

AVANT CHAMBER BALLET

Avant Chamber Ballet Announces Women's Choreography Project Winner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dallas, TX – For the last three years, Dallas-based Avant Chamber Ballet has broken stereotypes and glass ceilings with live music and new works. This season's Women's Choreography Project presented in April 2018 is no different. "You might not notice the imbalance and sexism in ballet from the outside," says Avant artistic director Katie Cooper. "There are more female ballet dancers than male by far, but there are very few female choreographers getting commissions from professional ballet companies. With Women's Choreography Project, we give emerging women choreographers the opportunity they need to take their careers to the next level."

Avant Chamber Ballet held an international search for the right choreographer to commission a new work for this season. Out of over 50 applicants, **Michelle Thompson Ulerich** was chosen to be this year's winner. "I am thrilled to be choreographing for the artists of Avant Chamber Ballet," says Ulerich. "Texas was my home for 14 years, and I am looking forward to coming back to create and to bring some of my New York experiences with me."

Michelle is a choreographer, dancer, and teacher in New York. In 2017, she will present new works in New York; Austin, Texas; Napa, California; and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Prior to moving to New York, she was a professional ballerina with Ballet Austin for 14 years. Michelle has been teaching ballet at SUNY Purchase since September 2016. She has created works for Ballet Spartanburg, Ballet Austin II, Ballet Zaida, MOTION Dance Theatre. Her work for Avant Chamber Ballet will be presented on April 21-22, 2018 at Moody Performance Hall on the program Moving Music alongside masterworks by George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon and Paul Mejia.

Also commissioned this year through the Project is a new work from Kimi Nikaidoh. As the artistic director of Dallas's Bruce Wood Dance, Kimi has choreographed for her own company of modern dancers but this will be her first commission with a professional ballet company. "I'm beyond lucky that Dallas provides me with the opportunity to create work for high-caliber modern and ballet dancers," says Nikaidoh. "Working with the lovely ACB company will be a delight!"

MOVING MUSIC

Women's Choreography Project

George Balanchine's Valse Fantaisie

Christopher Wheeldon's The American pas de deux

Paul Mejia's Serenade in A

April 21-22ND, 2018

Moody Performance Hall, Dallas, TX

Tickets available through TicketDFW.com

Programming and casting for all productions are subject to change without notice.

About Avant Chamber Ballet:

Avant Chamber Ballet is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based out of Dallas, Texas. ACB's mission is to bring exceptional live dance and chamber music together for audiences in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Our ensemble of classically trained dancers presents a diverse repertoire of classical and contemporary works from local choreographers, as well as internationally acclaimed artists. Since our inaugural season in 2012, ACB has presented over a twenty world premiere ballets. Under Artistic Director Katie Cooper and Music Director David Cooper, the organization is in its sixth season.

PRESS CONTACTS

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Additional information is available on Avant Chamber Ballet's website at www.avantchamberballet.org