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BalletMet Columbus and Columbus Jazz Orchestra Swing with *Jazz Moves Take 2*

Bebop and blue notes meet bold ballet

COLUMBUS, OH— BalletMet Columbus and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, directed by **Byron Stripling**, reunite in *Jazz Moves Take 2*, February 5-14 at the Capitol Theatre, 77 South High Street. Audiences will dig this collection of cool jazz, an electrifying fusion of dance and music from two extraordinary Columbus arts organizations. Winner of a Greater Columbus Arts Council Artistic Excellence Award, the inaugural *Jazz Moves* (2006) was praised by audiences and called “groundbreaking” by *The Columbus Dispatch*, “a brilliant match that adds depth to the artistry of both groups.”

The innovative *Jazz Moves Take 2* features several familiar works and three highly anticipated world premieres, including a piece by renowned choreographer **Maurice Hines**, recently named Artistic Director of Columbus’ restored Lincoln Theatre, set to the tunes of Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Recognizable works include Randy Duncan’s rousing *Testify*, dubbed a “mini-masterpiece” by *The Columbus Dispatch*. Additionally, the CJO will take the spotlight in a stand-alone performance led by the incomparable Mr. Stripling.

“*Jazz Moves Take 2* offers audiences an exceptional opportunity to experience two outstanding local arts institutions,” said Gerard Charles, BalletMet Artistic Director. “It’s a thrill to watch these talented artists share the stage celebrating the great American art form of jazz.”

In addition to outstanding performances from BalletMet and CJO, audiences can participate in engaging extra events including discussions with artists and ballroom dance lessons at select performances at the theatre.

Trumpet virtuoso **BYRON STRIPLING** has been Artistic Director of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra since 2002. Mr. Stripling has become a favorite throughout the country, soloing with the Boston Pops, Cincinnati Pops, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Utah Symphony, and The American Jazz Philharmonic. He has also been a featured soloist at the Hollywood Bowl and performs at jazz festivals throughout the world. An accomplished actor and singer, Mr. Stripling was chosen to star in the lead role of the Broadway bound musical, *Satchmo*.

—More—

Many will remember Mr. Stripling's featured cameo performance in the television movie *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, and his acclaimed performance in the 42nd Street production of *From Second Avenue to Broadway*. He earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra, under the direction of Thad Jones and Frank Foster. He has also played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Lionel Hampton, Clark Terry, Louis Bellson, and Buck Clayton in addition to The Lincoln Center Classical Jazz Orchestra, The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, and The GRP All Star Big Band. Mr. Stripling was educated at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan.

MAURICE HINES, recently named Artistic Director of Columbus' Lincoln Theatre, commenced his career at the age of five, studying tap at the Henry LeTang Dance Studio in New York City. Maurice and his brother Gregory soon appeared on Broadway and toured as the opening act for such headliners as Gypsy Rose Lee. After performances in the national touring company of *Guys and Dolls* and on Broadway in *Eubie!*, Mr. Hines co-starred in *Bring Back Birdie* with Chita Rivera and Donald O'Connor and starred in *Sophisticated Ladies*. Mr. Hines made his screen debut in *The Cotton Club*. As the film hit theaters, so did Ballet Tap USA, a company created by Mr. Hines and Mercedes Ellington. Mr. Hines conceived, directed and choreographed the musical *Uptown...It's Hot!* and joined the cast when the show moved to Broadway, receiving a Tony Award nomination as Best Actor in a Musical. He co-directed and choreographed the national tour of *Satchmo*, and directed, choreographed and starred in the national tour of *Harlem Suite*. He became the first African-American director for Radio City Music Hall when he directed *The Radio City Spectacular*.

Chicago native **RON DE JESÚS** was in the original cast of the Twyla Tharp/Billy Joel musical *Movin' Out*, alternatively dancing the leading role of Tony. Mr. De Jesús has created works for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Sacramento Ballet and more. His awards include the Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Male Dancer, the New York Musical Theater Festival Award for Excellence for Best Choreography, the Melinda Atwood/Jerry Mitchell DanceBreak Choreographic Competition and the National Choreographers Initiative. He is a Ballet Master for Twyla Tharp Productions, setting Ms. Tharp's works on companies around the world. This year, he premiered his own company, Ron De Jesús Dance.

Three-time recipient of Chicago's prestigious Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Choreographer of the Year, **RANDY DUNCAN** has also received the Artistic Achievement Award from the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters and the Black Theatre Alliance Award for Best Choreography. Combining elements of ballet, jazz, African and modern dance, he has created many works for BalletMet Columbus as well as the Joffrey Ballet, River North Chicago Dance Company and more. His musical theatre credits include *Street Dreams*, *West Side Story* and *Guys and Dolls*. His work for Apple Tree Theatre earned him a Joseph Jefferson Award nomination and the Gay Chicago Magazine After Dark Award for Choreography. Mr. Duncan's first major film, *Save the Last Dance*, earned him a nomination for the American Choreography Award for dance on film. He is the Chair of Dance at the Chicago Academy of the Arts High School.

STELLA HIATT KANE has been a member of the Otterbein faculty since 1989 and Coordinator of Dance since 1996, a member of the BalletMet Academy faculty, and was the founding Artistic Director of BalletMet's JazzMet. Ms. Kane has been a member of the national companies of *Sugar* and Bob Fosses' *Dancin'* and a member of the national and international companies of The American Dance Machine. She has made television appearances in productions such as PBS' *Dance In America* and *The Ann Reinking Special* with Ann Reinking, Chita Rivera and Ben Vereen. Ms. Kane has given master classes at The Ohio State University, New York University and has been a teacher in residence at England's Northern Ballet Theatre.

HARRISON MCELLOWNEY'S works for BalletMet include *Group Therapy Part Deux*, *Call It Off*, *Group Therapy* and *Dance Sport*. His contributions to BalletMet's *Jazz Moves* thrilled audiences. McEldowney has created works for other companies including Hubbard Street and Louisville Ballet, presented large-scale productions at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics Closing Ceremonies and Carnegie Hall's Celebration of *125 Years of Musical Theatre*, and contributed to the Sam Mendes film *Road to Perdition* and CBS's *Early Edition*. He is the Creative Director for Concentrix Corp, where he creates and directs shows for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

Texas-born **MARGO SAPPINGTON** joined the Joffrey Ballet in 1965, at the invitation of Robert Joffrey. Ms. Sappington danced on Broadway in Bob Fosse's *Sweet Charity*, and assisted and appeared in the award-winning Broadway musical, *Promises, Promises*. Her works have been danced by such companies as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Joffrey Ballet, the Houston Ballet, the Milwaukee Ballet and the Pennsylvania Ballet. Ms. Sappington has also choreographed Broadway musicals including *Doonesbury*, and revivals of *Where's Charley?* and *Pal Joey*. Ms. Sappington's choreography has been praised for its individuality, energy, and theatricality. She was given the Best Choreographer Award at the Youth America Grand Prix.

EXTRAS

Post-Performance Talk Feb. 5 and Feb. 11

Meet CJO Artistic Director Byron Stripling, Bobby Floyd (piano), Jim Masters (trombone) and BalletMet's Artistic Director Gerard Charles following the performance as they discuss this unique collaboration.

Romance Package Jan. 5-16 (winner will be notified Jan. 17)

Visit balletmet.org for a chance to win a Romance Package that includes \$150 in Cameron Mitchell gift certificates, a dozen roses, tickets to the performance and a special gift set from Victoria's Secret.

Ballroom Demonstration Feb. 14, 7:30pm

Take a mini Ballroom Class with BalletMet Academy instructors Darielle Eberhard and Brad Ostroff 30 minutes prior to the performance.

Jazz Moves Take 2 for Dinner Feb. 13, 6-7:30pm, Capital Club, Huntington Center

Enjoy a romantic dinner with your loved one or come with a small group of your friends. This elegant and delectable dinner will be one to remember. RSVP: Barbara Markus, 614.586.8671. Cost: \$105 (dinner and performance ticket) or \$60 (dinner only).

SHOWTIMES AND TICKETS

The *Jazz Moves Take 2* performance schedule is as follows:

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Feb. 5, 8pm	Feb. 6, 8pm	Feb. 7, 8pm	Feb. 8, 2pm* & 8pm
Feb. 11, 8pm	Feb. 12, 8pm	Feb. 13, 8pm	Feb. 14, 2 & 8pm	

*Audio description available. Reservations required: 614.229.4848.

Tickets are \$28-\$45 through BalletMet.org, JazzArtsGroup.org, the Jazz Arts Group box office (614.294.5200x3) and Ticketmaster (800.982.2787, ticketmaster.com). BalletMet Member-Subscribers and MetPass members may contact the BalletMet Box Office (614.229.4848) for tickets. BeBop Balcony tickets available for high school students or younger for \$5 at the theater beginning two hours prior to showtime. College students with ID can purchase \$10 Student Rush tickets at the theater beginning two hours prior to showtime. Students age 13 to 18 can purchase \$5 High Five vouchers at any Kroger Ticketmaster location. Group discounts are available through BalletMet (614.229.4848)

SPONSOR SUPPORT

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BalletMet Columbus receives support for its annual performance season from The Columbus Foundation, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM, NBC 4, Time Warner Cable and Pepsi. Season partner is The Ohio State University Sports Medicine Center.

The Jazz Arts Group and Columbus Jazz Orchestra receive support for the performance season from The Columbus Foundation, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Ohio Arts Council, Time Warner Cable, Classical 89.7 WOSU-FM, The Columbus Dispatch and WBNS 10TV.

BALLETMET COLUMBUS

BalletMet Columbus, renowned for its versatility and innovative repertory, ranks among the nation's 15 largest dance companies, and its Dance Academy ranks among the five largest professional dance-training centers. Since its inception in 1978, BalletMet has added 143 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 118 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 30,000 people annually, as well as a scholarship program that provides tuition for youth based on financial need or talent.

JAZZ ARTS GROUP/COLUMBUS JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO), the flagship ensemble of the Jazz Arts Group (JAG), has thrilled central Ohio jazz and American music lovers for more than 35 years. Since 1973, JAG has created performance opportunities for jazz musicians in big band settings. The CJO is one of the world's finest jazz orchestras and a model for success, presenting big band jazz and talented guest artists in concerts to thousands each year. The CJO performs its annual Great American Songbook and Swingin' At The Southern concert series at the Southern Theatre in downtown Columbus. The Jazz Arts Group advances the art and celebrates the history of jazz through performance and education.

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