

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

The Music Center Opens Its 19th Dance Season With West Coast Premiere of Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier's Bernstein Dances

***Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* Returns to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with an Homage to America's Beloved Composer Leonard Bernstein March 11, 13 and 19, 2022**

Photos available

LOS ANGELES (February 9, 2022) - The Music Center welcomes the return of live, indoor dance experiences to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with **Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier**. Making its company debut at The Music Center, Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier will kick off the 19th season of *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*, a TMC Arts program, with the West coast premiere of *Bernstein Dances* (March 11, 13 and 19, 2022), an original work from the company's Director and Chief Choreographer John Neumeier. Developed as an homage to Neumeier's home country and his friend, the great American composer Leonard Bernstein, the full-length *Bernstein Dances* is based on Leonard Bernstein's music and spirit and follows a structure similar to that of a revue: a collage of separate episodes resulting in a dance mosaic, all unified by Bernstein's music.

Bernstein Dances premiered in 1998 in Hamburg, Germany and is inspired by the legendary composer's personal and professional journeys. From short piano pieces to the symphonic dances of Bernstein's worldwide success *West Side Story*, *Bernstein Dances* "is as glamorous an evening of dance as you can imagine." (*Newsday*) The work features six solo dancers, with one central figure allowing the audience to witness the development of an artist. A seventh dancer appears periodically, directing, motivating and inspiring the action, while Giorgio Armani's timeless and simple costumes give the ballet a homogenous frame. The name of the piece is a double entendre: It uses "Dances" both as a verb and a noun, suggesting that Leonard Bernstein himself dances, figuratively, and that the ballet is a suite of dances to his music.

"*Bernstein Dances* showcases the incredible talent of Bernstein and Neumeier, two American treasures, resulting in a phenomenal experience that celebrates music and dance," explained Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. "Audiences returning to The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion can expect an exhilarating, uplifting performance that honors two remarkable artists and which reminds us of the joy we have all been missing. At the same time, they can feel comfortable knowing we have put comprehensive preventative measures in place to help ensure they have the safest possible experience."

Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier is famous far beyond the city of Hamburg, Germany. International tours have made the company not only a highlight of the global ballet scene, but also one of Germany's most important cultural ambassadors. Artistic Director and Chief Choreographer John Neumeier, who has directed the company since 1973, is a master at combining classical ballet tradition with contemporary forms in his works, while developing a unique personal choreographic language.

Bernstein Dances has a run time of two hours and 30 minutes, and features music from some of Leonard Bernstein's most indelible works including *Candide*, *MASS*, *On the Town*, *Peter Pan*, *West Side Story* and *Wonderful Town* as well as the complete *Serenade (after Plato's "Symposium")*. The performances feature accompaniment by two vocalists. Hamburg Ballet joined with TMC Arts to hold local auditions to identify L.A.-based talent to join the company onstage. CJ Eldred was cast and will sing with Germany's Dorothea Baumann for each of the three performances. Both understudies were also cast from the Los Angeles audition.

Dance students will enjoy a master class on March 12, 2022, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for advanced high school students. For more information, visit **musiccenter.org/hamburg**.

Hamburg Ballet will also perform in LA Opera's production of *St. Matthew Passion*, with choreography by John Neumeier.

At the current time, The Music Center requires all members of the public who attend performances and events inside The Music Center's four theatres to show proof of full vaccination for COVID-19 with a booster or provide a negative

COVID-19 test. An antigen test must be taken within 24 hours prior to the start of the event, and a PCR test must be taken within 48 hours prior to the start time; this includes children over two years of age. At-home COVID tests will not be accepted for entry. This policy applies to performances and events presented by TMC Arts and any organizations that present in The Music Center's theatres with the exception of The Music Center's resident companies, which have their own vaccination policies. As directed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, all current visitors to The Music Center's indoor venues must wear a face covering, whether fully vaccinated or not. Respiration masks (N95, KN95 and KF94) or well-fitting medical/surgical masks are recommended. These policies could change and will be adapted to current conditions when the *Dance at The Music Center* season begins on March 11, 2022.

In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health directives, The Music Center worked behind-the-scenes during the pandemic to prepare for the return of live performances in its venues, both indoors and outdoors, by implementing new measures and procedures. The Music Center became the first performing arts organization in the nation to earn the UL Verified Healthy Buildings Mark for Indoor Air and Water Quality. The Music Center underwent an extensive assessment process to earn the verification, demonstrating that each of its four venues, Grand Park's administrative office and The Music Center Annex, has excellent quality for indoor air and water. Additionally, The Music Center has enhanced all cleaning procedures, installed hand sanitizer dispensers in all public spaces and created a contact-free experience in its public restrooms as well as instituted electronic ticketing and a digital program book, among other measures. More information about The Music Center's Commitment to Safety is available at musiccenter.org/safety

Tickets *Bernstein Dances* performances at The Music Center start at \$34 and are available online at musiccenter.org/hamburg; at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Box Office, 135 N. Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012; or by calling (213) 972-0711. For groups of 10 or more, call (213) 972-8555 or email mcgroupsales@musiccenter.org.

The 19th season of *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* is generously supported by Glorya Kaufman Foundation, Center Dance Arts, Dorothy B. Chandler Program Fund and Elisabeth Katte Harris.

**Programs and artists subject to change. Photos available [here](#).*

Situated on the ancestral and sacred land of the Tongva and many other indigenous groups who call these grounds home, The Music Center acknowledges and honors with gratitude the land itself and the First People who have been its steward throughout the generations.

About Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, a TMC Arts program, is one of the leading presenters of dance on the West Coast. The celebrated series offers significant works by prestigious ballet and contemporary dance artists from around the world. Now entering its 19th year, *Dance at The Music Center* is a powerful force, supporting new works and artists-in-residence projects by today's most influential companies and choreographers. Performances take place throughout The Music Center, including the historic Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the distinctive Ahmanson Theatre and the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall, on the Jerry Moss Plaza and in locations around the Los Angeles area.

About Center Dance Arts

Center Dance Arts is proud to celebrate 20 years as the founding supporter of *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*. Center Dance Arts offers members the opportunity to support world class dance engagements and commission future masterpieces, inspire thousands of children with student performances, school assemblies and masterclasses, as well as interact with celebrated dancers and distinguished dance luminaries at exclusive events that enrich passion for dance. For more information, visit musiccenter.org/centerdancearts.

About The Music Center

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The \$70 million non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: TMC Arts and TMC Ops. TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on Jerry Moss Plaza, outside at Grand Park--a 12-acre adjacent green space--in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County and on a digital platform called *The Music Center Offstage*. TMC Arts

presents world-class dance with *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*, free and low-cost public concerts and events, as well as live and digital K-12 arts education programs, workshops, performances, interactive experiences and special events. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the Plaza and Grand Park, which comprise \$2 billion in county assets, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies--Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Master Chorale, LA Opera and LA Phil. For more information, visit musiccenter.org. Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @MusicCenterLA.

Calendar Listings

Hamburg Ballet John Neumeier ***Bernstein Dances***

Friday, March 11, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
Company debut performance at The Music Center
West coast premiere of *Bernstein Dances*

Live orchestra

Choreography, Stage Design and Lighting Concept: John Neumeier

Music: Leonard Bernstein

Costumes: Giorgio Armani

Conductor: Garrett Keast

Solo Violine: Tai Murray

Solo piano: Sebastian Knauer

Female Voice: Dorothea Bauer

Male Voice: CJ Eldred

L.A. Casting: Michael Donovan Casting

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