

FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE RICHARD BRADSHAW AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



TD READY
COMMITMENT

DANCE SERIES

January 18, 2024, 12 p.m.

THE GREAT DREAM

Angela Blumberg Dance

Taylor Collis, dancer
Andrew McCormack, dancer
Leyla Cory-Kristal, dancer
Christian Lavigne, dancer
Meghan McMartin, dancer
Eilish Shin-Culhane, dancer

Angela Blumberg, choreographer

THE PROGRAM

What if life is but a dream? Would we be amazed at own existence? Would we discover there is no master narrative, no single version of ourselves, but many? Would we be the dreamers and the nightmares? These questions are the foundation of *The Great Dream*.

To capture these questions, choreographer Angela Blumberg adopted the structure of a triptych. In painting, triptychs refer to works that consist in three adjoining panels. Although each panel is a complete, structural unit on its own, together they tell a story.

Using this treatment in *The Great Dream* allows her to consider the question 'What if life is but a dream?' in three different parts:

Part 1 - *Energy and Love* / Music by Luc Ferrari
Part 2 - *Eternity* / Music by Hans Zimmer
Part 3 - *Dreams* / Original music by Domenic Clark

Photography, video, and audio recording are strictly prohibited during the performance.
You are welcome to take photos before and after the performance and are encourage to share with us on:



@CanadianOpera

#FreeConcertSeries

Programming is subject to change. For complete up-to-date listings, and to sign up for email updates, visit coc.ca/FreeConcerts.

COMING UP NEXT AT THE FREE CONCERT SERIES

Thu. Mar. 21, 2024 | 12-1 p.m.

VOCAL SERIES

An Afternoon at the Italian Opera

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio

Artists of the COC Ensemble Studio explore opera classics, including works by Verdi, Puccini, and Donizetti, while touching on other composers who left their mark on the Italian opera canon.

Fri. Mar. 22, 2024 | 12-1 p.m.

VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL SERIES

Butterfly Transformation

Veronica Johnny, voice and hand drum

Butterfly Transformation with Cree/Dene artist Veronica Johnny is an interactive performance infusing Indigenous hand drumming and rock songs by Veronica's band, The Johnnys. The focus will include the Butterfly Teaching of Cree Elder Joanne Dallaire, and transmutation from a Two-Spirit perspective. A Q&A will follow the presentation.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Thu. Apr. 11, 2024 | 12-1 p.m.

DANCE SERIES

Highlights from Anne of Green Gables – The Ballet®

Ballet Jörgen

Bengt Jörgen, C.M., Artistic Director

Canada's preeminent touring ballet company, Ballet Jörgen, travels coast to coast each season performing a vibrant repertoire of full-length ballets and shorter contemporary works. In this program, the company will present highlights from its newest full-length ballet, *Anne of Green Gables – The Ballet®* along with other popular company works. *Anne* will transport audiences to early 20th-century Atlantic Canada to follow the adventures of Anne Shirley, an orphan girl sent to live on a farm in the fictional town of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island. Based on the beloved Canadian novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* is a playful, colourful, and evocative production that will delight audiences of all ages.

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Youell Domenico

Youell Domenico (Domenic Clark) is a composer and producer of avant-garde theatrical dance productions, frequently combining virtuosic performers and improvisers with haunting/evocative multichannel electronics. Her formal education includes composition degrees both from the University of Toronto and the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague. Her work has been featured in International Festivals such as Fringe Festival in Toronto, Spring Festival in The Hague, and presented concert spaces such as the Korzo Theatre, Randolph Theatre, Trinity St. Paul's Centre, Music

Gallery, Array Space, and Theatre Het Spui. Her artistic interests explore the boundaries of human perception through counterpoint and the creation of formal structures through juxtaposition and contrast.



Leyla Cory-Kristal

12-year-old Leyla Cory-Kristal has been passionately studying dance at the National Ballet School of Canada for seven years. With a strong foundation in classical ballet, jazz, and modern dance, she is now set to showcase her skills in a modern dance performance alongside her contemporary teacher, choreographer and artistic director Angela Blumberg.

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Taylor Collis

Taylor Collis (she/her) is a freelance dancer/choreographer and a graduate from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) where she received her BFA degree with distinction in Performance Dance in 2022. Some of Collis' performance experience includes, *A Frame Through Bodies Move*, choreographed by Angela Blumberg and "Mother" in *Come on, Dreamer* directed by Brooke Gilmour (2022); "The Line" (DACO 2022, Open Space and Hamilton Fringe Festival 2023) choreographed by Rumi Jeraj, *Whole New World* directed by Tyler Hutchings, *Fever After Dark*, and *Unite Dance Showcase* (2023). Collis has featured her own choreographer in *Fever After Dark: Summer Madness*, *X* and *Decade*. Collis' creative practice has inspired work on film such as *Baby Steps* (2023), *Hatch* (2021), *The Mirror* (2021), and *Metanoia* (2020). Collis considers herself fortunate to pursue what she is most passionate about and looks forward to furthering her career as a performer and collaborator while continuing to develop her voice as a choreographer and educator.



Christian Lavigne

Christian Lavigne (he/they/il) is a genderqueer Franco-Ontarian dance artist based in Tkaronto. He is a graduate of the Performance Dance program at Toronto Metropolitan University. Lavigne has performed the repertoire of Peggy Baker, Alejandro Cerrudo, Anne Plamondon, and Merce Cunningham. He has worked on both stage and film productions with Pro Arte Danza, Zata Omm, Echo Chamber, and Dusk Dances. More recently, Lavigne toured western Canada and Mexico with Echo Chamber, and toured to Italy to perform a work by Maxine Heppner. Last year, they performed *Experiences of a Moment* by Rumi Jeraj at Night/Shift presented by FFDN and Citadel; played the Chef in a sold-out run of *Dinner is Served*, directed by Kristen Carcone and TOES for Dance; and had the world premiere of *Night Shadows*, the new work of Robert Glumbek and Roberto Campanella. Lavigne is very excited and grateful to be a part of a creation by Angela Blumberg for their first time!

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Andrew McCormack

Andrew McCormack (he/him) began his training at the Sean Boutilier Academy of Dance in Toronto. After graduating from Toronto Metropolitan University's (formerly Ryerson University) Performance Dance program (2011- 2015), he has gone on to work with many Canadian choreographers including Laurence Lemieux, James Kudelka, Angela Blumberg, William Yong, Roberto Campanella, Robert Glumbek, Valerie Calam, Marie Josee-Chartier, Apolonia Velasquez, Ofilio Portillo, and more. Apart from dance McCormack also works other aspects of theatre and concerts working as lighting designer, technician, operator and high rigger. Andrew McCormack is grateful to be able to work in as many aspects of live entertainment as possible and excited to be working with ProArte for the 2023 season.



Meghan McMartin

Meghan McMartin (she/her) is a freelance dancer and educator from Ottawa. Now based in Toronto, she received her BFA from Toronto Metropolitan University in Performance Dance with distinction in 2022. Since graduating, McMartin has performed in *Strange Flesh* by Angela Blumberg for Din of Shadows Company (2022), *JUXTAPOSE* by Christina Digiuseppe for the Toronto Fringe Festival (2023), *Colony Collapse* by Marisa Ricci (2022) and *a subject* by Alli Carry (2023) both for ABD's DaCo residency, and multiple performances of a Chinese traditional dance entitled *Peacock Lovers'* with Little Pear Dance Company (2023). Aside from stage works, McMartin has also performed in a music video for *Spiritbox* called "Ultraviolet" with choreography by Shawn Bracke. Additionally, McMartin teaches contemporary classes alongside Angela Blumberg at the National Ballet of Canada and is a stage manager for Little Pear Dance Company's full-length contemporary show *Spectrum of Connection*.

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Eilish 미정 Shin-Culhane

Eilish 미정 Shin-Culhane (she/they) is a Tkaronto-based queer half-Korean artist. She feels equal parts mover and maker—dancer and choreographer—and strives for continual challenge in both realms. Raised in Toronto, Eilish lived for four years in New York City where they completed their BFA in dance from Marymount Manhattan College. Since returning to Toronto in 2020, Eilish has furthered her artistic curiosities through various commissions, residencies, and performances. As a performer, Eilish has had the privilege to dance in works by Peter Chu, Bill T. Jones, Nicole von Arx, Esie Mensah, Nova Bhattacharya, Frog in Hand, Anton Lachky, and Adam Barruch. As a choreographer they have been commissioned by Peggy Baker Dance Projects, George Brown, TO Live's Discover Dance, TDT's Pilot Episodes Program, and the COC's Expanding the Canvas Program. Eilish continues to be inquisitive in both her mover and maker selves, valuing community, play, and curiosity.

Angela Blumberg Dance

Angela Blumberg is the founder and artistic director of Angela Blumberg Dance (ABD). After completing her MFA in choreography and dramaturgy at York University (2009-2011), Angela founded ABD and has since choreographed and produced over 20 works. Her choreographies have been presented by Fall for Dance North's International Presenters Program, Canada's National Arts Centre, The University of Toronto's Annual New Music Festival, The World Dance Alliance Americas, d:mic/fac's WYSIWYG, DanceWorks CoWorks, and Toronto Metropolitan University's Springworks.

In 2012, Blumberg began collaborating closely with Canadian composers. Highlights include Composing for Dance, an accredited course at the University of Toronto's Composition Department. The course brought together graduate composition students and professional choreographers to engage in collaborative practices. Numerous collaborations with some of Toronto's up and coming composers followed, including a close partnership with Domenic Clark.

Blumberg choreographs for the stage and the screen. Her films have been presented by Michigan's Screen Dance International Film Festival, Canadian Brass, Canada's National Arts Centre, and the New York City based chamber music ensemble Founders. In addition to her artistic work, Angela is passionate about education and teaches contemporary dance at the Young Dancers Program at Canada's National Ballet School. She is also the founder of DaCo: Dance Collaboration Lab, a program that foster choreographic practices in Toronto. www.angelablumbergdance.com

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