



Raven Alexander

Twyla Tharp: 50th Anniversary Tour

Choreography **Twyla Tharp**

Costumes and Scenics **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting **James Ingalls**

The Company: **John Selya, Rika Okamoto, Matthew Dibble, Ron Todorowski, Daniel Baker, Amy Ruggiero, Ramona Kelley, Nicholas Coppula, Eva Trapp, Savannah Lowery, Reed Tankersley, Kaitlyn Gilliland, Eric Otto**

Technical Director **Stephen Terry**

Wardrobe Supervisor **Billie Pierce**

Stage Manager **Jessie Ksanznak**

Sound Engineer **Jill DuBoff**

Executive Director **Jesse Huot**

Company Manager **Alexander Brady**

Administrative Assistant **Chelsea Keys**

PROGRAM

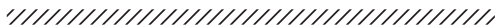
First Fanfare

Preludes and Fugues

// Intermission //

Second Fanfare

Yowzie



Friday, October 30 @ 8 PM

Saturday, October 31 @ 8 PM

Sunday, November 1 @ 3 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Simply put, *Preludes And Fugues* is the world as it ought to be, *Yowzie* as it is. The *Fanfares* celebrate both.

First Fanfare

Choreography **Twyla Tharp**

Music "Antiphonal Fanfare for the Great Hall" by **John Zorn**. Used by arrangement with Hips Road.

Music performed by **The Practical Trumpet Society**

Costumes **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting **James Ingalls**

Dancers **The Company**

Preludes And Fugues

Dedicated to Richard Burke

Choreography **Twyla Tharp**

Music **Johann Sebastian Bach's** "Well-Tempered Clavier" Volume 1 recorded by MSR Records, Volume 2 recorded by Hyperion Records Ltd.

Music performed by **David Korevaar** and **Angela Hewitt**

Costumes **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting **James Ingalls**

Dancers **The Company**

Second Fanfare

Choreography **Twyla Tharp**

Music "In Excelsis" by **John Zorn**. Used by arrangement with Hips Road.

Music performed by **American Brass Quintet**

Costumes **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting **James Ingalls**

Dancers **The Company**

Yowzie

Choreography **Twyla Tharp**

Music "American Jazz," by **Henry Butler/Steven Bernstein** and **The Hot 9**

Costumes and Scenics **Santo Loquasto**

Lighting **James Ingalls**

Dancers **John Selya, Rika Okamoto, Matthew Dibble, Ron Todorowski, Daniel Baker, Amy Ruggiero, Ramona Kelley, Nicholas Coppola, Eva Trapp, Savannah Lowery, Reed Tankersley, Kaitlyn Gilliland**

Buddy Bolden's Blues

Music by Jelly Roll Morton

© ASCAP / Morris Edwin H & CO

Wolverine Blues

Music by Jelly Roll Morton

© ASCAP / Morris Edwin H & CO / Spanish Fly Music

Gimmie A Pigfoot

Music by Wesley Wilson

© ASCAP / Spanish Fly Music

Viper's Drag

Music by Thomas "Fats" Waller

© ASCAP / Morris Edwin H & CO / Ann Rachel Music corp

Booker Time

Music by Henry Butler

© ASCAP / Hitocracy Music

King Porter

Music by Jelly Roll Morton

© ASCAP / Morris Edwin H & CO / Spanish Fly Music

Henry's Boogie

Music by Henry Butler

© ASCAP / Hitocracy Music

"Buddy Bolden's Blues," "Wolverine Blues," "Gimme a Pigfoot," "Viper's Drag," "Booker Time," "King Porter," and "Henry's Boogie" as performed by Henry Butler & Steven Bernstein (P)
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Twyla Tharp (Choreographer, Director)

Since graduating from Barnard College in 1963, Twyla Tharp has choreographed more than 160 works: 129 dances, 12 television specials, six Hollywood movies, four full-length ballets, four Broadway shows and two figure skating routines. She received one Tony® Award, two Emmy® Awards, 19 honorary doctorates, the Vietnam Veterans of America President's Award, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, the 2008 Jerome Robbins Prize and a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor. Her many grants include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1992, Tharp published her autobiography *Push Comes To Shove*. She went on to write *The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life*, followed by *The Collaborative Habit: Life Lessons for Working Together*. She is currently working on a fourth book.

Today, Tharp continues to create.

John Selya (Dancer) trained at the School of American Ballet. Selya went on to join American Ballet Theatre, where he danced and choreographed. Following his departure from A.B.T., Selya joined Twyla Tharp's company. He created the role of Eddie in Tharp's Tony® Award-winning Broadway musical *Movin' Out*, which earned him numerous awards and nominations. Following *Movin' Out*, Selya performed in other Broadway productions including *Guys and Dolls* and Tharp's *Come Fly Away*. He directed and starred in the national tour of *Come Fly Away* and in 2013, he staged the work for the Royal Danish Ballet, where it became an audience favorite and broke box office records. In addition to the world's stages, Selya's dancing can also be seen in movies such as Woody Allen's *Everyone*

Says I Love You, Julie Taymore's *Across the Universe* and John Turturro's *Romance and Cigarettes*. Selya is a recipient of a fellowship at New York University's Center for Ballet and the Arts in the fall of 2015.

Rika Okamoto (Dancer), originally from Japan, moved to United States in 1988 and began dancing with the Martha Graham Dance Company, where she met Twyla Tharp. Okamoto first danced for Tharp in 1993. She was an original cast member in Tharp's Broadway musicals *Movin' Out* and *Come Fly Away*. Currently, she teaches Tharp's Technique class, and assists in the development of Tharp education programs. She has been a guest Tharp teacher/ballet master at many colleges and institutions worldwide. Okamoto has also worked for various productions with many choreographers, including Maryl Tankard and Pichon Baldin for Disney's Broadway musical *Tarzan*, Robert Wilson, Mark Morris, Daniel Ezralow, Jessica Lang and Buglisi/Foreman, as well as her teachers Kazuko Hirabayashi, Pearl Lang and Yuriko. She appeared in numerous commercials, TV programs and films, including the film *Across The Universe* directed by Julie Taymore. She was chosen by Steven Spielberg to play the title role for his pre-production project.

Matthew Dibble (Dancer) was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, England, and began his training at the Royal Ballet School. After five years with the Royal Ballet, Dibble became a founding member of K Ballet in Japan, and in 2001, he joined Twyla Tharp Dance. He later danced a Principal role (James) on the *Movin' Out* tour and created the role of Chanos in *Come Fly Away* on Broadway, both choreographed and directed by Twyla Tharp. Dibble has also danced for Scottish Ballet, Matthew Bourne, Roland Petit, Christopher Wheeldon and Benjamin Millepied. Today, he dances and sets works for Twyla Tharp all around the world.

Ron Todorowski (Dancer) is originally from Pittsburgh, PA and has had a diverse career in concert, musical theatre and commercial dance. He has been a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Parsons Dance Company and Mia Michaels RAW. He was most recently part of the original cast of *Finding Neverland* on Broadway. Other Broadway credits include Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away*, *The Times They Are A Changin'* and *Movin' Out* along with *Wicked*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Footloose*. He starred in London's West End production and first national tour of *Movin' Out* where he received a Helen Hayes Award for Best Actor in a musical. Off-Broadway and other theatre credits include Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party*, *Chess* for the Actor's Fund with Josh Groban, Barry Manilow's *Copacabana*, *Spirit* and *Cinderella*. Some television and film credits include *Saturday Night Live*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The View*, the Tony® Awards, the VMAs and the feature film *Winter's Tale*. He has choreographed original work for Wayne State University and BC Beat in NYC, and has worked as Assistant Choreographer for *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at the Lyric Theater in Oklahoma City as well as Celine Dion's *A New Day* in Las Vegas. He recently shot a music video for Nate Ruess's new single, "A-Ha." Thanks to family, Ryan and Twyla for this incredible opportunity.

Daniel Baker (Dancer) was born in Newcastle, Australia. He studied at the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet. He later went on to become a soloist in the Miami City Ballet and danced for the San Francisco Ballet. Baker has performed works by Tharp, Balanchine, Cranko, Forsythe, Morris, Neumeier, Ratmansky, Robbins, Taylor, Tudor and Wheeldon. Baker was a finalist on the hit show *So You Think Can Dance* and has danced alongside the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. Baker has appeared in two PBS Great Performance Specials and performed Tharp's *Movin' Out'* at the 2014 Gershwin Awards honoring Billy Joel. He received the New York Choreographic Fellowship Award and has choreographed for the New York Choreographic Institute in Lincoln Center.

Amy Ruggiero (Dancer) New York: *Manon* at the Metropolitan Opera (Degas Ballerina, soloist), *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Ensemble), *Heart and Lights* (Ensemble, workshop and original cast), Lindsay Nelko's *Awakening the Show* (Dancer); 1st National and Japan Tours of *Come Fly Away* (Dance Captain/Swing, u/s Babe, u/s Betsy, u/s Slim); Regional: *Little Dancer* at the Kennedy Center (Dance Captain/Swing, u/s Young Marie); Equity showcase: *R/evolution the Musical*; Companies: American Repertory Ballet, Ballet Austin (apprentice); Other theatre: Opera New Jersey's *The Merry Widow* (Dancer); Film/TV: *Flesh and Bone* (Audition Dancer, pilot ep), Beyoncé's *The Mrs. Carter Show World Tour Opening Video* (Ballerina), The Radio City New York Spring Spectacular commercial (Degas Ballerina), The Verdon Fosse Legacy LLC Archival Footage. Ruggiero holds a BA in Dance with Biological Sciences from Goucher College.

Ramona Kelley (Dancer) is originally from California, where she began her training at Berkeley Ballet Theater under the direction of Sally Streets. She is a National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts (NFAA) scholarship award winner and she holds a BFA in Dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Kelley first worked with Twyla Tharp when she danced the principal role 'Betsy' in the North American/Japanese tour of Tharp's *Come Fly Away*. She has also worked with Cherylyn Lavagnino Dance, Oakland Ballet Company and *The Phantom of the Opera* 25th Anniversary Tour.

Nicholas Coppula (Dancer) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he trained in tap and ballet from a young age. He later moved on to train with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, American Ballet Theatre and at the Chautauqua Institute with North Carolina Dance Theatre. After high school, he joined Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre for eight years. During this time, he performed soloist and principal roles in *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, Jordan Morris's *Moulin Rouge*, George Balanchine's *Serenade* and Twyla Tharp's *In the Upper Room* and *Nine Sinatra Songs*. Coppula now lives in New York City with his wife and partner Eva Trapp where they work with the Twyla Tharp Dance Foundation.

Eva Trapp (Dancer) was born in Kentucky and started her professional training with Michigan Ballet Theatre and Pittsburgh Ballet School. She began her career with Ohio Ballet where she danced for four seasons. She then went to dance for eight seasons with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre as a soloist. Trapp had the honor of being the first ballerina from an American company to perform Blanche in John Neumeier's *A Street Car Named Desire*. Currently, Trapp resides in New York City with her husband and fellow dancer, Nicholas Coppula, where she is working for Twyla Tharp.

Savannah Lowery (Dancer) was born in Largo, Florida. She began dancing at the age of three under the direction of Judith Lee Johnson at The Judith Lee Johnson Studio of Dance. At age 14, Lowery moved to New York City to attend the School of American Ballet. After two years of devout training from Balanchine experts Kay Mazzo, Suki Schorer and Suzy Pillare, she was offered an apprenticeship with the New York City Ballet. In 2002, Lowery officially joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet and in 2007, was promoted to the rank of soloist after her performance as the Dewdrop in Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*— one of her favorite roles today. Lowery has had the privilege of working with many renowned choreographers including Christopher Wheeldon and Susan Stroman, and is thrilled to be working with the incomparable Twyla Tharp.

Reed Tankersley (Dancer) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area where he began his dance training at the age of five. He attended The Juilliard School in New York in 2014 where he performed works by Merce Cunningham, Twyla Tharp, Pina Bausch, Murray Louis and Alex Ketley. Tankersley has had the pleasure of working and performing internationally in works by Peter Chu, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano and Johannes Weiland. In 2012, he

performed at the Edinburgh International Festival with the Juilliard Ensemble Alexander Ekman's *Episode 31*. Shortly after graduation, he began working with Twyla Tharp as well as performing with other choreographers Jonah Bokaer, Jonathan Royse Windham, Cheryl Copeland and Lilja Rúriksdóttir. Working with Twyla Tharp for the past year has truly been an honor and he is very excited to be a part of her 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Kaitlyn Gilliland (Dancer) began her dance training at the Minnesota Dance Theatre and continued her studies at the School of American Ballet. From 2006-2011, Gilliland danced with the New York City Ballet, receiving the company's 2009-2010 Janice Levin Dancer Award. She has since appeared with BalletNext, Ballet Collective, Ballet Tech, Emery LeCrone Dance, Intermezzo Dance Company, JV Squad—Designated Movement, New Chamber Ballet, Pontus Lidberg Dance, Trainor Dance and Twyla Tharp. She graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia University in 2015.

Eric Otto (Dancer) was born and raised in Westchester, New York. He began dancing at the age of seven with the School of American Ballet in New York City. He has danced professionally with the New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and Ballet X. He was an original cast member of Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away* (Sid u/s). In 2003, Otto was invited to join the cast of *Movin' Out* (James u/s). He has most recently appeared on Broadway in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Otto has performed an extensive repertoire including ballets by Frederik Ashton, George Balanchine, John Cranko, Jiri Kylian, Kenneth MacMillan and Jerome Robbins. He has danced roles created for him by Twyla Tharp, Paul Taylor, Matthew Neenan, Lynne Taylor-Corbett and Natalie Weir.

Santo Loquasto (Scenic and Costume Design) is a designer for theatre, film, dance and opera. He has received three Tony® Awards and has been nominated 18 times. Loquasto has collaborated with Twyla Tharp since 1974 on numerous occasions including iconic works such as *Push Comes to Shove*, *In the Upper Room* and *Movin' Out*. He has collaborated with Woody Allen on 28 films including costume design for *Zelig* and production design for *Radio Days* and *Bullets Over Broadway*, for which he received Academy Award® nominations. Recent designs on Broadway include *A Delicate Balance*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Fences*, *Wit* and *The Assembled Parties*. He received the Merritt Award for Excellence in Design and Collaboration in 2002, was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2004, received the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for the Arts in 2006, the Robert L.B. Tobin Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2007 and the Gaudium Award in 2013.

James F. Ingalls (Lighting Designer) was the stage manager and lighting supervisor for the Twyla Tharp Dance Foundation from 1978-1980. Since becoming a lighting designer in 1980, his work has included designs for dance, ballet, opera, theatre and symphony concerts. He designed Twyla Tharp's *Waiting at the Station* for Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle. Recent design for ballet and dance includes *The Sleeping Beauty*, choreographed by Alexi Ratmansky (American Ballet Theatre at Segerstrom Center/Costa Mesa, CA and Metropolitan Opera House/NYC); *Celts*, choreographed by Lila York (Boston Ballet); *Sea Lark* and *Death and the Maiden* (Paul Taylor Dance Company) and the 25th anniversary production of *L'Allegro, il penseroso ed il moderato* (Mark Morris Dance Group at the Teatro Real/Madrid and The New York State Theatre). Recent opera includes Henry Purcell's *The Indian Queen* (English National Opera/London, Teatro Real/Madrid and Opera Perm/Russia) and John Adams' *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* (English National Opera/London), both directed by Peter Sellars. His recent work in theatre includes *The DruidShakespeare*, directed by Garry Hynes (Druid Theatre Company/Galway and Lincoln Center Festival/NYC), *The Second Girl* (Huntington Theatre Company/Boston), *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *The Price* (Mark Taper Forum/

LA) and Carmen De Lavallade's *As I Remember It* (Jacob's Pillow/MA and US tour). He often collaborates with Melanie Rios Glaser and the Wooden Floor dancers in Santa Ana, California.

Special thanks to Ruven Afanador, Sean Kelleher, Amy Lehman, Joe Mizrahi, Kevin Posey, Norma Stevens and Shelley Washington.

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