Le Casse-Noix Moderne
The Modern Nutcracker

A retrospective of modern music and dance with all of the magic and familiarity of the timeless holiday classic.

Thursday, December 29, 2011, 7:00 PM
The Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College

Etowah Youth Orchestras
Downtown Dance Conservatory
Michael R. Gagliardo, Conductor
Linze Rickles McRae, Choreographer
Thursday, December 29, 2011, 7:00 PM
The Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Presents

LE CASSE-NOIX MODERNE - THE MODERN NUTCRACKER

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ACT I

Overture
The Christmas Tree
Arrival of the Guests
March
Galop of the Guests
Arrival of Madame Drosselmeyer
Dances of the Dolls
Presenting of the Nutcracker
Goodnight to the Stahlbaums
Magic Spell
Battle Scene
Death of Evila Baba Yaga
Journey through the Pine Forest
Arrival of the Snow Queen
Waltz of the Snowflakes

INTERMISSION

Please make certain your cellular phone or other electronic devices are switched off.
Act II

Arrival into the Land of Sweets
Transformation of the Nutcracker Princess
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
Spanish Chocolate
Pulcinella & The Polichenilles
Arabian Coffee
Russian Trepak
Tarantella & Spiders
Marzipan
Chinese Tea
Waltz of the Flowers
Interlude
Coda
Final Waltz
Midnight Strikes

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Notes on the Program

In 2008, composer and arranger Mike Gagliardo and choreographer Linze Rickles McRae began talking about collaborating for a performance of "The Nutcracker" with their respective organizations, the Etowah Youth Orchras and the Downtown Dance Conservatory. Gagliardo and McRae agreed on one thing: this version of the famous holiday classic should be like no other.

At first the talk was of a "rock and roll Nutcracker," in the style of the music of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. However, the project soon morphed into something bigger -- a new take on the show that would encompass every form of popular music from the 1920s to the present time. Gagliardo and McRae selected a representative portion of the music from the original work, maintaining the integrity of the original show while creating a production that would be both audience- and performer-friendly.

From there, each selection became a different style. "Trepak" turned into a rocking tribute to The Beatles. "Sugar Plum Fairy" became a soulful ballad straight out of Memphis and Stax Records. The Walz of the Snowflakes became straight-ahead rock and roll. "Mirlitons" morphed into a minimalist music-box. And just like that, "Le Casse-noix Moderne" was born.

Meet the Artists

Etowah Youth Orchras

The Etowah Youth Orchras was founded in 1990 to provide the students of Northeast Alabama with major musical and educational experiences through training, development, and performance. The EYO has presented concerts throughout the United States and abroad, including Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln and Kennedy Centers for the Performing Arts, Manston and Stratford-Upon-Avon in England, and San Jose and San Ramon in Costa Rica.

The EYO has become nationally recognized for its performances of contemporary music and has been recognized with the receipt of eleven ASCAP Youth Orchestra Awards, and an additional ASCAP Award for American Programming on a Foreign Tour.

Michael R. Gagliardo

Michael R. Gagliardo was named Music Director and Conductor of the Etowah Youth Orchras in 1995. He has led the EYO to the receipt of twelve ASCAP Awards, and in performances in England, Costa Rica, Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln and Kennedy Centers for the Performing Arts. Gagliardo is a frequent guest conductor, with past appearances including All-State engagements in Alabama, Tennessee, and Colorado. He serves as a member of the Arts Education Council for Americans for the Arts and the National Advocacy Committee for ASTA, and has presented at conferences for ASTA, ASOL, AMEA, and AOA.
Downtown Dance Conservatory

The Conservatory operates under the auspices of the Hardin Center for Cultural Arts, planted in the heart of downtown Gadsden, Alabama. With an enrollment of more than 250 dedicated students training on a weekly basis, the Conservatory’s influence also spans throughout the surrounding community with programs such as Community Workshop Series, Downtown Dance Artists Ensemble, “Dancing with a Heart of Giving” annual charity effort, dance history projects, and other various outreach programs and performances. The Conservatory collaborates annually to create original productions with the Elowah Youth Orchestras. Along with its excellent foundations of training, students enrolled are exposed to a variety of techniques and an overall knowledge of dance history. Each year, the studio hosts local and international master teachers for workshops and supplemental classes. As a division of the Gadsden Community School for the Arts, the Conservatory is also able to provide more than $20,000 in need based scholarships to students and participates as a full member of the National Guild for Community Schools for the Arts.

Linze Rickles McRae

Linze Rickles McRae serves as the artistic director of the Downtown Dance Conservatory. Linze held short residencies in the Los Angeles and New York areas to further her skills and professional development while also training with Monica Barnett Smith, Julie Oliver, Kim Wolfe, and others. She became an apprentice for many years under Ms. Dee Dee Leda, former artistic director of the Fairfax County, Virginia Ballet and dancer with the Berlin State Opera of Germany. After working freelance for various organizations, she founded the Downtown Dance Conservatory in a small location located in the downtown Gadsden area. One year later, the Conservatory expanded and united with the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts to become the largest classical ballet focused studio in the area. McRae has been honored by the National Federation of Music in Dance, the Professional Dance Teachers Association, and has commissioned productions for numerous organizations and projects. Linze is a member of the Board of Directors for the Alabama Dance Council, the state’s organization for promoting dance of all forms. She was recently elected to the executive committee to serve as secretary for organization.

Linze holds the Royal Academy of Dance’s prestigious Certicate in Ballet Teaching Studies, graduating in London, England in the summer of 2010. As part of their worldwide teacher training program, the RAD is recognized for its consistent technique and syllabus work spanning from creative movement and primary levels to pre-professional and professional studies. The Royal Academy of Dance serves as the world’s largest teaching and training organization for dance education and research. She uses her ongoing research into the roots of traditional classical ballet, contemporary dance, and other genres to give students a more clear understanding of technique and freedom of movement.
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Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center

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James M. Meaders, Guest Conductor
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The Music of Karl Jenkins
Karl Jenkins, Composer/Conductor
Karl Jenkins: The Peacemakers (World Premiere)
Jonathan Griffith, DCINY Artistic Director and Principal Conductor
Jenkins: "Sarikiz," a violin concerto (Carnegie Hall Premiere)
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Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall

Reflections of Life
James Eakin: Flowers Over the Graves of War (World Premiere)
Timothy Seelig, Conductor Laureate
The Music of Greg Gilpin • Greg Gilpin, Composer/Conductor
With special guest Clay Aiken

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The Gerald W. Lynch Theater

Since opening its doors in 1988, the Gerald W. Lynch Theater has been an invaluable cultural resource for John Jay College and the larger New York City community. The Theater is dedicated to the creation and presentation of performing arts programming of all disciplines with a special focus on how the artistic imagination can shed light on the many perceptions of justice in our society. The Theater is also a member of CUNY Stages, a consortium of 16 performing arts center located on CUNY campuses across New York City.

The Theater has hosted events in the Lincoln Center Festival since its first season in 1996, as well as, New York City Opera, Great Performers at Lincoln Center, Gotham Chamber Opera, Metropolitan Opera Guild and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater/Ailey II. The Theater has also been the site of many television and film specials including A&E’s Live by Request, Comedy Central’s Premium Blend, Robert Klein in Concert and VH1’s Soundtrack Live. For more information, and to view a schedule of events, please visit www.jjay.cuny.edu/theater.

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