

GEM CITY BALLET



Thirtieth Anniversary Season

Spring Repertory



April 21-22, 2023

Stuart Sebastian Performance Space



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Barbara Pontecorvo, Artistic Director

Spring Repertory 2023

Olé

Ribbon Dance

(from La Fille Mal Gardée)

A Found Soul

Golden

...and they were not ashamed

Piano Concerto #2

April 21-22, 2023

Stuart Sebastian Performance Space

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Gem City Ballet relies on donations from corporations and patrons like you for over half of its operating budget. Gem City Ballet is recognized as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and all donations are tax-deductible. For more information, call 937.550-9245 or visit www.gemcityballet.org

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Gem City Ballet

(Incorporated as Ballet de Jeunesse, Inc.)

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Paul Porcino	

From the Director



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our final performance of the 2022-23 season. While all of our performances are special in their own right, this show has three amazing ballets choreographed by three amazing men, all who have been a major influence in my life. We'll start with the man you all know and adore, Mr. Gregory Robinson

and his ballet *Golden*. Mystical and hypnotic, *Golden* is driven by an unseen vision.

Jon Rodriguez's ballets are so delicious to dance that the dancers vow that nothing will stop them from dancing them. *Olé* is even extra special. Enjoy these three ladies as they have their spicy conversation.

Stuart Sebastian ties us all together. When he was a young dancer at the Schwartz School of Dance here in Dayton, Jon Rodriguez was his teacher. When Stuart returned to Dayton to direct Dayton Ballet in 1980, he brought Greg Robinson with him, and then he hired me! Stuart has many lovely ballets to his credit, but I think ...*and they were not ashamed* is one of his best. A glimpse into Adam and Eve with all the wonder and beauty of their first magical meeting is transformed into a pas de deux.

Jon Rodriguez's beloved partner of over 50 years, Don Hageman, passed away in late November. As a concert pianist, Don played concerts all over the world. Chopin's *Piano Concerto #2* was one of his favorites and also one of mine. I danced William Dollar's choreography for this music as a young dancer in Houston Ballet and I never forgot it. I have choreographed this ballet in Don's memory.

Caron Cleveland is our senior choreographer for this season, I know you will enjoy her ballet *A Found Soul*.

I am delighted to welcome Keegan Lloyd back to our stage. He has been a wonderful addition to our performances this season and I look forward to his continued success as a dancer with Roxey Ballet in New Jersey.

Have a wonderful time!

Barbara

p.s. Many thanks to Joe Williams for Jon and Don's *Olé* chair.

Contact info: andrew.brownfield@yahoo.com



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About Gem City Ballet

Gem City Ballet was formed on January 8, 1992. There were eight women and one man present at that first rehearsal. GCB has produced over 40 professional dancers since that time and is busy producing more. Dancers are admitted by audition only, and auditions are open to all serious dance students in the Miami Valley area.

GCB was formed for three main purposes: (1) to educate young dancers in the joys and rigors of ballet performance, (2) to make quality ballet performances available to a wider audience and (3) to provide both new and experienced choreographers an opportunity to create new works.

Gem City Ballet is a non-profit and completely volunteer company and requires outside financial help to continue its excellent work. You can help by donating funds that will be used for commissioning new and existing choreography and costumes.

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Choreographers

Caron Cleveland (*Found Soul*) has been dancing since age three and has had the opportunity to explore and fall in love with various dance styles. Caron danced at several dance studios but started to have a passion for the art when she began performing with Pontecorvo Ballet Studios and eventually became a member of Gem City Ballet. While dancing with these organizations, Caron has expressed a deeper understanding of creativity and gained the confidence and skills to become the artist she desires to be.

Caron has gained this knowledge and passion through hard work, perseverance, and the help of the dedicated instructors she has had while training at Pontecorvo Ballet Studios. With the knowledge and skills she has gained while dancing, Caron plans to attend the University of Akron in the fall and pursue a degree in Biomedical Science. However, she still intends to expand her passion and knowledge of the arts and participate in the university's dance and orchestra programs.

Gregory Robinson (*Golden*) received his dance training at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. His career as a performer, teacher, ballet master, and choreographer, primarily with Dayton Ballet, has spanned more than thirty years. He was named a "Dayton Gem" by the Dayton Daily News for his work in the Miami Valley as dance educator and arts advocate. His works have garnered critical praise and funding from regional and national arts agencies including the Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, Culture Works, the H. Robert Magee foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Mr. Robinson is honored to be a faculty member at Wright State University. Much thanks and appreciation to PBS and Gem City Ballet for another wonderful experience.

Jon Rodriguez (*Olé*) was a Professor Emeritus from Wright State University. He danced professionally with Ballets de Espanza, Detroit Ballet Theatre, the Cincinnati Opera Company and Dayton Ballet, where he was Co-Associate Director and Artistic Director of the Dayton Ballet Touring Company. He was one of the most requested guest teachers in the United States and much beloved in the Dayton area. Jon passed away in 2014.

Barbara Pontecorvo (*Piano Concerto #2*) is originally from New Orleans, LA and studied there with Lelia Haller, a former Paris Opera Ballet dancer, and Mike Herrington. She joined Houston Ballet when she was 17, rose quickly through the ranks and attained Principal Dancer status when she was 21. She subsequently danced as a Principal Dancer with Chicago Ballet, Ballet Puertorequeno, Boston Repertory Ballet and Dayton Ballet. Barbara has choreographed many ballets and staged both full length classical ballets and with the permission of the Balanchine Trust, four Balanchine ballets. Her main focus is Pontecorvo Ballet Studios and her directorship of Gem City Ballet.



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RAZOM FOR UKRAINE

Program

Olé!

GCB Premiere: April 27, 1996

Choreography. Jon Rodriguez

Music. Luigi Boccherini

Costumes. Barbara Trick

Friday

Hollie Montgomery Lucy Arnold, Lian Detweiler, Hollie Montgomery

Saturday

Christiana Allen, Abbie Burns, Zoe Sweere

Ribbon Dance

from *La Fille Mal Gardée*

GCB premiere October 19, 2007

Music: Peter Ludwig Hertel

Choreography: Traditional

Costumes: Angela Egbert, Janet Crowley

Lise: Naomi Baldwin (*Fri.*) Hannah Geelhood (*Sat.*)

Colas: Misha Casada

Noah Brownfield, Lilly Craycraft*, Kennedy Egbert, Carolyn Palmer*, Elizaeth
Roelle, Henry Sheridan, Eleanor Smith, Alyson Voshall

A Found Soul

Premiere

Choreography Caron Cleveland

Music Ernest Bloch

Costumes Barbara Pontecorvo,

. Muberra Farrow

Christiana Allen, Lucy Arnold, Naomi Baldwin (*Sat.*),
Andrianna Brownfield (*Sat.*), Abbie Burns, Josie Buten (*Fri.*), Lian Detweiler,
Hannah Geelhood (*Sat.*), Allegra Fife, Hollie Montgomery (*Fri.*),
Mira Seppi (*Fri.*), Zoe Sweere

* - Guest Dancers

° - presented by permission of Sebastian Works.

† - Guest Artist

Golden

Premiere October 10, 2014

Choreography Gregory Robinson

Music Philip Glass

Costumes Barbara Pontecorvo

Christiana Allen (*Fri.*), Zoe Sweere (*Sat.*), Naomi Baldwin, Andrianna Brownfield,
Josie Buten, Caron Cleveland (*Fri.*), Allegra Fife (*Sat.*), Lian Detweiler (*Fri.*),
Lucy Arnold (*Sat.*), Hollie Montgomery (*Fri.*), Abbie Burns (*Sat.*),
Amelia Johnson (*Fri.*), Elizabeth Roelle (*Sat.*), Mira Seppi

Intermission

...and they were not ashamed

GCB premiere November 8, 1997

Choreography Stuart Sebastian°

Music Claude Debussy

Costumes Mimi Maxmen

Christiana Allen, Keegan Lloyd†

Piano Concerto #2

Premiere

Music Frédéric Chopin

Choreography Barbara Pontecorvo

Costumes Barbara Pontecorvo,

. Muberra Farrow

Maestoso

Zoe Sweere, Abbie Burns

Brandon Brown, Misha Casada

Naomi Baldwin, Andrianna Brownfield, Caron Cleveland,

Allegra Fife, Mira Seppi, Alyson Voshall

Lucy Arnold, Josie Buten, Lian Detweiler,

Hannah Geelhood, Hollie Montgomery, Elizabeth Roelle

Larghetto

Zoe Sweere, Keegan Lloyd†

Abbie Burns

Brandon Brown, Misha Casada

Naomi Baldwin, Andrianna Brownfield, Caron Cleveland,

Allegra Fife, Mira Seppi, Alyson Voshall

Lucy Arnold, Josie Buten, Lian Detweiler,

Hannah Geelhood, Hollie Montgomery, Elizabeth Roelle

Allegro Vivace

Full Company



Company Members

Christiana Allen
 Andrianna Brownfield
 Josie Buten
 Lian Detweiler
 Hannah Geelhood
 Elizabeth Roelle
 Henry Sheridan

Lucy Arnold
 Noah Brownfield
 Misha Casada
 Kennedy Egbert
 Amelia Johnson
 Eleanor Smith
 Zoe Sweere

Naomi Baldwin
 Abbie Burns
 Caron Cleveland
 Allegra Fife
 Hollie Montgomery
 Mira Seppi
 Alyson Voshall



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