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**MILWAUKEE  
BALLET**  
MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**MILWAUKEE BALLET'S SECOND COMPANY PRESENTS *MOMENTUM***

**- *Milwaukee Ballet II stages contemporary and classical works during their two-weekend production.* -**

**Milwaukee, WI – January 4, 2024** – Milwaukee Ballet's Second Company takes center stage during their annual performance of *Momentum*, a four-piece mixed repertory program. The 23 dancers of Milwaukee Ballet II (MBII) will perform on January 20 and March 2 at Baumgartner Center for Dance in the We Energies Performance Studio.

*Momentum* features three contemporary and neo-classical works and a classical favorite, all highlighting the MBII dancers' impressive training and artistry.

"I am delighted by the range of work that this talented group of up-and-coming artists will present," says MBII Artistic Director Mireille Favarel. "Our dancers have gone above and beyond in preparing these challenging pieces that showcase their technical and emotional abilities."

The production will begin with the excerpt "Grand Pas Classique" from Marius Petipa's *Paquita*, a staple of the classical repertoire that has enchanted audiences for centuries. Following that will be the restaging of former Resident Choreographer Timothy O'Donnell's *At World's End*, which was first created for MBII in 2014; an exquisite pas de deux *Rêverie* by new MBII Rehearsal Director Davit Hovhannisyan; and a high-energy piece *Synergy* by Water Street Dance Milwaukee Artistic Director Morgan Williams.

"My first season as MBII Rehearsal Director has been an absolute pleasure thus far," reflects Hovhannisyan, a former Leading Artist with Milwaukee Ballet. "Getting to create a work on two of our fantastic dancers makes it that much more special, and I am proud to present it to our *Momentum* audiences"

Outside of *Momentum*, Milwaukee Ballet II is an integral part of Milwaukee Ballet. MBII dancers regularly perform in mainstage Company productions, including *The Nutcracker*. Community engagement programs are also a key part of the dancers' experience, as they lead workshops and performances at schools, senior centers, and other local organizations.

"Our MBII dancers are wonderful and work so hard," praises Favarel. "I am in awe of what they can do at such a young age and I know the audience will be, too. I expect great things from all of them this season and beyond."

**Performance Information**

*Momentum* will take place on January 20 and March 2 at Baumgartner Center for Dance in the We Energies Performance Studio. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased online at [www.milwaukeeballet.org](http://www.milwaukeeballet.org) or through the Milwaukee Ballet Box Office at 414.902.2103.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, January 20, 2:00 PM
- Saturday, January 20, 7:00 PM

- Saturday, March 2, 2:00 PM
- Saturday, March 2, 7:00 PM

The 2023/24 MBII Program is presented in loving memory of Dolores & R. Goeres Hayssen by their children: Anne Hayssen & Charles Ferrell, Robert & Jill Hayssen, Charles & Helen Hayssen, James & Joan Hayssen, and Thomas and Theresa Hayssen. Milwaukee Ballet's 2023/2024 Season is presented by Donald & Donna Baumgartner with support from United Performing Arts Fund, Wisconsin Arts Board, CAMPAC, Milwaukee Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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### **About Milwaukee Ballet II**

The Milwaukee Ballet II Company was established in 1978 to nurture and develop gifted young dancers, bridging the gap between student and professional. The dancers build their technical skills and artistry by dancing alongside the professionals of Milwaukee Ballet Company in mainstage productions. These dancers are also featured in their own performances in various Wisconsin venues and studio showcases. Milwaukee Ballet II trainees are a vital part of the award-winning Department of Community Engagement. Graduates of the program are among the ranks of professional companies worldwide.

### **About Milwaukee Ballet**

Milwaukee Ballet was founded in 1970. Led by Artistic Director Michael Pink, Milwaukee Ballet creates a rich and diverse community through its inspiring dance performance, education, and outreach. Milwaukee Ballet hosts an international Company of dancers and maintains its own orchestra. Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy is the only professional dance school in the Midwest accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, teaching beginner through pre-professional levels in three locations: Third Ward, Fox Point, and Brookfield. Milwaukee Ballet's award-winning Community Engagement department serves nearly 30,000 people in Southeastern Wisconsin each year through original, interactive programs. Milwaukee Ballet is a proud cornerstone member of United Performing Arts Fund and holds a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

*Note to Editors: Interviews with Milwaukee Ballet II Artistic Director Mireille Favarel and high-resolution images are available upon request.*