

Contemporary Dance Theater
1805 Larch Avenue, Cincinnati Ohio 45224
Presents The 2019 Area Choreographers Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

What: Contemporary Dance Theater's Area Choreographers Festival – 2019

When: June 7 + 8, 2019 – 8 PM

Where: Guest Artist Performances are held at the Jarson-Kaplan Theater at the Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Tickets: Cincinnati Arts Association Ticket Office at 650 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202; cincinnatiarts.org; or (513) 621-ARTS (2787)

Community Masterclass: Saturday, June 8, 10:30am-12:00pm, taught by ACF Choreographer/Performers Corrinne Bailey and Jon Lawson. Class held at Contemporary Dance Theater, 1805 Larch Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224. Register for the class on CDT's website, www.cdt-dance.org/masterclasses/. For more information, call (513) 591-1222.

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Contemporary Dance Theater, a nationally recognized presenter of contemporary dance, celebrates the end of its 46th season with an exciting array of contemporary dance artists from the Greater Cincinnati Area.

Area Choreographers Festival, on June 7 & 8, 2019, 8:00pm

Area Choreographers Festival is the only performance in the Guest Artist Series that is commissioned and produced by Contemporary Dance Theater. It is an important celebration of choreographers and dancers with ties to the Cincinnati region. A panel of their peers adjudicated these artists for 2019. This year's artists are Corrinne Bailey, David Choate, Kent de Spain, Diane Germaine, a collaboration between choreographers Renee McCafferty, Donna Grisez and writer/sociologist Joan Ferrante and the MCRC Project, and Jeanne Mam-Luft working with students of her Summer Intensive. The works these choreographers are presenting include a variety of subjects from individual identity, the nature of human relationships, historical lives influencing artists today, and connections and losses.

Corrinne Bailey, working with Jon Lawson, is creating a duet entitled "Label Me Not", seeking to escape or at least fight to be non-conformist in what we believe, by and how we live.

David Choate's work "Human Condition" asks us to recognize ourselves in both the best and worst of humanity. Who is good or bad, right or wrong? Is there a them and us, or can we work and live together as humans?

Kent de Spain working with his wife Leslie Dworkin in "Elegy", shows us how a relationship develops over time and in its own time.

Diane Germaine has created “The Journey”, a new work honoring the Pulitzer Prize winning American poet Mary Oliver who died in January of this year. A number of Mary Oliver’s poems will be read during this dance work, which is primarily danced as a series of solos and a duet. The ending line of Mary Oliver’s “Prayer” is “still ready, beyond all else, to dance for the world.

Joan Ferrante and choreographers Renee McCafferty and Donna Grisez in “Let Our Loss Be Heard” remind us of the tragic story of the Garner family, runaway slaves who made it across the frozen Ohio River, only to be caught in Cincinnati. Ms. Ferrante is the founder of the Mourning the Creation of Racial Categories Project, which looks at race as a social construct. The children in the Garner family were fathered by different men, husband and slave owner and some were of mixed race, but all were considered Black and slaves. The aim of the MCRC Project is to continue and enrich the conversation around race.

Jeanne Mam-Luft has taken a very different route to creating a work for this concert. Usually choreographers prepare for quite a while allowing ideas and phrases to develop organically over time. Jeanne, always an energetic worker, has given herself a week to create a work with the 18 trained students in her Summer Intensive. We will see it at its freshest and enjoy the accomplishment.

The *Area Choreographers Festival* supports local artists and provides audiences a diverse variety of incredible dance, all of it new to Cincinnati!