

## CEDAR LAKE CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Gaillard Municipal Auditorium

June 1 at 7:00pm; June 2 at 2:00pm

### Founder

Artistic Director

Executive Director

Ballet Master

Company Manager

Production Manager

Production Stage Manager

Audio Video Supervisor

Technical Director

Lighting Supervisor

Wardrobe Supervisor

Costume Coordinator

Nancy Laurie

Benoit-Swan Pouffer

Greg Mudd

Alexandra Damiani

Elizabeth Patrick

Andrew Cappelli

Renata Braga de Almeida

Dave Rogge

Kurtis Rutherford

Jim French

Lydia Frantz

Soule Golden

### Company Members

Jubal Battisti

Jon Bond

Soojin Choi

Nickemil Concepcion

Vânia Doutel Vaz

Jason Kittelberger

Ana-Maria Lucaciu

Navarra Novy-Williams

Oscar Ramos

Matthew Rich

Ida Saki

Joaquim de Santana

Acacia Schachte

Harumi Terayama

Ebony Williams

*The 2012 Dance Series is presented by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.*

*Additional support for the 2012 Dance Series is provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance.*

## CEDAR LAKE CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Founded in 2003 by Nancy Laurie, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet has distinguished itself through both its exceptionally talented corps of 16 dancers and its concurrent emphasis on acquiring and commissioning new works by the world's most sought-after emerging choreographers. Under the artistic direction of Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Cedar Lake offers a wide-ranging repertory, including works by Alexander Ekman, Hofesh Shechter, Crystal Pite, Jacopo Godani, Angelin Preljocaj, Ohad Naharin, Didy Veldman, Jo Strømgren, and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. Through their daring, athletic movement and integration of ballet into contemporary and popular forms, the dancers of Cedar Lake take audiences on a choreographic journey that explores the infinite possibilities of movement and multimedia. Upcoming works for 2012–13 include *Indigo Rose* by Jiří Kylián, and new works by Julie Bour and Andonis Foniadakis.

## PROGRAM

**VIOLET KID**

Choreography and Music  
 Assistant to the Choreographer  
 Lighting Design  
 Costume Design  
 Musicians  
 Recorded Percussion

Hofesh Shechter  
 Bruno Guillore  
 Hofesh Shechter, Jim French  
 Hofesh Shechter, Junghyun Georgia Lee  
 Ramon de Bruyn, Mairi Dorman-Phaneuf, Tawnya Popoff  
 Nathan Davis, Matthew Gold

Cast

Jubal Battisti, Jon Bond, Soojin Choi, Nickemil Concepcion,  
 Vania Doutel Vaz, Jason Kittelberger, Navarra Novy-Williams,  
 Ana Maria Lucaciu, Oscar Ramos, Matthew Rich, Joaquim de Santana,  
 Acacia Schachte, Harumi Terayama, Ebony Williams

World Premiere September 29, 2011, by Cedar Lake, Theater Bonn, Bonn, Germany.

Hofesh Shechter's second work for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet is an original 33-minute work for the full company accompanied by a music score created by the choreographer and performed by a cello, viola, and double bass ensemble. Shechter continues his unique examinations of man's struggle for harmony within a complex and sometimes horrifying universe. In constant shifts between exhilarating charges and contradictory retreats, victims and aggressors, a glimpse into the essence of existence emerges.

## INTERMISSION

**ANNONCIATION**

Choreography  
 Assistant to the Choreographer  
 Lighting Design  
 Set Design  
 Music

Angelin Preljocaj  
 Julie Bour  
 Jacques Chatelet  
 Angelin Preljocaj  
*Crystal Music* by Stephane Roy, *Magnificat* by Antonio Vivaldi

Cast

Acacia Schachte, Harumi Terayama (June 1 at 7:00pm)  
 Vania Doutel Vaz, Navarra Novy-Williams (June 2 at 2:00pm)

Cedar Lake Premiere June 2, 2008, New York, New York. World Premiere by Ballet Preljocaj 1995, l'Opéra de Lausanne.

How does the Annunciation, that key moment which underpins a whole religion, resonate in us, what does it awaken? While so many painters over the past 2000 years have sought time and again to understand the flurry of contradictory symbols, which in effect is what the Annunciation is, it comes as something of a surprise that a theme, a subject in which so many issues about the body are so manifestly implicated, should have remained almost entirely absent from choreographic art. And yet, what we find here, deep down, is truly fascinating. In traditional iconography, Mary is often shown in an enclosed or walled garden, symbolizing her virginity. There is, therefore, a parallel between what might be called her inner space and her surroundings. When the angel breaks into this private world, he is saying, in so many words, that the workings of her body are about to be dramatically altered. This explains why it is that, although in the Bible the Virgin displays a serene acceptance of the forthcoming event, many artists have chosen to make her the prey of doubt, anxiety, even rebelliousness. The strange co-existence of acceptance and rebellion, the collision of space and time, tell us that at the very moment the message is given, fertilization takes place. We are, as it were, inside biology, the very act of conception. This coming to life in gradual stages takes us to the heart of the process of creating art; the message is no longer an abstraction, it is reality. Rather than something finished, isn't what we call nowadays conceptual art the portent of a new art, the Annunciation of an art yet to be born? – *Angelin Preljocaj*

## INTERMISSION

**GRACE ENGINE**

Choreography  
 Lighting Design  
 Costume Design  
 Music

Crystal Pite  
 Jim French  
 Nancy Haeyung Bae  
 Owen Belton

Cast

Jubal Battisti, Jon Bond, Soojin Choi, Nickemil Concepcion,  
 Vania Doutel Vaz, Jason Kittelberger, Navarra Novy-Williams,  
 Ana Maria Lucaciu, Oscar Ramos, Matthew Rich, Ida Saki,  
 Joaquim de Santana, Acacia Schachte, Harumi Terayama, Ebony Williams

World Premiere January 31, 2012, by Cedar Lake, La Maison de la Danse, Lyon, France.

In *Grace Engine*, Crystal Pite's latest work for Cedar Lake (Pite's *Ten Duets on a Theme of Rescue* premiered with the company in 2008), the choreographer continues her exploration of the familiar storylines that connect mankind. Pite positions and frames these narrative elements within her choreographic language.

The human experience is a series of moments along a timeline. Although elastic, time is a powerful locomotive. It is this pressure and inevitability that propel Pite's creation. The dancing contains flashes of recognizable narrative, as if the body itself is a cinematic device, capable of jump cuts, flashbacks, and montage.

## CHOREOGRAPHERS

HOFESH SHECHTER, winner of the Critic's Circle National Dance Award for Best Choreography (Modern) in 2008, is fast becoming recognized as one of the UK's most exciting artists. Shechter graduated from the Jerusalem Academy for Dance and Music before moving to Tel Aviv to join the world-renowned Batsheva Dance Company, where he worked with Artistic Director Ohad Naharin and other choreographers, including Wim Vandekeybus, Paul Selwyn-Norton, Tero Saarinen, and Inbal Pinto. Shechter began drum and percussion studies while in Tel Aviv and continued in Paris at the Agostiny College of Rhythm. Subsequently, he began experimenting and developing his own music while participating in various projects in Europe involving dance, theater, and body-percussion. In 2002 Shechter arrived in the UK and joined the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company. His choreographic debut, *Fragments*, for which he also created the score, toured both nationally and internationally to Finland, Italy, Portugal, Korea, and Poland, where the piece won first place in the 3rd Serge Diaghilev choreography competition. In 2004 Shechter was commissioned by The Place Prize to create the sextet *Cult*. The work was one of five finalists and received the Audience Choice Award. From 2004 to 2006, Shechter was Associate Artist at The Place and was commissioned by the Robin Howard Foundation to create *Uprising*, his popular work for seven men. The three works formed the triple bill "deGENERATION," Shechter's first full evening of work. In 2007 The Place, Southbank Centre, and Sadler's Wells (London's three major dance venues) collaborated on a unique producing venture, commissioning Shechter to create *In your rooms*, which was presented at all three venues in 2007 and culminated in sell-out shows at Sadler's Wells Theatre. *In your rooms* was nominated for a South Bank Show Award and won the Critics Circle Award for Best Choreography (Modern) in 2008. Shechter has been commissioned in the UK by Bare Bones Dance Company, Edge and Verve (the postgraduate companies of London Contemporary Dance School and Northern School of Contemporary Dance respectively), StopGAP Dance Company, Scottish Dance Theatre, Candoco, and Dance United. Internationally Shechter has made new work and remounted works on Ballet CeDeCe (Portugal), Hellenic Dance Company (Greece), Bern Ballett (Switzerland), Skanes Dansteater (Sweden), and Carte Blanche Dance Company (Norway). In 2008 Shechter formed Hofesh Shechter Company, which is touring globally to both critical and popular acclaim. Shechter worked as choreographer at The Royal Court Theatre on *Motortown* by Simon Stephens (2006), and on *The Arsonists* by Max Frischer (2007), collaborating with director Ramin Gray on both productions. Shechter was choreographer for the National Theatre's award-winning production of *Saint Joan* (2007) directed by Marianne Elliot and starring Anne-Marie Duff. Shechter also choreographed the hit dance sequence "Maxxie's Dance" for the opening of the second series of Channel 4's popular drama *Skins*. Hofesh Shechter is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells.

ANGELIN PRELJOCAJ is the principal choreographer and artistic director of the Ballet Preljocaj – National Choreographic Centre, and has been living and working in Aix-en-Provence since 1996. Born in 1957 in the environs of Paris, Preljocaj's career began with a classical dance education before he turned toward contemporary dance, working with Karin Waehner at the Schola Cantorum. After studying with Merce Cunningham in New York (1980), he joined the Quentin Rouiller Company in Caen and subsequently was associated with the National Center of Contemporary Dance in Angers, directed by Viola Farber. In 1984, venturing out independently, Angelin Preljocaj presented *Marché Noir*, receiving the French Ministry of Culture award. He shortly thereafter founded his own company in Champigny-sur-Marne. In 1996 the company took up residency at the Cité du Livre in Aix-en-Provence, adding to the repertoire *Le Spectre de la Rose* and *Annonciation*, created for the Paris Opera Ballet. In 1997, at Peter Martins' invitation, Preljocaj presented *La Stravaganza*, a new work for New York City Ballet's Diamond Project. Additionally in 1997 he received New York's dance performance Bessie Award for *Annonciation*. Since founding his company, now composed of 26 dancers, Preljocaj has created 45 choreographic works ranging from solos to larger formations. The company performs primarily on tour, in France and abroad. In addition to commissions from such companies as New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, La Scala, and the Staatsoper in Berlin, Preljocaj's works have been staged by numerous repertory companies around the world. In October 2006, Ballet Preljocaj moved into its new home designed by architect Rudy Ricciotti, the Pavillon Noir—the first production center built solely to provide an environment in which artists can carry out the entire process of creation, from the studio to the stage. In 2011 he created an original television commercial for Air France, "L'Envol," with New York City Ballet dancer Benjamin Millepied and Ballet Preljocaj dancer Virginie Caussin. Preljocaj continues to build his reputation as France's most ambitious and important choreographer of his generation.

CRYSTAL PITE, a Vancouver-based choreographer and performer, has created works for Nederlands Dans Theater, Cullberg Ballet, Ballett Frankfurt, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (Resident Choreographer 2001–04), Ballet British Columbia, Alberta Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, and several independent dance artists; most recently Louise Lecavalier. Pite is a former company member of Ballet British Columbia and Ballett Frankfurt. In 2001 she formed her own company, Kidd Pivot, and continues to create and perform in her own work. Kidd Pivot tours nationally and internationally with productions that include *Dark Matters* (2009), *Fault* (2008), *Lost Action* (2006), *Uncollected Work* (2002) and *Double Story* (2004), created with Richard Siegal. In 2010 Kidd Pivot became the resident company of Kunstlerhaus Mousonturm in Frankfurt, Germany, and is now known as Kidd Pivot Frankfurt RM.

BENOIT-SWAN POUFFER (Artistic Director) joined Cedar Lake as Artistic Director in 2005 following an extensive career as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer. Born and raised in Paris, his career began with study at the prestigious Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse, where he performed works by such renowned French choreographers as Claude Brumachon, Daniel Larrieu, and Angelin Preljocaj. In April 1993, Pouffer took first place in the Benetton European Dance Competition. Pouffer's distinguished career as a professional dancer includes a seven-year tenure with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and seasons with Philadanco and Donald Byrd/The Group, as well as offering outreach programs in South Africa and master classes throughout Europe. Pouffer is credited with an astute and discerning eye for talented dancers, a vision toward artistic excellence and the viewpoint that performers with skilled technique united in works mingling various forms of dance can breathe new life into the art form. Through an informed network of colleagues and friends in the international ballet community, Pouffer eagerly searches out innovative choreographers around the world to invite to Cedar Lake. *The New York Times* recently stated, "Luckily Benoit-Swan Pouffer, the French-born artistic director of Cedar Lake, seems to have taken it on himself to introduce audiences to a new generation of European choreographers." His role as curator of one of the most ambitious world-class repertoires in America today furthers Cedar Lake's mission to provide choreographers a comprehensive environment for creation and presentation. In 2005 Pouffer introduced and choreographed the first of his series of installation performances. Critically acclaimed and representing a new, less formalized approach to dance performance, Pouffer merges the audience with the dancer to become a collaborator in the performance. His original works for Cedar Lake also include *Seed, Between Here and Now, Hammer, Vastav, Glassy Essence,* and *on this planet*. Pouffer, with the Cedar Lake Company, is featured and created the dance sequences in the major motion picture *The Adjustment Bureau*, including original choreography for the film's star Emily Blunt. The busy choreographer is additionally at work on the Broadway-bound musical *Dangerous Beauty*. Pouffer is a regular visiting artist at New York University, Rutgers University, and Marymount Manhattan College.

ALEXANDRA DAMIANI (Ballet Master), a native of France, studied ballet at the Geneva Dance Center with David Allen and Claudine Kamoun before moving to Paris, where she trained with Attilio Labis and Patricia Alzetta, thanks to the support of Francis Lalanne. After winning the International Competition of Marseilles, Damiani was invited to dance with the stars of the Paris Opera Ballet in Budapest and was awarded a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, prompting her to move to New York. Since 2005, after a 15-year dance career as a soloist with Complexions, Donald Byrd/The Group, and Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal, Damiani has been the Ballet Master of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. She is honored to have worked with artists and innovators both in her work with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet as well as independently, including Donald Byrd, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Jacopo Godani, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Rodrigo Pedereinas, Benoit-Swan Pouffer, Victor Quijada, Dwight Rhoden, Jo Strømngren, and Didy Veldman. Damiani is frequently invited to conduct master classes in the U.S. and around the world with such dance institutions as The Juilliard School, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and Ballet Junior de Genève. Since 2008 she has also served on the advisory board of the New

York Theatre Ballet. Damiani is now a 22nd-generation Taoist Dragon Gate lineage holder. She is an avid student and teacher in the ancient healing practice of Qigong.

JUBAL BATTISTI (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2004) began his training at age eight with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. He performed in various productions with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre throughout middle school and entered its pre-professional Schenley Program in high school. After three years of high school, Battisti attended The Juilliard School, where he earned a BFA with scholastic distinction in May 2004.

JON BOND (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2007), from southern California, began his training at age 10 with Center Stage Dance Academy. In 2004 Bond spent eight weeks as a Winner Circle Finalist on *Star Search* on CBS. That same year, he served as an ambassador of dance representing the United States at the annual Australian Dance Championship, where he won International First Place Soloist in the Battle of the Stars. His work as a performer also includes the WNBA Sparks' Sparkids, Fiona Apple's "Paperbag" video, featured soloist at Los Angeles' Kodak Theater and guest artist for the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo. Prior to joining Cedar Lake he was a member of Dance Theatre of Harlem's DTB Ensemble. As a choreographer, he was invited to perform his work at the Seventh Annual Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival in Palm Desert, California, where he won the Jean Ann Hirschl First Place Solo Award. Bond has also choreographed numerous award-winning competition pieces throughout the nation.

SOOJIN CHOI (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2011) comes from Seoul, Korea, where she graduated from the Seoul Arts High School in 2003 and the Korea National University of Arts School of Dance in 2007. After her 1st prize performance at the 2007 Seoul International Dance Competition, she was offered a fellowship at The Ailey School, and moved to New York in January 2008. She has toured internationally in pieces with the Korea National University of Arts Dance Company, as well as with the Jeon Mi Sook Dance Company. Additionally, she has won several awards both for dancing and for choreography at KNUA and at festivals in Korea and North America. Choi was a member of Cedar Lake from 2008 to 2010, then she returned home to join the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company before returning to Cedar Lake in 2011.

NICKEMIL CONCEPCION (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2003) comes from New York, where he received his early training at Broadway Dance and the New Ballet School in New York City. At age 13, he began his professional career by performing in a Broadway production of *Cinderella*. He went on to be featured in the 1993 film *Avenue X* and George C. Wolfe's 1996 Off-Broadway production of *On the Town*. Concepcion then joined Ballet Tech, where he performed for seven years.

VÂNIA DOUTEL VAZ (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2010) was born in Setúbal, Portugal, and trained at The National Conservatory School of Dance in Lisbon, working with ballet master Georges Garcia and choreographer Rui Horta. Her professional career in Portugal includes Vasco Wellenkamp's Contemporary Portuguese Dance Company and freelance work with theater director Miguel Moreira and choreographers Luís Guerra de Laocoi, Rui Lopes Graça, and Romulus Neagu, while continuing her dance and

theater training with Vera Mantero, Margarida Bettencourt, João Fiadeiro, Francisco Camacho, and Emmanuelle Huynh. She appeared in *Fados*, a film by director Carlos Saurain in Madrid, Spain; and danced under the artistic direction of Josselyn Bushell-Mingo in *Push 04* in London. Most recently Doutel Vaz was a member of Nederlands Dans Theater, where she performed works by such choreographers as Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Paul Lightfoot & Sol León, Alexander Ekman, and Marco Goecke.

JASON KITTELBERGER (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2003) comes from Rochester, New York, where he began performing at age three at the Draper School of Dance. He continued his dance education at the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he graduated with a BFA in dance performance. Kittelberger has performed with Rochester Ballet and Hubbard Street II.

ANA-MARIA LUCACIU (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2006) was born in Bucharest, Romania. At the age of 11, she was discovered by the National Ballet School of Canada, where she completed her dance education. She joined Canada's National Ballet and went on to dance with the Royal Danish Ballet, Germany's Augsburg Ballet and Lisbon's Contemporary Portuguese Dance Company. Lucaciu has performed works by Jiří Kylián, Nacho Duato, John Neumeier, Lar Lubovitch, Tim Rushton, Alexei Ratmanský, Maurice Béjart, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Didi Veldman, Jacopo Godani, and many others.

NAVARRA NOVY-WILLIAMS (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2010) was born in New York City and received her early training from Elaine Kudo and Buddy Balou in Verona, New Jersey. She graduated from The Juilliard School with a BFA in 2006. She joined Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal in 2006, where she performed works by choreographers Nacho Duato, Ohad Naharin, Stijn Celis, Mats Ek, Mauro Bigonzetti, Jean Christophe Maillot, Shen Wei, Didi Veldman, Christopher Wheeldon, and George Balanchine. In 2009 she moved to Israel where she danced in the Batsheva Ensemble.

OSCAR RAMOS (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2007) of Cidra, Puerto Rico, began his professional career as a dancer with Ballet Concierto, where he was named 2003 Ballet Dancer of the Year. In 2003 he moved to New York, where he trained as a fellowship student at The Ailey School. In 2004 he relocated to Chicago, where he was a member of Hubbard Street until 2007.

MATTHEW RICH (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2005) hails from Las Vegas, Nevada, where he studied at the Dance Zone under the direction of Jami Artiga and Kaydee Francis. Rich graduated from the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing and Visual Arts, where he was the recipient of several regional and national competition titles, as well as convention and workshop scholarships. Choreographers Rich has worked with include Ohad Naharin, Lauri Stallings, Jacopo Godani, Adam Houghland, Crystal Pite, and Stijn Celis. He also works extensively with dance schools across the country, giving master classes and workshops as well as choreographing solos and ensemble pieces for competition.

IDA SAKI (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2012) is currently attending her second year at New York University. She has received such accolades as Modern Dance Winner by the National Foundation YoungArts, Texas Young Master, and Iran's Person of the Day, and has received five national titles from various organizations, including New York City Dance Alliance's Outstanding Dancer of the Year. The National High School Dance Festival recognized Saki's choreographic talents and awarded her the Outstanding Choreography Award. She was also the only female dancer to be selected by the U.S. Presidential Scholar Program to meet President Obama and be named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts in 2010.

JOAQUIM DE SANTANA (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake 2011), born in Brazil in 1985, studied dance from the age of 14 with the Balé Folclórico da Bahia. For three years he trained, performed, and toured with the company, both nationally and internationally, which took him across North America and Europe. At the age of 17, he was awarded a fellowship to study further at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Arnhem. In 2004 he joined Introdans Youth Ensemble, where he danced works by Hans van Manen and Jiří Kylián, among others. In 2005 he joined Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, where he worked extensively with choreographers Marco Goecke, Ed Wubbe, and Georg Reischl on new creations as well as repertoire pieces. He has also danced with Cullberg Ballet.

ACACIA SCHACHTE (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2006) was born in Santa Barbara, California. She trained in Canada at Vancouver's Arts Umbrella. She then joined Ballet British Columbia's Mentor Program, where she trained for a year before joining the company. Dancing seven seasons with Ballet British Columbia, Schachte performed the works of such choreographers as John Alleyne, Jiří Kylián, William Forsythe, Twyla Tharp, Jean Grand-Maitre, Serge Bennathan, James Kudelka, Dominique Dumais, Nicolo Fonte, and Paul Taylor. She appeared in the CBC film *The Fairie Queen* and has choreographed for Ballet British Columbia's Mentor Program.

HARUMI TERAYAMA (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2007) of Osaka, Japan, received her BFA from The Juilliard School under the direction of Lawrence Rhodes. At Juilliard, she performed works by William Forsythe, Paul Taylor, and others. Terayama has worked with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Pier Group, Nilas Martin Dance Company, Sidra Bell Dance NY, Gallim Dance, and Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. As a choreographer she worked with CityDance Ensemble in Washington, DC, and her work was presented at Strathmore Music Center and Joyce SoHo in New York City.

EBONY WILLIAMS (Dancer, joined Cedar Lake in 2005) comes from Boston, Massachusetts, where she trained with the Boston Ballet from age eight through high school. She also attended the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts. She is a 2005 BFA graduate of The Boston Conservatory. Williams has performed works by such choreographers as Donald Byrd and Luis Fuente. Being a versatile dancer has given her the opportunity to also work in the commercial world with artists such as Rihanna, Fergie, Ciara ("Love, Sex, Magic," featuring Justin Timberlake) and Beyoncé. As one of the dancers in the 2009 MTV video of the year "Single Ladies," Williams also performed with Beyoncé on her promo tour, the American Music Awards, the *Today Show*, and *Saturday Night Live*.