony at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, worked with Corbin Dances and Keigwin + Company, and was a founding member of Battleworks Dance Company. In May 2006, Roberts was named *Dance Magazine's* "On the Rise" dancer. He performed several roles in Julie Taymor's film *Across the Universe* and the original opera *Grendel*. Roberts joined the company in 2009.

**KANJI SEGAWA** (Kanagawa, Japan) began his modern dance training with his mother, Erika Akoh, and studied ballet with Kan Horiuchi and Ju Horiuchi in Tokyo, Japan. In 1997, Segawa came to the U.S. under the Japanese Government Artist Fellowship to train at The Ailey School. He was a member of Ailey II from 2000-02 and Robert Battle's Battleworks Dance Company from 2002-10. Segawa worked extensively with choreographer Mark Morris from 2004-11, repeatedly appearing in various productions with Mark Morris Dance Group, including as a principal dancer in John Adams' *Nixon in China* at The Metropolitan Opera. He has also assisted and worked closely with choreographer Jessica Lang since 1999. Segawa joined the company in 2011.

**GLENN ALLEN SIMS** (Long Branch, NJ) began his classical dance training at the Academy of Dance Arts in Red Bank, New Jersey. He attended The Juilliard School under the artistic guidance of Benjamin Harkarvy. In 2004, Sims was the youngest person to be inducted into the Long Branch High School's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. He has been seen in several network television programs, including *BET Honors*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Today Show*, and *So You Think You Can Dance*. In 2010, Sims taught as a master teacher in Ravenna, Italy, for Dance Up Ravenna, sponsored by the International Dance Association, and performed in the White House Dance Series. He has performed for the king of Morocco and is a certified Zena Rommett Floor-Barre instructor. Sims was featured on the cover of and wrote a featured guest blog for *Dance Magazine*. Recently he became a certified pilates mat trainer. Sims joined the company in 1997.

**LINDA CELESTE SIMS** (Bronx, NY) began her dance training at Ballet Hispanico School of Dance and is a graduate of LaGuardia High School of the Performing Arts. In addition to a National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Award, Sims won Outstanding Performance at the 2014 New York Dance and Performance Awards ("The Bessies"). Featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine*, and in annual "Best of" lists, she has performed as a guest star on *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and *The Today Show*. Sims has also made guest appearances at the White House Dance Series, Youth America Grand Prix, Vail International Dance Festival, and galas in Budapest and Vienna. She teaches classes around the world and is a certified Floor-Barre instructor. Sims joined the company in 1996.

**JERMAINE TERRY** (Washington, D.C.) began his dance training in Kissimmee at James Dance Center. He graduated cum laude with a BFA in dance performance from the University of South Florida, where he received scholarships for excellence in performance and choreography. Terry was a scholarship student at The Ailey School and a member of Ailey II, and he has performed with Buglisi Dance Theatre, Arch Dance, Dance Iquail, and Philadanco. In 2013, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from USF for outstanding service to the arts. Terry joined the company in 2010.

# THE DANCERS

**FANA TEFAGIORGIS** (Madison, WI) is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance, with a minor in journalism. She began training at Ballet Madison, under the direction of Charmaine Ristow, and Interlochen Arts Academy High School. Tesfagiorgis also trained at summer and winter intensives at Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. Professionally she has danced with Ailey II, Brian Harlan Brooks' Continuum, Alenka Cizmesja's Art DeConstructed, Dance Iquail, Freddie Moore's Footprints, and Samuel Pott's Nimbus Dance Works. Tesfagiorgis has been a rehearsal assistant for Hope Boykin, Earl Mosley, Pedro Ruiz, Matthew Rushing, and Sylvia Waters. She joined the company in 2013.

**MARCUS JARRELL WILLIS** (Houston, TX) began his formal training at the Johnston Performing Arts Middle School, the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and Discovery Dance Group in Houston, Texas. At age 16 he moved to New York City and studied at The Ailey School as a scholarship student. Willis is a recipient of a Level 1 ARTS Award given by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts and has received scholarships to many schools, including The Juilliard School. He was a member of Ailey II and also worked with Pascal Rioult Dance Theater, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, and Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza. Willis joined the company in 2008.

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Mary Jean and John DeRosier  
Goodale Family Foundation  
Bruce and Judith Hadler  
Karen Johnson  
Gail and Jack Kochie  
Kevin Nobsisch and  
Kim Leventhal  
Tom and Mary Racciatti  
Dr. David A. Rothenberger  
Gordon Rouse and  
Sylvia Beach  
Barbara Stoll  
Jeff Stout and Ron Overlid  
Susan Tracy  
Victoria Veach  
Rick and Denise Vogt  
Mark and Carol Weitz  
David West and Kristen  
Schoephoerster

#### 250+

Anonymous (1)  
Mary Ellen and Peter Alden  
Jeanne Andre  
Janice Apple  
Ted H. Bair and  
Harvey A. Filister  
Kathryn Cahill  
Karen and Bill Christopherson  
Stephen Davis and  
Murray Thomas  
Stephen and Sally Dischinger  
David Gerdes  
Lance and Jan Johnson  
Julia Kaemmer  
Sanford Lipsky  
Bill Lough and Barbara Pinaire  
Cal Lueneburg  
Holly MacDonald  
Tony Manzara  
Mark and Cece Morrow  
Gwen and Mason Myers  
Jenny Nilsson  
Ann L. Piotrowski  
Mike and Kathy Ruhland  
Scooter  
Jacky & Jim Sherohman  
Jan Sickbert  
Marilyn and Dale Simmons  
John and Susan Steffen

Michael Symeonides and  
Mary Pierce  
John Wald and  
Colleen Remedios  
John and Kelly Wheaton  
Kenneth and Nina Wise

#### 100+

Anonymous (7)  
Peter and Susan Ahn  
Richard Aizpuru  
Margaret Albrecht  
Arthur Allen  
Marty Allen  
Paul J. Aslanian  
Tom and Jill Barland  
Rebecca Biderman and  
David Fraher  
Sharon and Albert Bigot  
Jeanne Blaskowski  
Jerome and Patricia Boge  
Joan Bren and Stephen Nelson  
Nancy Corcoran  
Brent A. Cosgrove  
Ginny and Will Craig  
Susan Crawford  
Liz Danielson  
William Durfee and  
Deborah Goldstein  
Heather Faulkner  
Majel Fletty  
*In Memory of Nancy Mohs  
From a 36 Year Subscriber*  
Pat Gaarder  
Mitzi and Richard Gramling  
Joan Grove  
Richard Gwynne  
Corey and Denise Holtz  
Ramona Jacobs  
Dwayne King  
Darlene Kirch  
Barbara and Jeff Land  
William Larson and  
Richard Space  
Delores and Sheldon Levin  
James and Sharon Lewis  
Brian McDonald  
Katherine McGill  
James and Mary Ann McKenna  
Robert and Susanna McMaster  
Val Moeller  
Tracy Napp  
Michael and Lisa Rahne Nekich  
Andrew and Francie O'Brien  
Lance Olson  
Elizabeth Parker  
Maureen Pearo  
William and Eleanore Pederson

Karyn Pierce  
Holly Radis-McCluskey  
Judy Rohde  
Jon L. Schasker  
Stephanie Scheu and  
Claire Hanson  
Cherie Shoquist  
Andrew Simons  
Barbara Sletten  
Joan T. Smith  
Richard and Mark Smith  
Jane A. Starr  
Gary Summerville  
Katharine Tyler  
Dr. Cheryl Wall and  
Ellen Westenburg  
John and Ellen Walthour  
Cathy Westrum and  
Annelynn Westrum  
Ann Wilcox  
Millie Woodbury  
Genie Zaring

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Current as of 2/1/16  
To correct the listing of your name  
above, please contact Haley Cramer at  
[crame117@umn.edu](mailto:crame117@umn.edu) or 612-301-3016.

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**Northrop Presents**

# **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP**

**Wed, Mar 30, 7:30 pm**

*Dido and Aeneas*  
with live orchestra, chorus, and  
soloists conducted by Mark Morris

The dance legend  
returns with a stunning  
operatic classic

