

2020 SEASON

SANTA BARBARA DANCE THEATER



Photo: Phil Channing



January 16 - 19, 2020 Hatlen Theater, UCSB

SANTA BARBARA DANCE THEATER

Christopher Pilafian, *Artistic Director*

The 2020 Santa Barbara Dance Theater Season is made possible by generous support from the

John and Jody Arnhold Production and Guest Artist Fund

Company Members

Paige Amicon, Nicole Powell, Sidney Scully,
Lauren Serrano, Robin Wilson

Apprentices

Morgan Allen, Guillermo Castro, Luis Cardenas, Lena Chien, Hannah Ezell,
Ana Glass, Luis Gomez, Elijah Hahn-Smith, Isabel Meena,
Gabrielle Penner, Andrew To, Britney Walton

Program

1221 Primrose Ln.

(Premiere)

Choreography: Stephanie Miracle

Music: Omar Zubair (original score)

Performed by: Nicole Powell, Lauren Serrano, Robin Wilson,
with Guillermo Castro, Luis Gomez

A Trio of Glass Etudes

(Premiere)

Choreography: Nancy Colahan

Music: Philip Glass, *Piano Etudes #2, 18 and 9*, Maki Namekawa, piano

Lighting Design: Michael Klaers

Costume Design and Construction: Taylor Ostronic

Performed by: The UCSB Dance Company, directed by Delila Moseley

Dancers: Chandler Basconcillo, Guillermo Castro,

Lihong Chan, Joyceline Fekete, Colson Lynn,

Whitney Ross, Gina Schemenauer, Mason Teichert

Understudies: Zane Atkinson, Sergio Barrientos,

Wes Dameron, Rebecca Oczkus

Intermission 15 minutes

Miserere Nobis

(2015)

Miserere Nobis is an entreaty for mercy and grace. In an age of unspeakable conflict and cruelty, loss and grief, each of us asks forgiveness for all of us.

Choreography: Jennifer Muller

Music: Samuel Barber: *Agnus Dei*, Opus 11

Performed by: Richard Marlow & the Choir of Trinity College

Costume Design: Sachi Masuda and Stageworks

Costume Reconstruction: Denise Umland and Lilian Hannahs

Original Lighting Design: Jeff Croiter Lighting

Design Reconstruction: Michael Klaers

Performed by: Nicole Powell, Sidney Scully, Lauren Serrano, Robin Wilson, and guest artist Michelle Lynch, with Lena Chien, Hannah Ezell, Ana Glass, Isabel Meena, and alternates Gabrielle Penner and Britney Walton

Chrometrics

(Premiere)

Choreography: Christopher Pilafian

Music: Original score by Ryan Beveridge

Costumes: Wallford Sykes

Performed by: Paige Amicon, Nicole Powell, Sidney Scully,

Lauren Serrano, Robin Wilson,

with Lena Chien, Ana Glass, Elijah Hahn-Smith, Isabel Meena, Gabrielle Penner

The Company

Paige Amicon is a dance artist and teacher originally from Glenmoore, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under Susan Jaffe with a BFA in Contemporary Dance. She also holds a high school degree from UNCSCA with a concentration in ballet. At UNCSCA she performed works by Twyla Tharp, José Limón, Trisha Brown, Lucinda Childs, Merce Cunningham, and Helen Simoneau. Since moving to Los Angeles, she has had a wonderfully adventurous freelance career. Performance experience includes work by Danielle Agami, Mallory Fabian, Stephanie Zalatel, Merce Cunningham, Sophia Stoller, and opera work by Yuval Sharon. This is Paige's first season with SBDT.

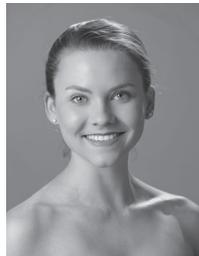


Nicole Powell began her dance training in Carpinteria, CA and received further training from Idyllwild Arts Academy and San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. In 2013, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Southern Methodist University with a BFA in Dance and a BA in Philosophy. There she performed in works by numerous choreographers including Martha Graham, Shen Wei, and Danny Buraczeski. After graduation, she relocated to Melbourne, Australia where she danced in the company Ausdance Victoria and taught outreach workshops for Scotland-based Curious Seed Dance Company. In 2015, Nicole returned to California where she danced with LA-based Donna Sternberg and Dancers,



Weslie Ching Dance and many other freelance projects. Nicole has choreographed and performed solo work for Doni Silver Simons Performance Art and she has taught extensively in the US and abroad. This is Nicole's fourth season with SBDT.

Sidney Scully is a native of Pasadena, California and a graduate of the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles. She was a trainee with The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago before joining De Dutch Don't Dance Division in The Hague, Netherlands from 2013-2016. There she performed and toured under the direction of Rinus Sprong and Thom Stuart. In 2016, Sidney performed in Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. In 2017, she joined the Grand Rapids Ballet, and performed with the company for two seasons. Sidney has attended summer courses at Joffrey Ballet, De Dutch Summer Dance, La Campanyia in Barcelona, Spain, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and Northwest Dance Project. This is Sidney's first season with SBDT.



Lauren Serrano, originally from Orange County, trained at local studios, including Jimmy Defores, and Edge Performing Arts Studio in Los Angeles. She attended Orange County High School for the Performing Arts for classical and commercial dance. Lauren graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a BFA in dance and in 2015 received a Masters in Dance Education from the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program at Hunter College. In New York City, Lauren worked with choreographers Jennifer Muller, Young Soon Kim, Toni Renee Johnson, Pedro Ruiz, and Mike Esperanza. She returned to Santa Barbara to teach and direct the youth competitive teams at Santa Barbara Dance Arts. While pursuing her passion in dance education, she has been fortunate to perform in the works of Edgar Zendejas, Weslie Ching and Nebula Dance Lab (Alice in *Through the Looking Glass*). This is Lauren's third season with SBDT.



Robin Wilson was born in Santa Barbara, CA. She began her formal training with Diane Knowles Academy of Dance and was a performing member of Regional Dance America. Further training included Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Bates Dance Festival, Forsythe improvisation workshop with Amy Seiwert, The Ailey School, Summer-Dance Santa Barbara, and a BFA in Dance from CAL ARTS. In New York City, she joined the José Limón Dance Company and performed works by Jonathan Fredrickson. In Los Angeles, she worked with BODYTRAFFIC, Helios Dance Theater, Colin Connor, and Los Angeles Movement Arts among others; and in Santa Barbara with Opera Santa Barbara and Weslie Ching Dance. This is Robin's fourth season with SBDT.



Michelle Tara Lynch hails from Los Alamos, New Mexico. She earned a BA in Environmental Science and a BFA in Dance from UCSB. Michelle then moved to New York City, where she was a company member and instructor for Jennifer Muller/The Works for five seasons. While with JMTW, she had the privilege of touring throughout the United States, as well as internationally in China. She also completed training to teach Muller Polarity Technique. Michelle has assisted Ms. Muller in residencies at four universities— most recently in the re-staging of *Miserere Nobis* for UCSB. Residing in the Bay Area, she teaches at several studios, including ODC. She is also a guest artist with Azoth Dance Theater, in France.



Choreographers and Collaborators

Nancy Colahan (Choreographer, *A Trio of Glass Etudes*) grew up in the Bay Area, training with Dimitri and Francesca Romanoff. She danced professionally for 30+ years with Alvin Ailey Repertory Dance Company, the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, and American Repertory Dance Company. Nancy is honored to premiere *A Trio of Glass Etudes*, created for the UCSB Dance Company, as it celebrates its 10th year of International touring. It is also a honor for this new work to share the Hatlen stage with SBDT this winter season. A Senior Lecturer and choreographer in UC Santa Barbara's Department of Theater and Dance, she is enjoying her 22nd year as a teacher of modern dance technique and the occasional creation of new dances. Nancy is an accomplished sailor, competing in local races and regattas on Ferdinand.

Stephanie Miracle (Choreographer, 1221 *Primrose Ln.*) is an independent choreographer and teaching artist with one foot in Europe and the other in the USA. She holds an MFA from the University of Maryland and a BA in Dance from Belhaven University. She was a 2014/15 Fulbright Fellow researching the embodied practice of tanztheater in Germany. She became a certified teacher of Klein Technique™ in 2017 and has taught Klein Workshops™ in Germany, Turkey, Ireland, Russia, NYC, and Los Angeles. As a performer she has worked with Deborah Hay, Shannon Gillen, David Dorfman, Susan Marshall, PWDT, Rodolpho Leoni, and Henrietta Horn. Her recent choreographic projects have been presented in Italy, Russia; Mexico, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, Ireland, Portugal, New York City and Washington, D.C. She has been an artist in residence at Keshet Arts, Omi International, kunstOrt_eleven and Socrates Sculpture Park. Her dance films have been shown at Lincoln Center Dance for Camera, EnCore: Dance on Film, Reutlingen Museum, Iowa International Dance Festival, and RAD Dance Fest. She is the director of the live-cinema public performance experiment *Fakers Club* and was the guest choreographer for Folkwang Tanzstudio's 2018/19 season. Her full evening work *wilderness tender* was recently described as "sixty minutes of pure pleasure" (Ruhrzeitung 2019). She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa.

Jennifer Muller (Choreographer *Miserere Nobis*) An influence in the dance world for over 50 years, Jennifer Muller is known for her visionary approach and innovations in dance / theater, multi-disciplinary productions incorporating the spoken word, live and commissioned music, media, artist-inspired décor and unusual production elements. Muller has created a distinct signature style, educational approach and philosophy. She has created over 118 pieces including seven full-evening productions, working with artistic collaborators such as Yoko Ono, Keith Haring, Jeff Croiter, David van Tieghem, Gordon Withers and Keith Jarrett, to name a few. Recipient of honors, publications and awards, she has been invited to create and re-stage pieces for 26 international repertory companies in nine countries. Muller is currently re-staging her 2015 piece *Miserere Nobis* on both Introdans in The Netherlands and SBDT, both to be premiered in early 2020. Her most recent work, *The Theory of Color*, which premiered at New York Live Arts this past June, received overwhelming acclaim: "a dynamic, riveting work."

Christopher Pilafian (Artistic Director; Choreographer, *Chrometrics*) performed on stage, television and in film with choreographers Jennifer Muller, Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Charles Moulton, Louis Falco, Matthew Diamond and others. He was awarded the Doris Humphrey Scholarship and the Louis Horst Fellowship at The Juilliard School and, as founding member, principal dancer and Associate Artistic Director of Jennifer Muller/The Works, performed in 11 NYC seasons and 10 international tours of Europe, The Middle East, North, Central and South America from 1974 to

1989. He came to UC Santa Barbara in 1990 as a guest artist and served as Director of Dance and Vice Chair of Theater/Dance from 2011 to 2015. He has choreographed over 60 works for concert stage, film and theater and, as Artistic Director of SBDT, has produced eleven seasons from 2013 to 2020. Mr. Pilafian is also a visual artist.

Ryan Beveridge (Composer, *Chrometrics*) During his formative years Ryan Beveridge's love of music and storytelling was born in the orchestra pit of summer musical companies performing as a percussionist. He followed his passion and attended Northwestern University where he earned his music degrees in the disciplines of composition, orchestration and percussion. He has written material spanning multiple genres that include classical, pop, rock, hip-hop, as well as folk and funk music. Mr. Beveridge has been honored with fellowships from the Sundance Institute and BMI. His music compositions and arrangements have been heard at seven Sundance Film Festivals. In 2016, he composed the score for Christopher Pilafian's *Strange Attractor*, and provided the music concept for Pilafian's *Chanson* in 2019, premiered by SBDT.

Michael Klaers (Lighting Designer) This is Michael's eleventh season with SBDT as design collaborator. His regional theatre credits include Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts and Indiana Repertory Theatre.

Delila Moseley (Director, UCSB Dance Company) is a versatile choreographer, teacher, and director who works in a variety of styles, including ballet, jazz and modern dance. She holds a BA in Dance and a MA in Dramatic Art from UCSB where she is currently on the dance faculty in the Department of Theater and Dance. She has performed professionally in Los Angeles, New York, and throughout the United States with Donald McKayle's Inner City Repertory Dance Company, the American Heritage Dance Theatre, the Joyce Trisler Danscompany, and the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble. She performed for 10 years with Repertory-West Dance Company, traveling to Europe with the company three times. For 29 years she has directed the UCSB Dance Company. The company performs in the Santa Barbara community, on tour throughout California, and this spring celebrates its 10th anniversary European tour.

Omar Zubair (Composer, *1221 Primrose Ln.*)

After writing his first book, *Disorientation Therapy* in 2007, Omar Zubair found that the closer to the core of being he looked, the more blurry it became; so, he began to listen to it instead. And, ever since, listening has become his primary compositional technique whether creating a theatrical score for The Wooster Group or building a permanent sound installation for a national historic landmark, whether sound designing for a blind choreographer so that she can continually orient toward the audience or improvising with a dance class at Juilliard to coax authentic movement out of each student, whether making music to help people grieve at a funeral or celebrate at a wedding. He lets the ear hear twice before acting once.

Santa Barbara Dance Theater, founded in 1976, is the longest continuously running contemporary dance company in the South Coast region and the only resident professional company in the University of California system. SBDT has commissioned choreographic works by Joshua Beamish, Josh Manculich, David Maurice, Stephanie Miracle, Charles Moulton, Andrea Giselle Schermoly, Yusha-Marie Sorzano and others; re-staged works by established choreographers José Limón, Remy Charlip, Jane Dudley, Louis Falco, Lucas Hoving, Jennifer Muller and David Parsons; premiered works by UCSB faculty members and three successive artistic directors: Alice Condodina,

Jerry Pearson and Christopher Pilafian; and commissioned musical scores from composers Ryan Beveridge (*A Leap of Faith*, 2016) and Will Thomas (*Mystique*, 2017). Since Pilafian became director, SBDT has presented eleven seasons: at the Hatlen and Lobero Theatres as well as *Common Ground*, at the Granada with State Street Ballet and Eisenhower Dance Detroit (2015). In 2016, Mr. Pilafian established a mentorship program for undergraduates, which continues to grow. SBDT's directors and performers have received awards from the Santa Barbara Independent, the HH11 Apogee Awards and BAASH, for their outstanding work as artists. The company has performed in New York City and toured internationally to the Czech Republic, Ireland, China and South Korea, and regionally in San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles. SBDT presents an annual season at UCSB's Hatlen Theater and returns regularly to the Lobero Theatre in downtown Santa Barbara.

UCSB Dance Company 2020 is a 16 member student performance group directed by Delila Moseley. Now in its 30th year, the company offers graduating senior dance majors the opportunity to perform and travel as a pre-professional dance company. The company performs on campus, in downtown Santa Barbara, and regionally. This year the company celebrates its 10th anniversary tour to Europe, offering ten performances in six countries. The UCSB Dance Company presents lecture-demonstrations in elementary schools, high schools, and community colleges as well as repertory concerts in theatrical venues. Each year the company features works by guest choreographers and dance faculty, from reconstructions of classic works of modern dance to cutting edge contemporary choreography.

**We are deeply grateful to SBDT's donors,
especially those who have made multi-year pledges.**

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Santa Barbara Dance Theater

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Photo: Fritz Olenberger, *95 North*, Brandon Whited, choreographer