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BalletMet Company Returns with a Trio of New Dancers

BalletMet welcomes new dancers and its 30th anniversary season

COLUMBUS, OH—BalletMet Columbus welcomes its third decade of artistic excellence with three new Company dancers. The dancers join the Company's 25 returning dancers for the 36-week 2007-2008 season.

Upon their return to the studios July 23, the Company dancers will embark on *30x30*, an ambitious event in which 30 choreographers will create 30 new works in one week. The company will also begin work on two free outdoor performances: *Music in the Air's Rhythm on the River*, 8pm Aug. 31 at the Riverfront Amphitheater, and the Heinz Poll Summer Dance Festival, 8:45pm Aug. 17 and 18 in Akron.

Artistic Director Gerard Charles looks forward to an exciting 30th anniversary season with a talented troupe of dancers. "The Company dancers are one of the most essential elements in BalletMet's long tradition of artistic excellence," Charles said. "We welcome our new and returning dancers for what promises to be an extraordinary season."

NEW DANCERS

DAVID TAI KIM was born in Seoul, South Korea, and raised in Southern California where he discovered dance while attending Long Beach City College. He went on to the University of California Irvine where he pursued a degree in Psychology and Social Behavior. Mr. Kim continued his dance training with the Southern California Dance Academy, the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Boston Ballet. He has danced professionally with companies including the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Metropolitan Opera and Ballet West.

JAIME KOTRBA, a Michigan native, studied at the Interlochen Arts Academy. After graduation she moved to New York to study with Dance Theatre of Harlem and joined the Dancing Through Barriers Ensemble. She later joined the Dance Theatre of Harlem company and toured nationally and internationally dancing works by George Balanchine, John Taras, and Geoffrey Holder among others. She has also worked with Collage Dance Collective and Viewpointe Dance.

JAMES PIERCE, III, received his BFA from Fordham University/the Ailey School where he was the recipient of the Jerome Robbins Scholarship and graduated with honors. He performed works by artists including Ronald K. Brown, Merce Cunningham and William Forsythe. Mr. Pierce has danced with companies including Ailey II and Ballet Hispanico. He danced in the Santa Fe Opera's *Madame Mao* and *La Belle Helene* and appeared in the film *The Music of Regret*. He taught in the International de Danza in Barcelona and at the Ailey School.

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dare to be moved.

Joining the BalletMet Company as trainees are Samantha Finley, Emily Kerr, Samantha Lewis and Leah Martin. Another trainee will be selected from the BalletMet Dance Academy's Intensive Program this summer. The BalletMet trainee program is a yearlong engagement that prepares young dancers for a professional dance career.

RETURNING DANCERS

Rounding out the company are:

Adrienne Benz	Adam Hundt	Emily Ramirez
Christian Broomhall	Bryan Jenkins	Jackson Sarver
Jessica Brown	Annie Mallonee	Dmitri Suslov
Olivia Clark	Christine Mangia	David Tlaiye
Jamie Dee	Bethany Manley	Carrie West
Ellie Escosa	Morgan McEwen	Jeff Wolfe
Lynorris Evans	Emma Misner	Hitomi Yamada
Justin Gibbs	Jimmy Orrante	
Emily Gotschall	Amanda Philips-Bosshart	

BalletMet's 2007-2008 season opens with *30x30*, August 6 – 26 in the BalletMet Performance Space. *30x30* is presented in association with the Wexner Center for the Arts and supported in part by the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

With an annual budget of \$5 million, BalletMet Columbus 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 102 company premieres to its repertoire and produced 79 world premieres. It has also developed DanceReach, a series of educational and outreach programs that serve 40,000 people annually, as well as a Community Outreach Scholarship program that provides full tuition for talented minority and underserved youth.

For more information, call 614.229.4860 or visit www.balletmet.org.

Photos available by request through Jennifer at contact information above.

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