

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**DANCE SERIES 1**

2022/23 Season

## Dear Ballet Patron:

Welcome to the theater as we kick off Season 29 at Smuin Contemporary Ballet. We're happy you're here to join us!

Dance Series 1 allows us to continue creative plans that were shelved with the pandemic.

Smuin alum Rex Wheeler's tribute to American jazz pianist Dave Brubeck, titled *Take Five*, brings a splash of color and fun to the opening of our program. Wheeler imbues his piece with his own flirtatious wit. *Take Five* strikes a joyful mood of humor and celebration that highlights both Brubeck's phrasing and the athleticism of our artists.

We first performed *Requiem for a Rose* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa five years ago. Twelve dancers, stylized to represent the roses of a bouquet, dance in contrast to the lone female soloist. Set to the adagio movement of the Quintet in C major by Franz Schubert, *Requiem for a Rose* is an exceptional example of Lopez Ochoa's distinct classical and contemporary vocabularies.

Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado contributes a world premiere to our program, created especially on our artists. Sharing his culture and movement with us reaffirms our belief that dance is a universal language that transcends borders. When I met Delgado in Cuba in 2012, I never imagined it would take a decade to realize my dream of exposing our dancers to Delgado's artistry. The results are mesmerizing.

Thank you for being with us!



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## STAFF

Celia Fushille • **Artistic Director**  
Lori Laqua • **Managing Director**  
Jo Ellen Arntz • **Company Manager & Wardrobe**  
Amy London • **Ballet Master & Education Program Director**  
Alicia Tos • **Director of Development**  
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Benjamin Warner • **Community Engagement Manager**  
Kathryn T. Graham • **Production Director**  
Michael Oesch • **Lighting Director**  
Taylor Ryan Rivers • **Technical Director**  
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Vincent Avery • **Wardrobe Assistant**  
Carla Befera & Company • **Publicist**  
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Front: Maggie Carey • Photo by Chris Hardy

# SMUIN

CONTEMPORARY BALLET

CELIA FUSHILLE / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## DANCE SERIES 1

### Founder

Michael Smuin

### Artistic Director

Celia Fushille

### Managing Director

Lori Laqua

### Company Manager & Wardrobe

Jo Ellen Arntz

### Ballet Master & Education Program Director

Amy London

### Production Director

Kathryn T. Graham

### Artists

Brandon Alexander

Tessa Barbour

Ian Buchanan

Claire Buehler

Maggie Carey

Mengjun Chen

Cassidy Isaacson

Tess Lane

Marc LaPierre

John Speed Orr

Terez Dean Orr

Lauren Pschirrer

Alison Ramoran

Yuri Rogers

João Sampaio

Brennan Wall

### WITH GRATITUDE

Smuin is sponsored in part by San Francisco Grants for the Arts. Smuin also extends deep appreciation to the following for their generosity and support:



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FOUNDATION



MEDIA SPONSOR:  
**San Francisco Chronicle**



# TAKE FIVE

**World Premiere: September 20, 2019**

**Choreography: Rex Wheeler**

**Music: Recorded by Dave Brubeck**

**Costume Design: Kaori Higashiyama**

**Lighting Design: Michael Oesch**

*Raised in the hay fields as a young cowboy, Dave Brubeck drew early inspiration from the rhythms and sounds in his daily life. It's this authenticity, coupled with his sense of humor, that has always drawn me to his music. When listening to his many hits, I always knew there was one company with whom I'd have the most fun creating Take Five — one near and dear to my heart. As we dance this, I hope Michael is watching over us, tapping his feet. Keeping an eye on us to make sure we keep things fun.*

— Rex Wheeler

Lead sponsorship of *Take Five*  
is generously provided by David Meders

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INTERMISSION

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# REQUIEM FOR A ROSE

**World Premiere: February 2009, Philadelphia Ballet**

**Choreography: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**

**Music: Franz Schubert**

**Additional Soundscape: Almar Kok**

**Costume and Scenic Design: Tatyana Van Walsum**

**Lighting Design: Tony Tucci**

**Lighting Adaptation: Michael Oesch**

Supporting sponsorship of *Requiem for a Rose*  
is generously provided by Harvey Lynch

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## INTERMISSION

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# THE TURNTABLE

**World Premiere: September 16, 2022**

**Choreography: Osnel Delgado**

**Music: Various artists**

**Costume and Scenic Concept: Osnel Delgado**

**Lighting Design: Michael Oesch**

*The world turns while she remains on pause. Static in the center of space,  
frozen like someone waiting for the perfect companion, who shares  
a bolero in reverse, altered, mystical, and unfinished; the melody  
of a heart amplified by the austere needle of oblivion.*

*Away from the eyes, the looks, and the gestures of the others, I slide subtly  
in your quest. Through the circles of stillness, I break the inertia of the measures,  
I rewrite with each step the perfect song of our encounter,  
the tired chords of our embrace, and the sublime harmony of our dance.*

— Osnel Delgado

## COMPANY PROFILES

### **MICHAEL SMUIN | FOUNDER**

An American master, the late Michael Smuin began his career as a dancer performing with San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and on Broadway. A Tony and Emmy award-winning choreographer, Smuin brought a signature style to his work on stage, in film, and on television. A maverick, he fearlessly blended the theatrical with classical and popular styles combining elements drawn from his vast stage experience. Smuin's works continue to dazzle and entertain contemporary audiences. His company, Smuin, was founded in 1994 to showcase his creative versatility and unique vision. The Company maintains his legacy today.

### **CELIA FUSHILLE | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

As Artistic Director of Smuin Contemporary Ballet since 2007, Celia Fushille has been leading the artistic vision of the Company and increasing its reputation as San Francisco's premier contemporary ballet company. A founding member of Smuin, during her 25-year performing career, Fushille appeared on stages in the U.S. and Europe, on television, and in film. In addition to maintaining Michael Smuin's legacy, throughout her 15 years as Artistic Director, she has commissioned more than 20 premieres and added the work of 15 choreographers new to the Smuin audience. From 2008-2014, Fushille also served as Executive Director of the Company. In 2021 Fushille was invited to become a Trustee of the Smuin Board. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (summa cum laude) from Saint Mary's College of California.

### **LORI LAQUA | MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Lori Laqua joined Smuin following five years as Executive Director at Z Space, where she guided the organization through significant growth in programming and budget. Over the course of her 20 years at ODC, Laqua played a major role in the institution's transformation. As Managing Director, she also served as project manager for the design and construction of the ODC Dance Commons and the ODC Theater. Laqua holds a PhD (ABD) and a MArch in Architectural History from the University of Virginia, and a MA in Art History from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

### **JO ELLEN ARNTZ | COMPANY MANAGER**

Jo Ellen Arntz moved to San Francisco after receiving her BFA in dance from Creighton University. She danced with San Francisco Ballet from 1981-1991, performing in over 100 ballets. Arntz has taught dance in the Bay Area since 1977. She began at Smuin as Wardrobe Supervisor in 1996 and became Company Manager shortly thereafter. Working with Michael Smuin at San Francisco Ballet and later his own company prepared her for the multiple hats she wears in the organization today.

### **AMY LONDON | BALLET MASTER & EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Amy London trained in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with Karen Alwin and Shauna Bereska. She danced with Hartford Ballet, Diablo Ballet, and Smuin. Her favorite Smuin roles included: *Eternal Idol*, *Q.a.V.*, and *Hearts Suite*. She has served on faculty for schools throughout the Bay Area and as Artistic Coordinator at Marin Ballet, where she has choreographed more than 20 works. As Ballet Master, she enjoys preserving Michael Smuin's legacy, as well as being the caretaker of the works of Val Caniparoli, Trey McIntyre, Amy Seiwert, Ma Cong, Helen Pickett, Adam Houghland, Choo-San Goh, and Jiri Kylián. As the inaugural Education Program Director for Smuin Center for Dance, she oversees its successful community engagement, outreach and faculty development.

### **KATHRYN T. GRAHAM | PRODUCTION DIRECTOR**

KT Graham joined Smuin in 1997 after working as Production Stage Manager and Lighting Designer for Lewitzky Dance Company in Los Angeles, as well as Technical & Lighting Director for Washington Ballet in Washington, D.C., with whom she toured extensively both nationally and internationally. She also engages in freelance projects and has particularly enjoyed serving as Production Stage Manager for Amy Seiwert's *Imagery*, *Dances from the Heart* benefits for The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, and for the National Dance USA showcase in 2012.

### **REX WHEELER | CHOREOGRAPHER**

Rex Wheeler is originally from London, England, and trained at the Royal Ballet School and Elmhurst School for Dance. After dancing with Birmingham Royal Ballet as a student, he performed with Slovak National Ballet and Sacramento Ballet before dancing with Smuin from 2015-2018. A San Francisco-based choreographer and a founding member of Capital Dance Project, Wheeler has created works for many organizations across the country including Sacramento Ballet, Richmond Ballet, the New York Choreographic Institute, and Smuin Contemporary Ballet.

### **ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA | CHOREOGRAPHER**

The Belgian-Colombian Annabelle Lopez Ochoa is an award-winning and sought-after choreographer that has created new works for more than 70 dance companies around the world. After a 12-years long dance career, where she danced in various European companies, she decided in 2003 to focus her energies solely on choreography. In that same year she was hailed “rising star of the Dutch dance scene” (NRC newspaper) and only 7 years later the Temecula Performing Arts Examiner wrote: “Ochoa is truly a masterful choreographer with an edge for what dance can and should be in this constantly changing industry.” A versatile choreographer, Lopez Ochoa creates within the dance field but also for theatre, opera, musical theatre. Her wide-ranging body of work includes short conceptual pieces, full-length narrative ballets, and dance films. In 2019, Lopez Ochoa became the recipient of the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award as well as the program director of the Jacob’s Pillow Contemporary Ballet Summer Course.

### **OSNEL DELGADO | CHOREOGRAPHER**

Osnel Delgado danced with Danza Contemporanea de Cuba from 2003 to 2011, before founding his own company, Malpaso Dance. He has worked with choreographers Mats Ek, Rafael Bonachela, Kenneth Kvarnström, Ja Linkens, Itzik Galili, Samir Akika, Pedro Ruiz, Isidro Rolando and George Cespedes, among others. Delgado has created works for DCC, Rakatan and Ebony Dance of Cuba, as well as Zenon Dance Company in Minneapolis, MN and Hubbard Street Dance in Chicago, IL. Delgado is a 2003 graduate of the National Dance School of Havana, where he is also a professor of dance studies.

### **MICHAEL OESCH | LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Michael Oesch is a lighting designer for dance, theater, operas, and musicals. Since joining Smuin in 2004, he has designed the lighting for world premieres including *The Christmas Ballet*; *Be Here Now*; *The Poetry of Being*; *Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino*; *Madness, Rack, & Honey*; *Oh, Inverted World*; and *Fly Me to the Moon*, among others. He also designs lighting for other companies throughout the Bay Area, where his lighting has been nominated for Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, Shelly Awards, and an Isadora Duncan Award.

## ARTIST PROFILES



### BRANDON ALEXANDER

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Brandon Alexander, originally from Houston, Texas, received his training with Lori Amare and Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy. He has danced with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Rochester City Ballet, Teater Vanemuine Ballet in Estonia, and Ballet Hagen in Germany. During his career he has danced works by Cayetano Soto, Itzik Galili, Riccardo De Nigris, Sir Frederick Ashton, Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Giorgio Madia, Jamey Leverett, and Silas Stubbs among others. Alexander joined Smuin in 2020.



### TESSA BARBOUR

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Tessa Barbour, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, trained at Alwin School of the Dance before studying abroad in Warrington, England on a scholarship awarded to her at the Cecchetti International Competition. She has danced with New Mexico Ballet, Connecticut Ballet, and San Diego Ballet. Her favorite past performances include *Man in Black* by James Kudelka and *Indigo* by Stanton Welch. Since joining Smuin in 2016, Barbour has performed works by Val Caniparoli, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Trey McIntyre, Helen Pickett, and Amy Seiwert. Barbour joined Smuin in 2016.



### IAN BUCHANAN

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Ian Buchanan hails from Fairfax, California, where he trained with Dance Theatre Seven. He has danced with Houston Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Tulsa Ballet, Rochester City Ballet, and Alberta Ballet. Buchanan has performed works by Jiri Kylián, Stanton Welch, Ma Cong, Ben Stevenson, Wen Wei Wang, Aszure Barton, Jean Grand-Maitre, Julia Adam, Denise Clarke, and Leiland Charles. Buchanan joined Smuin in 2018.



### CLAIRE BUEHLER

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Claire Buehler is from Milwaukee, WI and trained at the Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy. She has danced with the Studio Company at Oklahoma City Ballet, Nashville Ballet II, and Minnesota Ballet before joining Smuin in 2021. Some of Claire's favorite past performances and roles include Gina Patterson's *72 Steps*, Winter in Paul Vasterling's *Seasons*, Blue Bird in Karl Von Rabenau's *Sleeping Beauty*, and Cygnets in Robert Mills' *Swan Lake*. Claire has also been featured in works by Chris Stuart, Charlotte Boyd-Christensen, and Mollie Sansone. Buehler joined Smuin in 2021.





### MAGGIE CAREY

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Maggie Carey, of Dayton, Ohio, received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance Performance from Butler University, where she performed works by choreographers including George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, and Paul Taylor. Upon graduating, Carey performed as a guest artist with the Dayton Ballet. She spent two years with the Cincinnati Ballet Second Company, performing works by Victoria Morgan, George Balanchine, Ohad Naharin, and working with choreographers such as Garrett Smith, Nicolo Fonte, and Jennifer Archibald. Carey joined Smuin in 2018.



### MENGJUN CHEN

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Mengjun Chen, a native of Wenzhou, China, trained at the Beijing Dance Academy and Joffrey Ballet Academy of Dance. After receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Beijing Dance Academy, he joined Milwaukee Ballet where he performed major roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Cinderella*, *Dracula* and *La Boheme*. Chen also performed contemporary works by Matthew Neenan, Gabrielle Lamb, Ma Cong, Amy Seiwert and Val Caniparoli. In 2014, he was a finalist in the USA International Ballet Competition. Chen joined Smuin in 2015.



### CASSIDY ISAACSON

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Cassidy Isaacson, originally from Redmond, Washington, trained at Pacific Northwest Ballet before joining Grand Rapids Ballet Company at age 16. Some favorite works performed during her eight years at Grand Rapids Ballet include Trey McIntyre's *Wild Sweet Love*, Alejandro Cerrudo's *Extremely Close*, Penny Saunders' *In Frame* and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Written and Forgotten*. Isaacson joined Smuin in 2019.



### TESS LANE

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Tess Lane trained at South Bay Ballet in Torrance, CA, performing Robert Kelly's *Summertime* at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MI. While apprenticing with Sacramento Ballet, she performed works by George Balanchine, Ron Cunningham, and Lila York. Lane joined California Ballet Company in 2013 and was featured in *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as Septime Webre's *Peter Pan*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Fluctuating Hemlines*. She also danced in the National Choreographers' Initiative in 2017 and 2018. Lane joined Smuin in 2018.

## ARTIST PROFILES



### MARC LAPIERRE

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Marc LaPierre began his early training at Ballet Etudes in Norwalk CT under the direction of Nanette Vallas, training closely with Christina Fagundes. He attended Ballet Academy East in New York City under the direction of Darla Hoover and at age 16, Marc furthered his training at The School of American Ballet. At Los Angeles Ballet he danced works by August Bournonville, George Balanchine, Aszure Barton and Alejandro Cerrudo. Two years later he joined Oregon Ballet Theatre as an apprentice and was promoted to the Company corps de ballet in his second season. At OBT, he danced works by Alvin Ailey, Ben Stevenson, Nicolo Fonte, Christopher Stowell, and Trey McIntyre. LaPierre joined Smuin in 2021.



### JOHN SPEED ORR

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John Speed Orr trained at Dance Theatre Seven in Fairfax, California under David Roxander. In 2007, Orr began his professional career with Sacramento Ballet featuring in roles such as Balanchine's Donizetti Variations before joining Smuin Ballet. During his four years with Smuin, he performed leading roles in works by Val Caniparoli, Jiri Kylian, Helen Pickett, Trey McIntyre and Michael Smuin. Orr danced with Trey McIntyre Project until his retirement in 2014. He now pursues careers both as a realtor for Vanguard Properties, repetiteur for Trey McIntyre and creative projects with his supremely talented wife, Terez Dean Orr. Orr rejoined Smuin in 2020.



### TEREZ DEAN ORR

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Terez Dean Orr, originally from Hudson Valley, New York, received her training at the prestigious School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet. In 2005, she joined the State Street Ballet of Santa Barbara, dancing a wide range of contemporary and classical works. Dean Orr joined Smuin in 2008 and has been featured in works by Jiri Kylian, Trey McIntyre, Val Caniparoli, Helen Pickett, Amy Seiwert, Ma Cong, Adam Hougland, and Michael Smuin. While dancing full time, she received her BA through the Saint Mary's College LEAP program. Dean Orr has been with Smuin since 2008.



### LAUREN PSCHIRRER

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Lauren Pschirrer graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and apprenticed at Rochester City Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet. While with the Joffrey, she danced works by Sir Frederick Ashton, Michael Pink, and George Balanchine. With Ballet Memphis, Pschirrer performed works by Matthew Neenan and Gabrielle Lamb. She also originated roles during the National Choreographers Initiative in 2015, 2017, and 2018. Pschirrer joined Smuin in 2016, and has performed in works by Val Caniparoli and Helen Pickett, and featured roles in Amy Seiwert's *Broken Open* and *Falling Up*. Pschirrer joined Smuin in 2016.



### ALISON RAMORAN

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Alison Ramoran trained at South Bay Ballet (now called Ballet California) in Torrance, CA, with Diane Lauridsen. In 2017 she received the Daily Breeze “Making a Difference Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Arts” by the California Legislature Assembly at the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium. Upon graduating in 2018, she was given a contract with Oklahoma City Ballet. She was promoted to apprentice in 2020, and corps de ballet in 2021. While there, she performed featured roles in works by August Bournonville, Michael Pink, Septime Webre, Robert Mills, Ryan Nye, Nicolo Fonte, Jerome Robbins, and Jessica Lang. Ramoran joined Smuin in 2022.



### YURI ROGERS

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Yuri Rogers began his training with the Academy of Ballet San Francisco under the direction of Richard Gibson and Zory Karah. He then had the opportunity to continue his training and perform with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, the Grand Rapids Ballet, and BalletMet in Columbus, Ohio. Rogers has performed works by Lar Lubovitch, Leiland Charles, and Edwaard Liang. Rogers joined Smuin in 2021.



### JOÃO SAMPAIO

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João Sampaio trained in classical ballet in his hometown of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil under Ana Palmieri and Romulo Ramos. He has won national and international dance competitions, including the Youth America Grand Prix and the World Ballet Competition. Sampaio joined Tulsa Ballet in 2014, where he performed featured roles in Jirí Kylián's *Petite Mort*, Wayne McGregor's *Infra*, Nacho Duato's *Remanso*, Kurt Jooss' *The Green Table*, Yuri Possokhov's *Classical Symphony*, and Edwaard Liang's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Age of Innocence*. In 2018, he joined Festival Ballet Providence, performing lead roles in George Balanchine's *Serenade*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Nutcracker*. Sampaio joined Smuin in 2019.



### BRENNAN WALL

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Brennan Wall, originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, studied at Los Angeles Ballet Academy. She danced with Silicon Valley Ballet (previously Ballet San Jose) as a trainee before joining The New Ballet's Studio Company. In 2017, Wall joined Ballet de Monterrey under director José Manuel Carreño. She performed in Luis Serrano's *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake*, and *Don Quijote*, and danced soloist roles in *The Nutcracker*, Alberto Méndez's *Phantom of the Opera*, and Diego Landin's *Shorthand of Emotion*. Wall joined Smuin in 2019.

## MUSIC CREDITS

### TAKE FIVE

“Theme from Mr. Broadway”,  
“Unsquare Dance”, “Blue Rondo à la Turk”  
(Dave Brubeck/Derry Music Company);  
“Take Five” (Paul Desmond/Desmond  
Music Company); “I’m in a Dancing Mood”  
(Al Goodhart/Campbell Connelly Inc,  
Maurice Siegler/Warner Chappell Music,  
Al Hoffman/Al Hoffman Songs)  
“Perfidia”  
(Alberto Dominguez and Milton Leeds/APRS);  
“Memories of You” (Andy Razaf/Razaf Music  
and Eubie Blake/Shapiro Bernstein & Co Inc)

### REQUIEM FOR A ROSE

String Quintet in C, D956: Adagio, performed  
by Alban Berg Quartet, Heinrich Schiff, cellist

### THE TURNTABLE

“Tashweesh” (Ramallah Underground,  
arrangement by Kronos Quartet &  
Jacob Garchik) from Floodplain,  
Nonesuch Records, Warner Music Group

“El Sinaloense” (Kronos Quartet, remix by Terrestre)  
from El Sinaloense Remixes EP, Nonesuch Records,  
Warner Music Group

“Los pasos perdidos, II: Largo viaje hacia la noche”  
(Leo Brouwer) from Homo Ludens,  
Producciones Colibri

“Wayne’s Thang” (Kenny Garrett, arranged &  
recorded by William Roblejo),

“En las Tinieblas (Bolero)” (Alfredo Gil,  
arranged and recorded by Miguel de Gonzalo &  
Aldemaro Romero y Su Orquesta)  
from Carnival Con Aldemaro y Sanja.

## CREDITS

### COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

#### Requiem for a Rose:

Costumes courtesy of Philadelphia Ballet

**Take Five:** Kaori Higashiyama

#### The Turntable:

Jo Ellen Arntz, Vincent Avery & Joan Pino

### SPECIAL THANKS

Richard Binkoff, Frank Ching & Charley Kearns,  
Ted Helminski and James Horio

### COMPANY TEACHERS

Sandra Chinn	Amy London
Robin Dekkers	Rika Onizuka
Celia Fushille	Amy Seiwert
Valerie Harmon	Julianne Spratlin
Xiao Liu Moore	Katarina Wester

### COMPANY PIANISTS

Raymond Fabrizio	Donald White
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### WELLNESS TEAM

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Meaghann Oakes-Rust DPT

Robin Tobias DPT

#### Orthopedic & Physical Therapy

Dr. Michael Dillingham

Dr. Kevin Stone and the Stone Clinic

Dr. Alicia Knee Center for Sports Medicine

Lisa Giannone Active Care Physical Therapy

Jeffrey Cohen Hilot Therapy

## WITH OUR THANKS

Smuin is deeply grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generosity. It is through their support that we are able to create innovative works and share the beauty of dance. This list acknowledges contributions made between July 1, 2021–July 31, 2022.

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. For any corrections, please contact Coral Bell, Development Operations Manager, at [cbell@smuinballet.org](mailto:cbell@smuinballet.org)

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Tess Lane, Mengjun Chen  
Photo by Chris Hardy



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Tessa Barbour, Brandon Alexander  
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