

Danceworks Performance MKE



Katelyn Altmann



Greta Jenkins



Nekea Leon



Jessica Lueck



Kaitlyn Moore



Cuauhtli Ramirez Castro



Tessa Ritchey



Ivy Robertson



Elisabeth Roskopf



Maggie Seer



Halle Sivertson



Gabi Sustache



Ashley Ray Garcia



Scan the QR code for artist bios.

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Milwaukee Ballet, Itzel Hernandez & Davit Hovhannisyan, Photo by Tom Davenport.  
Milwaukee Ballet, Marie Collins, Photo by Mark Frohna.

DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE PRESENTS

SMALL BUT

**MIGHTY**

JUNE 2-4, 2023  
MILWAUKEE YOUTH ARTS CENTER  
325 W. WALNUT, MILWAUKEE, WI

Artistic Direction: Christal Wagner  
Danceworks Intergenerational Performance Company Direction: Gina Laurenzi  
Danceworks Youth Performance Company Direction: Gabi Sustache  
Lighting Design: Colin Gawronski

Premiere Season Sponsors Tim and Sue Frautschi



## A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:



The telling of the tales are in the music you will hear this evening. This concert was inspired by the urge to feature small local music ensembles as a rebellious act. We are told by society that bigger is better and that we should want more, but humans tend to feel connected to our roots and our sense of self if we have less. That is why we retreat to nature for respite from our fast paced lives. To sit still and let the simplicity of chamber music ground us is the mighty gift we hope to give you this weekend as the rebirth of summer is upon us.

## MEET THE ARTISTS



### Music Ensembles

Black Cat Ensemble  
Microcosm Ensemble  
Cosmo Reed Quintet  
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra Steel Drum Band  
[Scan the QR code to learn more about the music ensembles.](#)



### Choreographers

Gina Laurenzi  
Nekea Leon  
Elisabeth Roskopf  
Gabi Sustache  
Christal Wagner  
[Scan the QR code to learn more about the choreographers.](#)



### Dance Ensembles

Danceworks Performance MKE  
Danceworks Intergenerational Performance Company  
Danceworks Youth Performance Company  
[Scan the QR code to read the DPMKE artist bios and learn more about the dance ensembles.](#)

**SPECIAL THANKS:** Tim Frautschi, Tim Rush, Jonathan Walls, Dan Duffy, Carter Simmons, Linda Edelstein, Josh Decker, MYAC staff, Danceworks support staff and all the collaborators of SMALL BUT MIGHTY.



and find room within ourselves for a bit of peace. We have many challenges and difficulties to face, but we can't meet them if we don't give time for ourselves and for each other — if we're falling apart. These small moments of calm, healing, and groundedness are what allow us to accept ourselves, and give us the strength to keep working, and moving forwards. My hope is that listening to the piece will provide a moment of peace for you, as writing it did for me. I hope that it also prompts you to create space for and appreciate these moments in your life.

Trio Sonata for Flute, Trumpet and Piano by James Stephenson (2001)

## Panorama

Choreography: Nekea Leon

Performance: Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra Steel Band Ensemble

Dancers: Altmann, Jenkins, Leon, Lueck, Moore, Ramirez Castro, Ritchey, Robertson, Sivertson, Sustache, Ray Garcia

Musicians: Sam Krajewski, Nahsialis Vang, Lorelei Wesselowski, Jameson Rush, Zindzi Frederick, Simone Ward, Mariah Olson, Andy Theler,

Script: Andrew Martin, Kim Johnson, Tim Rush

Narrator: Lorelei Wesselowski

Costumes: Christal Wagner

Music: Tim Rush and Ray Holman

Movements

1. Jumbie by Tim Rush
2. Since You've Gone by Ray Holman
3. Davis Jump by Tim Rush



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# PROGRAM

## Awe

Choreography: Christal Wagner in collaboration with the dancers

Performance: Cosmo Reed Quintet

Dancers: Altmann, Jenkins, Leon, Lueck, Moore, Ramirez Castro, Ritchey, Robertson, Sivertson, Sustache, Ray Garcia

Costume Vision: Christal Wagner

Music: The Wildflower Quintet for Reed Quintet by Jenni Brandon

Movements:

- I. Wildflowers
- II. Wild Rose and Butterfly
- III. The Hummingbird
- IV. Indian Paintbrush
- V. Summer Garden

Notes: The five movements of The Wildflower Quintet for Reed Quintet (Oboe/English horn, Clarinet, Soprano/Alto Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon) are based on the imagery from several poems by Bette Woolsey Castro, a friend of Lady Bird Johnson who founded the Wildflower Center in Texas. This work, as The Wildflower Trio for oboe, bassoon, and piano, was commissioned by the College of Fine Arts of the University of Texas at Austin to honor the life and environmental work of Lady Bird Johnson.

In this newly re-imagined version for Reed Quintet that was commissioned, recorded, and premiered by the Kalliope Quintet, the colors of the quintet add additional voices to the many wildflowers in Texas and across the United States. These instruments help to paint a broad picture of colors, shapes, and majesty of the flowers, and continue to honor the legacy and work of Mrs. Johnson.

## Stratified

Choreography: Gabi Sustache in collaboration with the dancers

Performance: Black Cat Ensemble

Dancers: Althea Storm, Belle Marks, Izabella Bredeson, Marcia Olson, Wren Didier, Cassidy Quandt, Daisia Golombowski, Lily Nielsen, Lorelei Wesselowski, Maya Lindvall, Melissa Henningsen, Sydney Zussman

Music: Six Cuban Dances by Ignacio Cervantes (1899)

Movements:

- I. Moderato con espressione
- II. Con passione
- III. Poco vivo con spirito
- IV. Con energia
- V. No llores mas! (Weep No Longer!)
- VI. Moderato melanconico

Notes: Ignacio Cervantes, Cuban pianist and composer, was born in Havana in 1847 and died there in 1905. He studied with celebrated American composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk and also at the Paris Conservatory. He toured to the United States and Mexico and was one of the pioneers of native Cuban music. One of his most popular works, Cuban Dances (Danzas Cubanas) originally composed for the piano in 1899, employs Cuban rhythms in an effective salon manner. He also wrote several orchestral works and three operas.

## **between | the | trees**

Choreography Gina Laurenzi in collaboration with dancers

Performance: Black Cat Ensemble

Dancers: Altmann, Leon, Moore, Ramirez Castro, Ritchey, Robertson, Ray Garcia

Headpieces: Christal Wagner

Music: Suite Arcata by Raymond Burkhart (2015)

Movements:

I. Winter Rain

II. Coastal Fog

III. Summer Sun

Notes: Commissioned by the Chamber Players of the Redwoods, the work is in three movements suggestive of the climate that is peculiar to our region. One of the movements is titled Coastal Fog. Unlike a typical woodwind quintet, the instrumentation of this work employs the trumpet rather than the horn for a unique, spritely, and refreshing change of color. Composer Raymond Burkhart lives in Tujunga and teaches at College of the Canyons and Pomona College. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from Claremont Graduate University and has composed works in many genres. Currently a member of the music faculty at Pomona College, Claremont Graduate University, and College of the Canyons, Burkhart has appeared as a guest conductor and trumpet clinician and authority on the history of brass music.

## **a lovely day**

Choreography Gina Laurenzi in collaboration with performers

Performance: Microcosm Ensemble

Dancers: Bob Balderson, Julie Borouchoff, Tom Hjelmgren, Katrina Hjelmgren, Jeanne Kollmeyer, Judy Zoelzer Levine, Annie Wegner LeFort, Mary Ann Mitchell  
Music: Trio Sonata by Jim Stephenson

Movements:

II. Interlude

III. Devil's Mischief

Notes: The trio sonata was written for Richard Stoelzel, a good friend and great supporter of new music. He has also been responsible for other works of mine, including the trumpet sonata, and sets of brass quintet arrangements which include Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker.

His directive in the composition of this piece was to compose something straightforward and accessible. Hence the melodies, especially in the first and second movements, are generally tonal and pleasant. I broke from this pattern slightly in the third movement, allowing the music to be a little more wild and frenetic, and also almost suggesting a Latin influence. The title, "Devil's Mischief," is reflected in both my own desire to spice up the music, and is descriptive of the hellish piano part!

The challenge in composing and performing music written for an ensemble containing violin [or flute], trumpet and piano is always maintaining a balance where all instruments can be heard and/or step forward when necessary. Each instrument, therefore, has solo passages, and the trumpet uses a variety of mutes to both change the color and cover the sound to allow for better balance within the trio of players. [The version for flute was added in 2009, and premiered in Naples, FL.]

## **Untethered**

Choreography and Dance Performance: Elisabeth Roskopf

Performance: Microcosm Ensemble

Music: to find the beauty in surviving our emotions by Erika Malpass

Notes from the composer, Erika Malpass:

I connected with Alec, Edward, and Jen through our shared experiences of impostor syndrome – the experience of and anxiety resulting from believing you are not as competent as others perceive you to be, that you've somehow achieved success by mistake and that you don't belong where you are – which became the inspiration for this piece.

I've been using my music as a way to examine, sort through, and communicate many emotional spaces that I struggle with. At the same time, I often experience self-doubt and anxiety in my creative process, and with this project, I found the act of writing and the subject of impostor syndrome were too closely intertwined. I doubted my ideas and my creativity and was frustrated with myself for allowing this doubt to paralyze my writing process. I couldn't write about this specific facet of anxiety when I was experiencing it so vividly every day.

Writing this piece became a process of discovering how to survive these emotions. Instead of trying to illustrate or understand my anxiety, the piece became the refuge from these emotions that I needed. Starting with improvisation, I created music that to me felt organic and breathing; calm, fluid, and spacious. I tried to allow the piece to simply be, floating from one idea to the next like my improvisation, and letting go of what it wasn't or should have been. By accepting the piece for what it is, I found an antidote to this anxiety. To me, the piece represents time taken to embrace, with intentionality, moments where I am at peace with myself.

We're battered with complexity, darkness, and turmoil every day — we can't constantly try to understand all of it. Sometimes what we need is to turn away