

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Astral Artists, BalletX & Play On Philly Present:  
YOUNG AT ART CONCERT**

**Saturday, March 11, 2023 at Teatro Esperanza**

*Youth musicians, rising professional musicians and emerging dancers collaborate for culminating performance celebrating dance music of Latin America and Latinx composers*

**March X, 2023 (Philadelphia)** - [Astral Artists](#), [BalletX](#) and [Play On Philly](#) will explore the interconnection of music and dance as they present – Young At Art – a FREE, family-friendly, collaborative concert featuring Astral Artists rising professional musicians, Play On Philly young musicians, and BalletX emerging dancers in their Dance Fellowship and Dance eXchange Dream Team. Held on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at the Teatro Esperanza, hosted by the Esperanza Arts Center, the focus of Young At Art is experiencing the arts through fresh eyes, seeing new connections through artists of different genres, ages and levels of experience creating together. Now in its third year and collaborative series, Young At Art will culminate in a collaborative performance celebrating dance music of Latin America and Latinx composers.

Launched in 2021, Young At Art began as a series of virtual mentoring visits and concerts where artists from Astral Artists, a non-profit where emerging musicians hone their skills through performances, mentorship, and community involvement to achieve sustainable and impactful careers in classical music, met with youth musicians from Play On Philly, an organization providing tuition-free high-quality music education to pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade students in Philadelphia. Together, they began exploring the connecting points of music with other art forms. This year's Young At Art explores the intersection of music and dance through a



collaboration with BalletX's Dance eXchange Dream Team and BalletX Dance Fellows. Through the Dance eXchange, 400 students in third and fourth grades participate in the in-school program twice a week where they gain a basic dance vocabulary and a deeper understanding of dance as a performing art form to which many of them have not been previously exposed.

"This is an incredible opportunity to bring communities together and celebrate the arts through education, creation, and performance," said Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX. "We are thrilled to have this partnership to enhance and deepen our Fellows and Dance eXchange program students' understanding of dance and how music and dance collectively work together to tell a story that we will all celebrate at this culminating performance."

Through a series of mentoring visits, lead artists from Astral have been preparing music of Latin America, while BalletX Fellows and Dance eXchange students have been working on choreography. Lead artists from Astral include: Katie Hyun, violin; Andy Sledge, bassoon; Brittany Lasch, trombone and special guest Moroquito Avila, percussion.

"Young at Art is a wonderful opportunity for me to work alongside young musicians and artists," said Brittany Lasch, Astral Trombonist and Lead Artist for Young at Art. "We're constantly learning together and from one another...It's collaborating and it's teaching beyond just playing."

"It will be empowering to see youth from different arts communities create a multi-disciplinary performance together that brings to life the artistry of composers across Latin America" said Andrés González, Music Director of Play On Philly. "This collaboration is a powerful experience for connection and exploration amongst our artists."

Registration is free to the Young At Art performance, but is required. The performance will be held on Saturday, March 11 at 2 pm at the Teatro Esperanza at Esperanza Arts Center (4261 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140). Tickets can be reserved [here](#).

### **About BalletX:**

Based in Philadelphia, BalletX is one of the nation's premier contemporary ballet companies, known for commissioning choreographers from around the world to create new ballets that are "fresh, inclusive, and connect to what people want" (Philadelphia Citizen). Led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, BalletX has been recognized by The New Yorker as a "place of choreographic innovation" for producing nearly 100 world premiere ballets and films by more than 60 choreographers in its 16-year history. In addition to virtual works, main-stage performances and international touring, the company offers free community pop ups, dance classes, artist Q&As, open rehearsals and in-school dance education designed to bring audiences closer to dance. To learn more about BalletX's programming and dancers, visit [BalletX.org](http://BalletX.org) and follow the company on social media.

### **About Astral:**

Based in Philadelphia for more than 30 years, Astral is a nonprofit intensive mentoring program that seeks to empower outstanding, emerging musicians to shape purposeful and sustainable careers that inspire, connect, and excite diverse audiences. Astral provides Artists with industry-leading resources, networking, immersive community engagement experiences, and entrepreneurial tools. Astral concentrates its resources on a cohort of classical musicians who are the leading performers, innovators, and voices in their artforms, expanding and enriching the reach, definition, and significance of classical music. Learn more at [astralartists.org](http://astralartists.org)



**About Play On Philly:**

Play On Philly (POP) provides high-quality music education to students, who would typically lack access, as a vehicle for life skills and academic achievement. We provide 8 hours of intensive music instruction and ensemble practice every week before and after school and over 25 performance opportunities throughout the year. Students range from pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade and are loaned an orchestral instrument at no cost. POP programming has proven results: our students score ten points higher on standardized tests and have improved behavior and study skills. We cultivate musical excellence, lifelong skills, and confidence. Learn more about POP at our website: [www.playonphilly.org](http://www.playonphilly.org).

**Media Contacts:**

**Dominique Piloni**

c | 570-212-1002

e | [dpiloni@signature57.com](mailto:dpiloni@signature57.com)