

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER TO DEBUT UNIQUE MULTIMEDIA
COLLABORATION WITH CITYMUSIC CLEVELAND**

CLEVELAND, OH – For GroundWorks DanceTheater’s very first collaboration with **CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra**, the company has created a dance-on-video work to accompany the live performance by CityMusic musicians of composer **Olivier Messiaen’s** poignant masterwork, **“Quatuor pour la fin du temps” (Quartet for the End of Time)**. This unique integration of dance and music is part of CityMusic Cleveland’s Justice, Equality, Hope Chamber Music Series program [Transcendence](#), which will be presented on **Sunday, February 27, 2022**, at **The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus**.

CityMusic Pianist **Donna Lee** first proposed the collaboration, says GroundWorks DanceTheater Executive Artistic Director [David Shimotakahara](#). “Donna told me she always wanted to see something done with movement to that piece of music [“Quatuor pour la fin du temps”]. She had it in her mind it would be a wonderful dimension to add to their performance of it. CityMusic Cleveland Executive Director, **Eugenia Strauss** agreed, and she contacted me about it. I am truly grateful to them both for this creative opportunity.”

It is a sentiment echoed by Lee. “Messiaen’s intentional treatment of rhythm - both evident and symbolic - is what led me to envision setting dance to the ‘Quartet for the End of Time’... In David [Shimotakahara], I have found an inspiring and fulfilling collaborator who has helped to realize this vision that intertwines music and dance in a program that I believe will surely resonate with everyone.”

Composed by Messiaen while a French army World War II prisoner-of-war at Stalag VIII-A in Görlitz, Germany, the 50-minute “Quatuor pour la fin du temps” for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano, debuted at the prison camp on January 15, 1941, for an audience of some 400 prisoners and German officers.

He started the composition with movements that referenced passages from his earlier works and added five new movements written in the camp. Each movement of the score relates to the apocalyptic *Book of Revelation* vividly depicted in *The Cloisters Apocalypse*, an illuminated manuscript from around 1330.

Messiaen later said of the Stalag VIII-A performance, “Never was I listened to with such rapt attention and comprehension.”

Directed by Shimotakahara, the dance-on-video was recorded at **Cleveland State University’s Black Box Theatre*** by **Kuo-Heng Huang**, who was the videographer for Antonio Brown’s 2020 work *INSIDE* for GroundWorks. It will be shown February 27 on a 16’ wide by 40’ high fabric video screen as a backdrop to CityMusic’s quartet of musicians [**Miho Hashizume**, violin; **Keith Robinson**, cello; **Daniel Gilbert**, clarinet and **Donna Lee**, piano] playing live.

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Shimotakahara says of his vision for the video, “I felt there was a way through movement to imagine a kind of internal journey experienced in the process of dying, involving memory and pivotal moments in time. In thinking about the title, “Quartet for the End of Time” – and in that moment of passing from one state to another, of crossing a boundary, what do we find? This idea speaks to universal themes about connection, shared experience, transition, and the acceptance of loss.”

The video will also be an introduction to GroundWorks’ newest company dancers who perform in the video and were collaborators on the choreography with Shimotakahara and fourth season company member [Nicole Hennington](#). They are, Toronto-native [Maddie Hanson](#), [Madison Pineda](#) from Sacramento, [Teagan Reed](#) from Saint Petersburg, Florida, and Chicago-native [Victoria Rumzis](#).

Transcendence will also include a performance by CityMusic musicians of Jungyoon Wie’s newly commissioned work for them, “Songs of my Grandmother.”

WHAT: GroundWorks DanceTheater & CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra in *Transcendence*

WHEN: 5:00 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 2022

WHERE: The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 East 65th Street, Cleveland

TICKETS: Admission is FREE. No ticket is required but reservations are requested at citymusiccleveland.org/current-season/transcendence

Video Production Credits: David Shimotakahara (Director, Choreographer); Kuo-Heng Huang (Cinematographer, Editor); Dennis Dugan (Lighting for Video Production); Chuck Karnak (Installation and Projection) and Janet Bolick (Costume Design)

*GroundWorks is very grateful to Holly Holsinger (Chair), DeAndra Stone (Director of Dance), and Cleveland State University’s Department of Theatre and Dance for helping to produce our dance-on-video for *Transcendence*, and for their ongoing support in making our work possible.

COVID policy: Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or negative COVID test from within 48 hours of the event is required. Masks are required at all times during the event.

ABOUT GROUNDWORKS DANCETHEATER

GroundWorks DanceTheater, founded by David Shimotakahara in 1998, is a contemporary dance company located in Northeast Ohio. Now in our 23rd season, GroundWorks DanceTheater is continually pushing the boundaries of what is possible through dance by engaging, educating, and enlivening our community. We are committed to presenting unique opportunities for engaging the community through work-in-progress showings, masterclasses, artist talks, and educational outreach to school age children, college students, and senior adults, along with the development and presentation of new choreography and collaborations.

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The Northeast Ohio-based company performs new works by Executive Artistic Director, David Shimotakahara, as well as commissioned work by nationally & internationally acclaimed choreographers including Eric Michael Handman,

Rosie Herrera, Kate Weare, Robert Moses, Ronen Koresh, Dianne McIntyre, Lynne Taylor-Corbett, Adam Barruch, Gina Gibney, David Parker, Brian Brooks, James Gregg, & many others.

GroundWorks DanceTheater's annual programming is made possible with funding from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, Cuyahoga County residents through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Toby Devan Lewis Philanthropic Fund, GAR Foundation, Peg's Foundation, The John P. Murphy Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, Akron Community Foundation, The Demetros

Charitable Trust, The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation, The Judith Gerson Fund, Sisler McFawn, Individual Contributors & Members of the GroundWorks Board of Directors.

ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DAVID SHIMOTAKAHARA has been a member of the Atlanta Ballet, Boston Repertory Ballet, Kathryn Posin Dance Company, and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. He performed with Ohio Ballet under the direction of Heinz Poll from 1983-1999. He also served as Rehearsal Assistant for Ohio Ballet from 1989-1999. Mr. Shimotakahara has choreographed for opera and theater with the Cleveland Opera, Great Lakes Theater Festival and the Dallas Theater Center. He served on the Carlisle Project advisory panel in 1996, and dance panels for the Ohio Arts Council, Illinois Arts Council, the Mid Atlantic Arts Alliance, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been awarded 8 Individual Artist Fellowships for Choreography from the Ohio Arts Council from 1996 to 2016. Mr. Shimotakahara received the 2000 Cleveland Arts Prize for Dance. In 2002, his work with GroundWorks DanceTheater was voted "One of 25 to Watch" by Dance Magazine. In 2007, he received the OhioDance award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of the Dance Artform. Mr. Shimotakahara was a 2008 recipient of the first COSE Arts and Business Innovation award as the founder of GroundWorks DanceTheater. In 2010 and 2013, Shimotakahara received a Creative Workforce Fellowship; a program of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture funded by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

ABOUT THE DANCERS

MADDIE HANSON hails from Toronto, Canada. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and is currently pursuing a master's degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art. She has danced with The DASH Ensemble, been a guest artist with SoulEscape, and a faculty member at UNIKIYO Therapy. Maddie has worked with choreographers Jirí Pokörny, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, Stefanie Batten Bland and Roy Assaf and has performed dance works by Martha Graham, José Limón, and Crystal Pite. Maddie was the recipient of the 2019 Dance Ontario Creative Partnership, was awarded a CreativAction Open Space residency at The National Ballet of Canada and was selected as a 2020 Emerging Choreographer with Springboard Danse Montréal. She has also choreographed on dance companies Ballet X, Company | E, Kit Modus and DartDSP. She is excited to begin her first season with GroundWorks DanceTheater.

NICOLE HENNINGTON spent her first two decades in Arizona where she graduated from the University of Arizona with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Finance. During this time, she also studied with Nederlands Dans Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, chuthis., New Dialect, and Ate9. She has performed the works of choreographers



Brian Brooks, Robyn Mineko Williams, James Gregg, Dianne McIntyre, Peter Chu, Jianhui Wang, Banning Bouldin, and Bella Lewitsky. Nicole also has a passion for teaching and has taught dance at Cleveland State University, The University of Akron, and dance studios in Northeast, Ohio and beyond. As a choreographer, she is a 2022 RAD FEST (Midwest Regional Alternative Dance) Screendance Selectee for her solo work, "Between Presence" in collaboration with videographer Cory Sheldon. Nicole is in her fourth season with GroundWorks DanceTheater.

MADISON PINEDA began her early dance training in Sacramento, CA and Keller, TX. At age 16, she attended The Joffrey Ballet School's New York City Jazz & Contemporary Program, and in 2021, graduated with a BFA degree from The Juilliard School where she received the Martha Hill Award and the Juilliard Career Advancement Fellowship Grant. She has also trained at the Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Dance Festival, the Nederlands Dans Theater Summer Intensive, and the Arts Umbrella Summer Dance Intensive. Madison has performed the dance works of Martha Graham, Crystal Pite and Paul Taylor as well as new choreographic creations by Ohad Naharin, Marne Van Opstal and Rena Butler. She recently appeared in the 2021 Warner Brothers film, "In the Heights," and in her first season with GroundWorks DanceTheater, looks forward to creating and performing with her amazing colleagues.

TEAGAN REED is a Saint Petersburg, Florida native and started training and competing in Scottish Highland dance at age 12. "Tea" then trained in ballet at the Patricia Ann Dance Studio, attended the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and The Hubbard Street Professional Program in Chicago. Tea has been a freelance dance artist with Fukudance, Adam Weinert & Company, the A.R.T. at Harvard University, Dance in the Parks Chicago, and Aerial Dance Chicago. In 2021, Tea founded the inaugural pro.noun dance festival to help queer dance artists gather and create. This is Tea's first season moving and grooving with GroundWorks DanceTheater.

VICTORIA RUMZIS is a Chicago native and began dancing at age 14 at Dancenter North. She continued her studies at Point Park University where she received her BFA in dance, graduating magna cum laude. Additionally, "Tori" received training at Axis Connect, Movement Invention Project, ODC and Salt Contemporary Dance. She has also had the privilege of performing as a company member with Aerial Dance Chicago, Ensemble180, Dance in the Parks, Hedwig Dances and New Dances (under the direction of Melissa Thodos and Julie Nakagawa). Along with performing, Tori has enjoyed working as a dance teacher, choreographer, and certified yoga instructor. She is thrilled to be in her first season with GroundWorks DanceTheater.

For more information, please visit www.groundworksdance.org or call 216-751-0088.

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