

Danse Lumière
Kathryn Roszak Artistic Director
dlkdance.com

DANSE LUMIÈRE 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN BALLET CHOREOGRAPHERS AND COMPOSERS RESIDENCY GOES DIGITAL

San Francisco Bay Area, June 24, 2020

In Summer 2020, Danse Lumière presents the **5th Annual Women Ballet Choreographers and Composers Residency** in a digital format.

We are filming a series of (socially-distanced) conversations with women choreographers and composers, discussing what it means to be women artists and what we can do to uplift one another, especially in the challenging times we are facing today. These conversations will be available for public engagement on July 30, on the **Djerassi Resident Artists Program** website, as well as others. "Where are all the women choreographers?" says Dance Magazine, Rambert Dance Company, N.Y.U, and numerous publications such as the New York Times, and London's Observer and Guardian newspapers.

Interdisciplinary panels will be moderated by Danse Lumière Artistic Director **Kathryn Roszak**. Participants include; **Lauren Jonas**, Artistic Director of **Diablo Ballet**, **Christina Johnson**, formerly of **Dance Theatre of Harlem**, composer **Vivian Fung**, and **Julia Feldman** of **Sacramento Ballet**. We are especially delighted to have the participation of **Wendy Whelan**, Associate Artistic Director of **New York City Ballet**, and **Victoria Morgan**, Artistic Director of **Cincinnati Ballet** this year. Roszak says, "This Residency helps women artists further develop their work while giving them greater opportunity and visibility. This year it is particularly important to share virtually the conversations we had with Victoria Morgan and Wendy Whelan, enabling us to have a wider audience."

WHERE: The conversations will be housed on the Djerassi Resident Artists Program website.

WHEN: Release date July 30, 2020

For more information...

CONTACT: kdance@sonic.net

VISIT: <https://www.dlkdance.com/women-ballet-choreographers-residen>

Participants:

Victoria Morgan was a principal dancer for the San Francisco Ballet and Ballet West, and resident choreographer for the San Francisco Opera, before joining the Cincinnati Ballet in 1997 as Artistic Director. During her time at Cincinnati Ballet, Morgan has worked to expose more people to ballet through innovative marketing programs, as well as finding new sources of funding, creating collaborations with other ballet companies, and creating world premieres such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "Bolero."

Wendy Whelan is a former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, performing with the company for 30 years, touring in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. She has also worked with Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company. Her inaugural project, "Restless Creature," premiered at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in 2013. In 2019, Whelan was named Associate Artistic Director of New York City Ballet.

Lauren Jonas performed with Milwaukee Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Southwest Ballet, and toured the United States with Moscow Ballet. She is a founding member of Diablo Ballet. Since their premiere in 1994, Ms. Jonas has recruited dancers from around the world to present the finest in contemporary and classical ballets. She has served as an advisor on several non-profit boards, on scholarship and dance festival committees, and has guest taught for various schools and colleges throughout California and nationally.

Christina Johnson began her professional career with Boston Ballet, before joining Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she became a principal dancer. Christina is an original member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet and has also been a featured guest artist with various companies worldwide, including the Royal Ballet of London. Christina is currently Adjunct Faculty at Dominican University in the LINES/Dominican BFA in Dance Program.

Vivian Fung is a JUNO award winning composer who writes music for orchestras, operas, quartets, and piano. She received her doctorate from The Juilliard School in New York City in 2002. Her compositions have been performed internationally, and she is known for her unique talent for combining idiosyncratic textures and styles into large-scale works, reflecting her multicultural background. She is passionate about mentorship and fostering the next generation, and has started a new Creative Music workshop for members of the San Jose Youth Chamber Orchestra.

Julia Feldman has been dancing with Sacramento Ballet since 2011, in principal and featured roles. Since joining the company, Julia has developed a passion for choreography. She has created works for the Ballet annually since 2012, as well as for the School of Sacramento Ballet. She is also a founding member of Capital Dance Project.

Kathryn Roszak performed for many years with the San Francisco Opera Ballet, and has danced with San Francisco Ballet. She has performed, choreographed and taught at the American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Opera Center, California Shakespeare Festival, and Berkeley Symphony with Kent Nagano. She created and produced original works for the Goethe Institute/San Francisco Mozart Festival, Theatre Artaud, and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Roszak is an Artist in Residence at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in California where she serves on the Choreography panel, and produces the annual Women Ballet Choreographers and Composers Residency.

Danse Lumière (formerly Anima Mundi Dance Company) was founded in 1995 by Kathryn Roszak. Danse Lumière has been particularly recognized for their work with dance and literature. The company's unique approach brings new audiences to classical art forms by blending and innovating across disciplines, putting dance into conversation with music, visual art, poetry, and theatre.