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BalletX Takes the Stage at the Mann Center for Highly Anticipated Spring Series May 4 - 5

Philadelphia's premier contemporary Ballet company features ballets by leading Choreographers Amy Hall Garner, Trey McIntyre and Justin Peck, with special pre-show community performances.

PHILADELPHIA (February 21, 2023) – [BalletX](#), Philadelphia's premier contemporary ballet returns to TD Pavilion at The Mann for its highly anticipated Spring Series. The Spring Series will be held from May 4-5 at 7:30 pm with tickets on-sale now. The main performances will include a world premiere by Amy Hall Garner titled *Switching the Groove*, Trey McIntyre's *Big Ones* set to music by Amy Winehouse, and Justin Peck's *Become a Mountain* performed to live music by composer Dan Deacon. BalletX will also offer a special free community pre-show and picnic on May 4 and 5 starting at 6:00 PM featuring the company's youth outreach program, the Dance eXchange Dream Team, and more.

"This series is all about bringing the community together," says **Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX**. "I wanted to program pieces that would fill up the beautiful Mann campus. I hope that audiences will be taken on a journey that brings curiosity and a newfound or deeper love for ballet."

International dance superstar Amy Hall Garner joins the BalletX Spring Series to debut her world premiere titled *Switching the Groove*. Her work has been praised internationally and commissioned by Ailey II, ABT Studio Company, Collage Dance Collective, The Juilliard School, and more. Garner personally coached Grammy Award winner Beyoncé. She is currently an adjunct professor at New York University's New Studio on Broadway at Tisch School of the Arts. Amy returns to BalletX after the success of her dance film *New Heights*, a collaboration with Mural Arts in 2020.

Garner's work will be accompanied by Trey McIntyre's *Big Ones* which originally premiered on BalletX in 2016 and was set to music by Amy Winehouse. This show-stopping piece was deemed "funny, touching, poignant, stirring" by *The New York Times*. This performance is one of more than 100 pieces that McIntyre has produced for leading organizations such as the American Ballet Theater, the New York Ballet, The Washington Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, and more throughout his more than 30 years in the dance industry.

Another beloved work, Justin Peck's *Become a Mountain*, originally premiered on BalletX in 2022, will be presented during the Spring Series at the Mann Center. Created by Justin Peck for Juilliard's Senior Class of 2022, *Become a Mountain* is a dance that simulates the arc of a mountain climb, unfolding in three parts: a climb to a summit, the emboldened feeling of reaching the peak, and finally, the adrenaline rush of sliding down the other side. Throughout this journey, the dance weaves in explorations of human connectivity, personal reflection, and the uncertainty of what is uncharted.

Each performance for the Spring Series 2023 will be approximately 120 minutes, including one intermission. For tickets, student discounts, and more information, contact the BalletX Box Office at 215-225-5389 x250 or boxoffice@balletx.org. More information is also available at BalletX.org.

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 70 choreographers in its 17-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 and follow the company on social media.

About the Mann Center for the Performing Arts

As one of the foremost outdoor music centers in the country, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, a leading non-profit organization, has a historical legacy of artistic excellence as a world-class entertainment destination presenting premier artists, now in association with Live Nation Entertainment. Each summer season, renowned symphony orchestras, iconic rock stars, and the latest touring artists in indie rock, hip hop, R&B, and pop take the stage here. The Mann is the summer home of The Philadelphia Orchestra and has presented critically acclaimed performers in every decade since the 1930s. Located in the heart of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, the Mann hosts more than 200,000 visitors annually. Signature concert experiences are surrounded by Philadelphia's stunning skyline and include seats beneath the Mann's acoustically acclaimed TD Pavilion; picnics, blankets, and music under the stars on its Great Lawn or at the top of the hill at the Skyline Stage; and dining in Crescendo, the venue's spectacular tented restaurant. In addition, the Mann's Education & Community Engagement Program reaches tens of thousands of young

people annually through free programming and educational initiatives as well as its virtual Mann Music Room. For more information, visit MannCenter.org.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photos, bios and video are available for publication at BalletX.org/pressroom.