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25|26 SEASON

Ballets Jazz Montréal

*Dance Me: The Music
of Leonard Cohen*

TUE, APR 21, 7:30 pm
The Classic Center Theatre

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PROGRAM

DANCE ME: THE MUSIC OF LEONARD COHEN

Dance Me: The Music of Leonard Cohen is an exclusive creation inspired by the rich and profound work of Montréal-based poet, artist, and songwriter Leonard Cohen.

Approved by Cohen during his lifetime, this riveting homage to the famed artist evokes the grand cycles of existence, as described in Cohen's deeply reflective music and poems.

Three internationally renowned choreographers were entrusted with putting movement to Cohen's legendary songs: Andonis Foniadakis, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and Ihsan Rustem. Their powerful and profound choreographic world reflective of Cohen's singular work is brought to life by Ballets Jazz Montréal's fourteen artists and the strong, bold dramaturgy of Eric Jean. Surrounded by a team of celebrated designers, *Dance Me* combines scenic, visual, musical, dramaturgical, and choreographic writing to pay tribute to Montréal's greatest ambassador. Dance, music, lighting, scenography, and videography all come together in this unforgettable show.

Songs in the show include (in program order):

- *Here It Is* (2001)
- *Lover, Lover, Lover* (1974)
- *Dance Me to the End of Love* (Live in London, 2009)
- *Boogie Street* (Live in London, 2009)
- *Steer Your Way* (2016)
- *Everybody Knows* (2001)
- *Tower of Song* (1988)
- *So Long, Marianne* (1967)
- *A Thousand Kisses Deep* (poem)
- *Suzanne* (1967)
- *Famous Blue Raincoat* (1971)
- *Nevermind* (2014)
- *First We Take Manhattan* (1988)
- *It Seemed the Better Way* (2016)
- *Hallelujah* (1984)
- *String Reprise / Treaty* (2016)

Ballets Jazz Montréal would like to thank the Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman Foundation for the support given to the creation of the show.

Dance Me was supported by the CCOV - Centre de Création O Vertigo.

CREDITS

Ideation Louis Robitaille

Dramaturgy and Stage Direction Eric Jean

Choreography Andonis Foniadakis, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Ihsan Rustem

Music Direction Martin Léon

Sound Design Alexis Dumais

Set and Prop Design Pierre-Etienne Locas

Set Technical Direction Alexandre Brunet

Lighting Design and Production Cédric Delorme-Bouchard, Simon Beetschen

Video Design HUB Studio - Gonzalo Soldi, Thomas Payette, Jeremy Fassio.

Costume Design Philippe Dubuc

Costume Production Anne-Marie Veevaete

Assistance Stage Direction Elsa Posnic

Sound Engineer Guy Fortin

Technical Director Marco Vargas Navarro

Head Carpenter Daniel Ranger

Head of Sound Maxime Lambert

Head of Lighting Claude Plante

Head of Video Roderic Dyon

Artists Zoey Anderson, Troy Atamanuk, Gustavo Barros, Millie Brinck-Dubuc, Yosmell Calderon Mejias, Marcel Cavaliere, Kyle Davis, Jasmine Heart Cruz, Shanna Irwin Calderon, Miu Kato, DaMond LeMonte Garner, Zack Preece, Madelaine Salhany, Silje Vereide

Vocalist (*So Long, Marianne*): Zoey Anderson

Vocalists (*Hallelujah*): DaMond LeMonte Garner and Zoey Anderson

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

BALLETS JAZZ MONTRÉAL

Founded in 1972 by Geneviève Salbaing, Eva Von Gencsy, and Eddy Toussaint, Ballets Jazz Montréal is a contemporary dance repertory company which, under the general and artistic direction of Alexandra Damiani, creates, produces, and presents on local, national, and international stages.

Among the artistic directors of the company who have greatly marked its evolution, company founder Geneviève Salbaing, driven by her visceral love of dance, led Ballets Jazz Montréal with passion and determination for more than twenty years. Upon his appointment as artistic director in 1998, Louis Robitaille reoriented the company toward an audience curious to discover new choreographic forms. In June 2021, Alexandra Damiani took over the artistic direction of Ballets Jazz Montréal and will carry the company's mission and vision into the future.

The company engages internationally renowned choreographers to develop their own research in line with its identity and generates a repertoire that is both exclusive to the company and accessible to all audiences. The company's impressive roster of talented and influential choreographers includes Crystal Pite, Aszure Barton, Mauro Bigonzetti, Andonis Foniadakis, Itzik Galili, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Barak Marshall, Benjamin Millepied, Ihsan Rustem, Anne Plamondon, and Juliano Nunes, to name a few. As an ambassador of Quebec dance to the world, Ballets Jazz Montréal offers an artistic product that is explosive, original, accessible, and noted for the excellence of its performance.

All of Ballet Jazz's work brings an element of humanity, fearlessness, and emotion in addition to the highly technical skill that each dance requires. Additionally, each piece is nuanced, multilayered and often multidisciplinary—combining other artistic disciplines such as theater, video, and music. With accessibility and quality as key values, the company successfully integrates pleasure and humanity into their strong, expressive, and demanding pieces. Moreover, the distinct personalities and high caliber of its performers further add to the quality that is expected from the company and play a key role in maintaining the company's reputation and influence in the dance world.

Through their productions, performances, and educational activities, Ballets Jazz Montréal encourages discovery, stimulates imagination, and shares their passion for this discipline to all its audiences — both local and abroad. With more than 3,250 performances in 60 countries and an audience of nearly 3 million, Ballets Jazz Montréal is considered one of the world's leading ambassadors of Quebec dance and artistic vitality.

In 2016, the Prix Rideau Hommage was awarded to the company and its artistic director at the time, Louis Robitaille, in recognition of BJM's impact and continued presence on Quebec stages.

In 2020, the company received the Prix de la danse de Mo by CINARS.

In 2022, the company celebrated 50 years of creating, exploring, and connecting with its audiences.

Ballets Jazz Montréal



Ballets Jazz Montréal

Artists



ZOEY ANDERSON



TROY ATAMANUK



GUSTAVO BARROS



MILLIE BRINCK-DUBUC



YOSMELL CALDERON



MARCEL CAVALIERE



KYLE DAVIS



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30th Anniversary Campaign

Every Gift Makes an Impact

For three decades, the University of Georgia Performing Arts Center has been a cultural cornerstone for our campus and community—presenting extraordinary artists, fostering meaningful connections, and inspiring audiences of all ages. As we mark this milestone anniversary, we look ahead to the future of the performing arts at UGA. Support for our 30th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign will help advance critical facility upgrades and grow our Arts Impact Endowment, ensuring continued artistic excellence, access, and education for generations to come. Thank you for being part of our story—and our future.

Will you join us in honoring our past and investing in what's next?

Arts Impact Endowment

Launched in conjunction with the Performing Arts Center's 30th anniversary, this endowment helps sustain our arts-related education and engagement programming well into the future.



Facility Support Fund

This fund helps upgrade the technical systems and the physical facility in order to better accommodate current requirements of performing artists while also improving the audience experience.



Indigo Girls performed with the UGA Symphony Orchestra in Oct. 2023



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The Wall,
oil on canvas

Paintings

by Christopher Hocking

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Christopher Hocking is an associate professor of painting and drawing at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in drawing and painting, fostering a collaborative learning environment. His painterly language explores a recombinant figural abstraction that engages form, space, and movement. Imagery draws from diverse sources: popular media, art history, science, toys, fashion, folk culture, children's books, fables, memory, and literature. Guided by sensation, intuition, and feeling, these images slip between abstraction and representation, triggering associations, contradictions, and multiple narrative possibilities.

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RHIANNON GIDDENS

Tues, Apr 28, 7:30 pm
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blues, to swing.

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Photo by Mark Mobley

Why I Give ...

Meet Malcolm and Priscilla Sumner. He is a retired UGA Regents' Professor of crop and soil sciences who did 20 years of international consulting. She is a former nurse and chair of the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, where she volunteered for more than 30 years. They were at the PAC's opening gala performance by soprano Jessye Norman in 1996, and have now lived in Athens longer than in their native South Africa. This season they supported the November appearance by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO).

Malcolm Sumner: When we came here, this was a cultural desert. There was nothing here. We started supporting the music school. When the PAC started, we decided to contribute to it because we are both fans of classical music.

Priscilla Sumner: We are so lucky to have these artists come to Athens. For the size of this little town, it never ceases to amaze me. Yo-Yo Ma came to Athens! It's mind-boggling. And he's been here twice!

Malcolm: We love the ASO when they come to Athens. Oh, man. Sweet music! They love coming to Athens because of the acoustics.

Priscilla: The acoustics in the PAC are famous.

Malcolm: We've enjoyed every performance but maybe one or two in the period of 30 years. The quality has been excellent. The PAC is the best addition to Athens there's ever been, it's my humble opinion.



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Please silence all mobile phones and other noisemaking devices. Texting during performances is prohibited.

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Late seating is subject to the discretion of the house manager. Late patrons may be reseated in an alternate location.

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Children ages 6 and older are welcome to attend all performances, unless indicated otherwise for specific events. Children under age 6 and babies will not be admitted. Parents and guardians are encouraged to exercise judgement when determining if programs are appropriate for their children. Please contact the box office at (706) 542-4400 with questions about specific performances.

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