



HoustonBallet

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HOUSTON BALLET TO PERFORM IN JACOB'S PILLOW DANCE FESTIVAL 2018

AUGUST 15-18, 2018

HOUSTON, TEXAS [December 14, 2017] — Houston Ballet is proud to announce that the Company has been invited to participate in Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2018, the oldest internationally acclaimed Summer dance festival in the United States, for the first time since 1979. Celebrating a wide range of classic and contemporary ballet, Houston Ballet brings a program featuring Stanton Welch's *Clear*, an abstract work for seven men and one woman set to music composed by Bach, *In Dreams*, a work by former Choreographic Associate Trey McIntyre, and a World Premiere by Stanton Welch commissioned by Jacob's Pillow with an original music score by David Lang.

Houston Ballet has participated in the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival only once before. In 1979, a group of ten dancers under the name of "Soloists of Houston Ballet" performed two different programs, including the World Premieres of Ben Stevenson's works *Tchaikovsky Variations* and *Britten pas de deux*, and other works by Rudi van Dantzig and John Cranko. In 2011, Stanton Welch premiered a new work created especially for the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2011 Season Opening Gala. Set to music from Mozart's violin concertos, the work was performed by dancers of The School at Jacob's Pillow Ballet Program. The following year, the Joffrey Ballet presented the World Premiere of Stanton Welch's *Son of Chamber Symphony* at the Jacob's Pillow Festival in 2012, a one-act contemporary ballet set to music by John Adams.

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2018 runs from June 20-August 26 2018. Prominent companies from around the world will travel to Becket, Massachusetts from Denmark, Israel, Belgium, Australia, France, Spain, and Scotland, as well as from New York City, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Chicago, among many others. Jacob's Pillow has been called the "hub and mecca of dancing" by *TIME Magazine* and is home to America's longest running international dance festival. The festival includes performances, talks, professional dance training at The School at Jacob's Pillow, and community programs for audience engagement and education.

For more information on the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2018, please visit jacobspillow.org.

About Houston Ballet

Houston Ballet has evolved into a company of 59 dancers with a budget of \$33 million (making it the United States' fifth largest ballet company.) With a state-of-the-art performance space built especially for the company, which is the largest professional dance facility in America, Houston Ballet's \$46.6 million Center for Dance opened in April 2011, with an endowment of just over \$74.1 million (as of July 2017).

Australian Choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003, raising the level of the company's classical technique and commissioning works from dance makers such as Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Trey McIntyre, Julia Adam, Edwaard Liang and George Balanchine. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the company, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the company's General Manager for over a decade.

Houston Ballet has toured extensively both nationally and internationally. Over the past fifteen years, the company has appeared in London at Sadler's Wells, at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Russia, in six cities in Spain, in Montréal and Ottawa, at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in New York at City Center and The Joyce Theater, at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, at The Arts Center Melbourne State Theatre in Melbourne, Australia, in Los Angeles at The Music Center's Dorothy

Chandler Pavilion and in cities large and small across the United States. Houston Ballet has emerged as a leader in the expensive, labor-intensive task of nurturing the creation and development of new full-length narrative ballets.

Writing in *Dancing Times* in June 2012, dance critic Margaret Willis praised Houston Ballet and highlighted the fact that “During his own tenure, (Stanton) Welch has upped the standard and Houston Ballet now shows off a group of dancers in splendid shape. With fast and tidy footwork, they are technically skillful and have strong, broad jumps and expansive, fluid movements. The dancers’ musicality shines through their work, dancing as one with elegance and refinement – and they are a handsome bunch too!...if ballet were an Olympic sport, see Houston Ballet well on the way to achieving gold.”

Houston Ballet Orchestra was established in the late 1970s and consists of 61 professional musicians who play for Houston Ballet’s performances at Wortham Theater Center under Music Director Ermanno Florio.

Houston Ballet’s Education and Community Engagement Program reaches over 60,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy teaches over one thousand students every year, and approximately 50% of the current company was trained by the Academy.

For more information on Houston Ballet visit houstonballet.org.

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