

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York City Center announces complete programming for 2024 Fall for Dance Festival

Ten-day festival attracts audience of 22,000 newcomers and dance fans alike with all tickets \$30 (fees included)

New York City Center Commissions choreographed by Herman Cornejo, Cameron sinkwa Fraser-Monroe, and Tiler Peck

Tickets on sale Sunday, August 25 at 11am

AUGUST 13, 2024 (NEW YORK, NY) – NEW YORK CITY CENTER today announced complete programming for the 2024 Fall for Dance Festival, September 18 – 29, 2024. An essential part of New York's fall dance season, the annual ten-day Festival opens City Center's 2024 – 2025 season with a showcase of dance companies and artists in an array of styles, attracting an audience of 22,000 newcomers and returning dance fans alike. In keeping with City Center's founding mission of accessibility, all tickets for Fall for Dance are \$30 (fees included). Tickets go on sale on Sunday, August 25 at 11am.

"For more than 20 years, Fall for Dance has brought important dance artists from across the globe to our New York audience," said **Stanford Makishi**, VP & Artistic Director, Dance. "This year's festival continues to be a major platform for international talent with performances by **National Ballet of Ukraine**, Montreal's **ANNE PLAMONDON PRODUCTIONS**, **CNN/Aterballetto** from Italy, **Dutch National Ballet**, and **Gandini Juggling** from the UK. And Festival debuts include the homegrown **Complexions Contemporary Ballet**, **M.A.D.D. Rhythms** from Chicago, and **kNoname Artist—Roderick George**."

He continued, "This year's three commissioned works amplify newer choreographic voices from the ballet world. Legendary dancer **Herman Cornejo** reimagines Fokine's beloved *Le Spectre de la Rose*; **Cameron sink® Fraser-Monroe** creates a new work for dancers of **Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet**, in a co-commission with the Bard College Center for Indigenous Studies; and, in a co-commission with the

Vail Dance Festival, American Ballet Theatre's **Aran Bell** performs a solo by renowned ballerina **Tiler Peck**."

Free pre-show dance lessons will be held in the Grand Tier lobby one hour before the second performance of each program, offering ticketholders (for that performance) an opportunity to meet and mingle, and learn a few steps from artists. **Tia Powell-Harris**, VP, Education & Community Engagement, said, "What the dance programming team has assembled for our pre-show lessons is truly astounding, especially given the caliber of the teachers, which include major dance stars and artistic directors. These lessons enrich the theater-going experience and are an important part of the overall education and community engagement work that we do at City Center."

2024 Fall for Dance Festival

Program 1 (Sep 18 & 19) welcomes **National Ballet of Ukraine** for their New York debut and the New York premiere of **Alexei Ratmansky**'s *Wartime Elegy*. With sections of haunting sadness, contrasted by cheerful Ukrainian folk dances, *Wartime Elegy* is dedicated to the people of Ukraine and is the first piece Ratmansky created following the Russian invasion in 2022. Following is the New York premiere of *Piano Songs*, co-commission with the Vail Dance Festival, with choreography by New York City Ballet Principal Dancer **Tiler Peck**. The solo features American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Principal Dancer **Aran Bell** and the music of **Meredith Monk**. **GALLIM** closes out the program with *SAMA* featuring the cutting-edge choreography of company founder **Andrea Miller**.

Celebrating their 30th Anniversary, **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** opens Program 2 (Sep 20 & 21) with excerpts from co-founder **Dwight Rhoden**'s uplifting *For Crying Out Loud* set to acoustic arrangements of hit songs by **U2**. **Boston Ballet** performs the New York premiere of **Sabrina Matthews**' intimate duet *Ein von Viel* set to Bach's beloved *Goldberg Variations*. Berlin-founded, now New York Citybased, collective **kNoname Artist – Roderick George** closes out the program with *Venom*, inspired by the lasting impact of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic and the queer community's ability to uplift each other.

ANNE PLAMONDON PRODUCTIONS opens Program 3 (Sep 24 & 25) with the US Premiere of MYOKINE, an energetic septet that brings to life the power of bodies when unified in movement. The World Premiere of *The Specter of the Rose*, commissioned by New York City Center, is choreographed by renowned Principal Dancer of American Ballet Theatre Herman Cornejo. The work reimagines the Fokine classic, *Le Spectre de la Rose*, as a duet for an artist and her muse performed by Cornejo (in his tenth



Festival appearance) and ABT Principal Dancer **Skylar Brandt**. Chicago tap dance collective **M.A.D.D. Rhythms** makes their New York debut with excerpts from *Feeling Good: A M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tribute to Nina Simone* featuring live music and 12 sensational tap dancers of diverse ages and backgrounds.

Currently celebrating its 85th Anniversary, **Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet** opens Program 4 (Sep 26 & 27) with the World Premiere of *šɛgatəm*, co-commissioned by Bard College Center for Indigenous Studies, choreographed by **Cameron sink^wə Fraser-Monroe**. Drawing on his traditional, contemporary, and ballet practice, the work shares the story of a leader who must learn the hard way to lean on his community. **A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham** returns to the Festival with *MotorRover*, an abstract and tender duet in conversation with Merce Cunningham's 1972 work *Landrover*. And Italy's **CCN/Aterballeto** returns to New York for the first time in nearly 20 years with the US Premiere of the powerful and lively *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Program 5 (Sep 28 & 29) begins with **Dutch National Ballet** in *Four Schumann Pieces*, choreographed by master of contemporary ballet **Hans van Manen**. Festival favorite **Sara Mearns**, New York City Ballet Principal Dancer, takes on **Molissa Fenley**'s 35-minute tour de force solo *State of* Darkness set to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* for her ninth appearance in the Festival. London's Olivier Award-winning **Gandini Juggling** closes out the Festival with *Smashed2*, showcasing their unique and theatrical combination of dance and circus arts.

Tickets and General Information

Fall for Dance Festival tickets go on sale Sunday, August 25 at 11am, with all tickets \$30 (fees included). Tickets can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office (reopening August 19). New York City Center is located at 131 W 55th St between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Casting and programming subject to change.

FALL FOR DANCE FESTIVAL Sep 18 – 29, 2024

PROGRAM 1 | Sep 18 & 19 at 7:30pm

Sep 19 at 6:30pm | Pre-show dance lesson with Andrea Miller of GALLIM

National Ballet of Ukraine (Ukraine)



Wartime Elegy (NY Premiere) Choreography by Alexei Ratmansky

Aran Bell

Piano Songs (NY Premiere)

New York City Center co-commission with Vail Dance Festival

Choreography by Tiler Peck

GALLIM

SAMA

Choreography by Andrea Miller in collaboration with Rambert2 & The Juilliard School

PROGRAM 2 | Sep 20 & 21 at 7:30pm

Sep 21 at 6:30pm | Pre-show dance lesson with **Desmond Richardson** of Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Excerpts from For Crying Out Loud Choreography by **Dwight Rhoden**

Boston Ballet

Ein von Viel (NY Premiere)
Choreography by Sabrina Matthews

kNoname Artist - Roderick George

Venom

Choreography by Roderick George

PROGRAM 3 | Sep 24 & 25 at 7:30pm

Sep 25 at 6:30pm | Pre-show dance lesson with Starinah "Star" Dixon of M.A.D.D. Rhythms

ANNE PLAMONDON PRODUCTIONS (Canada)

MYOKINE (US Premiere)

Choreography by Anne Plamondon

Skylar Brandt and Herman Cornejo

The Specter of the Rose (World Premiere)

New York City Center Commission

Choreography by Herman Cornejo after Michel Fokine

M.A.D.D. Rhythms

Excerpts from Feeling Good: A M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tribute to Nina Simone (NY Premiere)
Choreography by Bril Barrett, Tristan Bruns, Starinah "Star" Dixon, Alexandrya Fryson, and Donnetta "Lil Bit" Jackson

PROGRAM 4 | Sep 26 & 27 at 7:30pm

Sep 27 at 6:30pm | Pre-show dance lesson with Tamisha Guy of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham



Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet (Canada)

šεgatəm (World Premiere)

New York City Center co-commission with Bard College Center for Indigenous Studies

Choreography by Cameron sinkwa Fraser-Monroe

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

MotorRover

Choreography by Kyle Abraham in collaboration with A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

CCN/Aterballetto (Italy)

Rhapsody in Blue (US Premiere)

Choreography by Iratxe Ansa and Igor Bacovich

PROGRAM 5 | Sep 28 at 7:30pm & Sep 29 at 2pm

Sep 29 at 1pm | Pre-show dance lesson with Sean Gandini of Gandini Juggling

Dutch National Ballet (The Netherlands)

Four Schumann Pieces

Choreography by Hans van Manen

Sara Mearns

State of Darkness

Choreography by Molissa Fenley

Gandini Juggling (UK)

Excerpts from Smashed2

Choreography by Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala

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Support for new dance works at New York City Center is provided by the Arlene Shuler Artistic Innovation Fund and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Dutch National Ballet is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Dutch Culture USA of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York.

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NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Michael S. Rosenberg, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city for more than 80 years. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia in 1943 as Manhattan's first performing arts center with the mission of making the best in theater, dance, and music accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series like the Fall for Dance Festival, Artists at the Center, the Tony-honored Encores! series, and the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists including Kyle Abraham, Matthew Bourne, Ayodele Casel, Manhattan Theatre Club, Nederlands Dans Theater, and Twyla Tharp, on the same stage where legends made their mark. Dedicated to a culture built on the values of curiosity, collaboration, accessibility, and inclusivity, City Center's dynamic programming, art exhibitions, and studio events are complemented by a full slate of education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year. NYCityCenter.org

About Fall for Dance Festival

The inaugural Fall for Dance Festival was held in 2004 with the goal of building a new audience for dance. In his closing night review of that season, Jack Anderson wrote in *The New York Times*, "Fall for Dance has proved to be the brightest idea to light up the New York dance scene in a long time." In keeping with City Center's founding mission to make the arts accessible to everyone, all tickets for Fall for Dance are \$30 (fees included). Since its inception, the Festival has received international recognition for its quality and innovation, and successfully engaging new and younger dance audiences. In 2011, City Center began commissioning new works for Fall for Dance. Recent seasons have featured world premieres from some of today's leading choreographers, including Kyle Abraham, Lil Buck, Dormeisha, Michelle Dorrance, Ayodele Casel, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and Justin Peck.

Bios for Companies and Dancers | 2024 Fall for Dance Festival

PROGRAM 1

The National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre of Ukraine (**National Ballet of Ukraine**), founded in 1867, is one of the largest music and ballet companies in Europe and the world. It has toured to Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Japan, France, Hungary, Poland, Oman, Greece, Spain, Italy, the US, Canada, Mexico, China, Korea, Latin America, Taiwan, Australia, and UAE where it demonstrated high level performances and remarkable vocal, dancing, and music traditions. The company's vast repertoire includes both classical and modern works, from the ballets of Marius Petipa to those of 20th century choreographers Anatoly Shekera, Viktor Litvinov, Aniko Rekhviashvili, Viktor Yaremenko and, more recently, works by Hans Van Manen, John Neumeier, and Alexei Ratmansky. Despite the ongoing Russian invasion, the talented artists of the company continue to rehearse and perform, preserving a cultural front that helps maintain the spirit of the Ukrainian nation and ensures its bright future.

Aran Bell was born in Bethesda, Maryland. He began studying ballet at age four, receiving the majority of his early training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet and with Denys Ganio in Rome, Italy. He continued his training with Fabrice Herrault in New York City and Magaly Suarez in Florida. He spent summers at The Royal Ballet School in London, and at American Ballet Theatre's (ABT) Summer Intensive. Bell's awards include the Hope Award at the Youth America Grand Prix Finals (2009 & 2010), the Junior Grand Prix (2011), Grand Prix at the Milan International Ballet Competition (2010), the Premio Positano (2011), the Premio Amalfi Young Talent Award (2012), Gold Medal at Tanzolymp Berlin (2012), Gold Medal and Audience Choice Award at Rieti International Ballet Competition (2012), the Premio Roma Jia Ruskaja



(2012), and the Premio Capri Danza International Award (2014). Bell joined ABT Studio Company in September 2014 and rose to rank of ABT Principal Dancer in 2020.

GALLIM is a home for the exchange of movement wisdom through art-making, education, and community-building. Founded in 2007 by groundbreaking choreographer Andrea Miller, GALLIM stimulates the imagination of worldwide audiences through performance, education, and innovation in dance. GALLIM's critically acclaimed performance history includes interdisciplinary dance-theater, site-specific works, and collaborations in film, theater, fashion, music, and brands. Performances include renowned venues such as Metropolitan Museum of Art, Guggenheim, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Joyce, BAM, Jacob's Pillow, Sadler's Wells, Royal Opera House, V&A London, Théâtre National de Chaillot de Paris, among many others. GALLIM continues its dedication to movement education through the GALLIM School of Movement and Moving Artist Residencies for early-career and parent movement artists. The School of Movement is a nexus of students, educators, and artists sharing knowledge, creative methodologies, and expression through free and low-cost studies in dance training, dancemaking, the collaborative process, film for dance, and professional development.

PROGRAM 2

Complexions Contemporary Ballet was founded in 1994 by Master Choreographer Dwight Rhoden and the legendary Desmond Richardson. Hailed as a "matchless American dance company" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Complexions transcends dance tradition through a groundbreaking approach to the art. Over the past three decades, the company has performed at major dance theaters and festivals worldwide and continues to inspire audiences through its extensive touring seasons. Recipient of *The New York Times* Critics' Choice Award, the company blends methods, styles, and cultures from across the globe, and the result is a continually evolving form of dance that reflects the movement of our world and all its cultures as an interrelated whole.

Since 1963, **Boston Ballet**'s internationally acclaimed performances of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballets, combined with a dedication to world-class dance education and community engagement, have made the institution a leader in its field, with a 61-year history of promoting excellence and access to dance. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Ming Min Hui, the Company, made up of 65 dancers and 14 nationalities, performs a diverse and acclaimed repertoire ranging from full-length classical ballets to masterworks by George Balanchine, and new works and world premieres by today's finest contemporary choreographers. The New York Times hailed Boston Ballet's repertoire as "one of the most eclectic in the country," and as having dancers that are "striking by national and international standards." The Company performs its full Boston season at the historic, 2,500-seat Citizens Opera House and tours nationally and internationally under Mikko Nissinen's directorship.

kNoname Artist is a Berlin-founded, now New York City-based company created in 2015 by Roderick George. kNoname Artist is a collective that strives to use art as a form of protest and healing to find agency. The company invests in reflecting the times, both past and current events, and using the culture of origins as a vessel for creative expression. The mission of this multidisciplinary company is to gift its spectators evocative stories told through raw, percussive, and fluid movement, interspersed with dialogue and humor. The iterative and evolving vision for the company melds dynamic movement, music, and scenic landscapes into experiential works exploring themes of queerness, Blackness, and human rights.

PROGRAM 3



ANNE PLAMONDON PRODUCTIONS is a contemporary dance company recognized worldwide for its deep commitment to creativity and innovation. Founded by renowned choreographer and dancer Anne Plamondon, the company aims to stimulate the avant-garde in dance through creation, research, and production of original works. The company is firmly convinced of the importance of education and artistic training. It is dedicated to the continuous development of teaching programs that nourish artistic practice and transmit its expertise. Concurrently, its commitment to education includes community outreach initiatives, aimed at making dance accessible to a diverse audience and encouraging the artistic development of individuals. Artistic collaboration is at the heart of the company's approach. It values partnerships with artists from diverse cultures, as well as institutions and organizations, both locally and globally, in order to create a dynamic network of exchange and sharing. The company's work has been presented and acclaimed internationally.

Herman Cornejo, born in Argentina, is one of today's most celebrated ballet dancers. He began training at Teatro Colón's Arts Institute in Buenos Aires and won a full scholarship to the School of American Ballet at 14. At 16, he won the Gold Medal at the VIII International Moscow Competition, becoming the youngest dancer ever to do so. Joining American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Studio Company in 1998, he became a soloist in 2000 and Principal Dancer in 2003. Cornejo has received numerous accolades, including UNESCO's Messenger of Peace, The New York Times' 'Dancer of the Year', a 2013 Bessie Award, and the 2014 Benois de la Danse award. As a guest artist, he has performed with major international companies. He has created new pieces with renowned choreographers including Twyla Tharp, Justin Peck, Christopher Wheeldon, Wayne McGregor, and Alexei Ratmansky. In 2020, he began producing and choreographing his own projects, including *Anima Animal* and *The Apartment*. In 2024, Cornejo celebrates 25 years with ABT.

Skylar Brandt, born in Purchase, New York, began her training at age six at Scarsdale Ballet Studio and attended the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre (ABT) from 2005-2009. She won silver medals at the Youth America Grand Prix in 2004 and 2008. Brandt joined ABT II in 2009, became an Apprentice with ABT in 2010, joined the Corps de Ballet in 2011, was promoted to Soloist in 2015, and then Principal in 2020. Her leading roles with ABT include Odette/Odile, Giselle, Medora, Kitri, Gamzatti, Clara, and leading roles in *Theme and Variations, Apollo, The Sleeping Beauty*, and *In the Upper Room*. She has also performed *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, The Dying Swan, Spring Waters*, and excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet, Marguerite and Armand*, and *La Fille mal gardée*. Brandt received a Princess Grace Foundation-USA Dance Fellowship in 2013, a Special Jury Award on "Big Ballet" in 2018, and was named to the Forbes "30 Under 30" list in 2022.

M.A.D.D. Rhythms is a phenomenal tap dance collective whose "sole" purpose is to spread the Love and Joy of tap worldwide. What started as Bril Barrett & Martin Dumas III's formula for giving back, is now a full-fledged performing arts company, quickly gaining a reputation for representing the true essence of tap: rhythm! The company is composed of young, versatile tap dancers from all over Chicago. Their ages range from 18 to 47, and their backgrounds are equally diverse. The one thing they all have in common is a love for "the dance".

PROGRAM 4

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) enriches the human experience by teaching, creating, and performing outstanding dance. Founded in 1939 by Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally, the RWB holds the distinction of being the longest continuously operating ballet company in North America. The RWB received its 'Royal' designation from Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, the first Royal Charter granted during her reign. Led by Artistic Director André Lewis, C.M., O.M., M.S.M, versatility, technical excellence, and storytelling have become the trademarks of the RWB that have garnered universal acclaim. The RWB's



superlative standards keep the Company in demand across North America and beyond. The RWB is also home to a School, consisting of the Professional Division, our internationally renowned dance education and training centre for aspiring dancers and teachers, and the Recreational Division, one of Winnipeg's largest dance schools for all ages, levels, and interests.

Contemporary dance company **A.I.M by Kyle Abraham** (A.I.M), provides multifaceted performances, educational programming, and community-based workshops across the globe. Led by acclaimed Choreographer and Artistic Director Kyle Abraham's innovative vision, the work is galvanized by Black culture and history and features the rich tapestry of Black and Queer stories, and is grounded in a conglomeration of unique perspectives. Since A.I.M's founding in 2006, Abraham has created more than 30 original works for and with the company. To expand its repertoire and offer a breadth of dance work to audiences, A.I.M commissions new works and performs existing works by outside choreographers. Kyle Abraham's unique vision and illumination of poignant and relevant issues set him apart from his generation of choreographers as a leading creative force in dance. A.I.M extends this vision and amplifies surrounding artistic voices to share movement and community-based work with audiences around the world.

Resulting from the Aterballetto company, founded in 1977, Centro Coreografico Nazionale/Aterballeto (CCN/Aterballetto) is the first and only National Choreographic Centre in Italy. CCN/Aterballetto contracts sixteen dancers for full seasons, who principally work on new productions by internationally recognized choreographers (Johan Inger, Angelin Preljocaj, Marcos Morau, Philippe Kratz, Francesca Lattuada, Iratxe Ansa and Igor Bacovich, Eyal Dadon, Diego Tortelli) and the reprisal of a select repertoire of signature works (Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, William Forsythe, Hofesh Shechter, Crystal Pite). CCN/Aterballetto is also dedicated to innovative and wide-reaching artistic development. By promoting dance culture, CCN/Aterballetto stimulates connections between the artform and other areas of contemporary society, seeing dance as an opportunity for personal and social growth and offering unique experiences to the audience. Its focus is trained on the plurality of styles, always striving to be cosmopolitan, curious, and dynamic. Its productions are much sought-after among the most important theatres and festivals around the world.

PROGRAM 5

The past decades have seen **Dutch National Ballet** evolve into a leading ballet company that ranks among the top 10 most prestigious ballet companies in the world. The company is led by Ted Brandsen as its artistic director and has a rich and varied repertoire that includes full-length classical ballets, as well as contemporary pieces by leading choreographers such as Hans van Manen, David Dawson, and William Forsythe. Hans van Manen (the Netherlands, 1932) is internationally recognized as one of the grand masters of contemporary ballet. Including his works for television, he has created more than 150 ballets, which all bear his distinct signature. Clarity in structure, refined simplicity and an aversion to decorative frills form the key elements in his extremely musical ballets, which always concern human relationships, without becoming anecdotal. Van Manen has first held the post of resident choreographer with Dutch National Ballet from 1973-1987, and then again since 2005.

Sara Mearns (*Dancer*) is from Columbia, SC, and has been a principal dancer at New York City Ballet since 2008. She has originated roles in works by Justin Peck, Kyle Abraham, Alexei Ratmansky, Pam Tanowitz, Bobbi Jene Smith, Christopher Wheeldon, Guillaume Côté and Beth Gill, among others. Guest performer: Paul Taylor Dance Company, The Cunningham Centennial Celebration, Jodi Melnick Dance, Bill T. Jones/Lee Ming Wei and Wang Ramirez, as well as *Dances of Isadora Duncan* at Lincoln Center. At NYCC, she starred in Matthew Bourne's *The Red Shoes, I Married An Angel* (Encores!) and *Twyla Now*, as well as



multiple Fall for Dance Festivals. Mearns performed *A Piece of Work,* a full evening of five world premieres at The Joyce Theater (2022), was awarded a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer (2018), the *Dance Magazine* Award (2019) and an honorary doctorate from University of South Carolina (2019).

Formed in 1992 by renowned jugglers Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala, **Gandini Juggling** leads contemporary circus, revolutionizing 21st-century juggling. They create diverse works, from visual art experiments to family entertainment and humorous acts. Liberation hails them as the "Kings of Juggling" with "marvels of originality," and The Guardian praises their "artful, art" juggling. Gandini Juggling has performed over 6,000 shows in 50 countries, captivating audiences globally with their theatrical juggling. They collaborate with various artists, including ballet choreographers, computer programmers, costume designers, and composers. They have also worked with symphonic orchestras, integrating juggling with classical music. Their latest project, LIFE, is in partnership with the Merce Cunningham Trust and features collaborations with Jennifer Goggans and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw.

PRESS CONTACT:

Sara García, Communications Manager SGarcia@NYCityCenter.org 212.763.1288

Joe Guttridge, Communications & Editorial Director JGuttridge@NYCityCenter.org 212.763.1279

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