

An impressionist painting of a still life scene. In the foreground, a wooden table is set with a large copper teapot, a blue cup and saucer, a blue pitcher, a green plate with figs, a red pitcher, and a bowl of bread. A white hat with a black band sits on a small round table to the left. In the background, a wooden staircase with a railing leads up. A vase of red flowers sits on a table near the stairs. The painting is characterized by visible brushstrokes and a warm, slightly muted color palette.

Queensland Ballet Academy

Soirée

5 - 7 DECEMBER 2024
TALBOT THEATRE
THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

From the Academy Director

Welcome to another wonderful *Soirée* season, this year showcasing new works inspired by the spectacular art of William Robinson AO.

This fusion of dance, art, and live music has become a much-loved annual highlight for Queensland Ballet Academy. With the generous support of Philip Bacon Galleries, we are once again thrilled to collaborate with Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, and for the first time, with acclaimed Australian artist William Robinson AO. The opportunity to work with professional artists, choreographers and musicians to create premiere works is an incredible learning experience for our young dancers, and one I am sure they will cherish as they continue to grow and flourish as artists.

This year's *Soirée* features the dancers of our Level 1 Ballet Course, Contemporary Course and Pre-Professional Program, and they have been fortunate to work with resident choreographers Natalie Weir, Paul Boyd, and Louise Deleur.

Highly respected in their field, Natalie, Paul and Louise were given the freedom to choose from any of Robinson's works, and each found inspiration in very different pieces. I am also delighted to present two student choreographic works in this exciting program.

It is a privilege to perform to live music, and my gratitude goes to the incredible Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, with Artistic Director Brendan Joyce and Interim Executive Director Angela Loh at its helm. Thank you for your invaluable contribution to *Soirée*, and the enjoyment we all gain from experiencing a live orchestra.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Philip Bacon AO for his invaluable support of our *Soirée* program, now celebrating its fourth year. Thank you also to our *Soirée* patrons, who enable this season to thrive.

There is an exceptional team working behind the scenes to bring this production to life, and I'd like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who devoted their time and talents to *Soirée*, including Kathryn Lee and Glenn Hughes for the fabulous costumes and lighting design respectively. Thank you to the Academy's Artistic team – the passionate teachers and mentors of our young dancers, and to the Academy business team and broader Queensland Ballet team for their continuous support.

Finally, thank you to our audiences, and of course to our passionate donors and partners for your support in nurturing these young artists.

Enjoy the performance!



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tatchev'.

Christian Tatchev

Director of Queensland Ballet Academy

Every effort was made to ensure program details were correct at the time of printing, however details are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Please check academy.queenslandballet.com.au for updates.

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we learn and perform. Long before we performed on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our first peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders - past, present and emerging - and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.

Program

Aventures d'une sieste l'après-midi (Adventures of an Afternoon Nap)

Choreographer

Paul Boyd

Assistant to the Choreographer

Claire Phipps-Males

Performed by

Level 1 Ballet Course dancers

Composer

Maurice Ravel

Costume Stylist

Kathryn Lee

Artwork by William Robinson AO

Feeding the birds, Unanimous self portrait, Bastille, Pont des Arts and Le Louvre

Drift

Choreographer

Louise Deleur

Performed by

Level 1 & 2 Contemporary Course dancers

Composers

Ezio Bosso and Brendan Joyce

Costume Design collaboration by

Kathryn Lee and Louise Deleur

Artwork by William Robinson AO

Creation Landscape - Earth and Sea, Dark tide Boganar, Starry night and Study for Creation Landscape, Darkness and Light

The Dome of Space and Time

Choreographer

Natalie Weir

Assistants to the Choreographer

Claire Phipps-Males and Camilo Ramos

Performed by

Pre-Professional Program dancers

Composer

Franz Schubert, Johann Sebastian Bach, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Ludwig van Beethoven, Alexander Scriabin and Nigel Gaynor

Costume Designer

Kathryn Lee

Artwork by William Robinson AO

Creation Landscape - Dome of Space and Time, Farmyard 21 (Heading off), Out of the dawn, Veranda after Piero, Shaded garden & morning coffee, Self portrait with goosefeathers, Creation Landscape - The Ancient Trees, Self Portrait with panama and Shells

Catharsis

Choreographed and performed by

Jeannie Mok

(Pre-Professional Program)

Composer

Johann Sebastian Bach

Artwork by William Robinson AO

Passing Storm, late afternoon and Beechmont ('mountain' series)

水鏡 (suikyo)

Choreographed and performed by

Saya Hibino and Moeki Kojima

(Pre-Professional Program)

Composer

Ezio Bosso

Artwork by William Robinson AO

Creation Night, Beechmont (study)

Academy Défilé

Choreographer

Paul Boyd

Performed by

Level 6 - Pre-Professional Program dancers

Composer

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Translation - Grand Parade.

Bringing our top seven Academy levels together in a lavish presentation.

Park Bench from 'Adventures of an Afternoon Nap' designed and made by Gal and Natalie Mordehai of 'Marko & Marzie Designs'

Lighting Design by

Glenn Hughes

Duration

Approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes including one 20-minute interval.

William Robinson

William Robinson AO is considered one of Australia's greatest living artists. His self-parodying portraits have won two Archibald prizes, while his epic landscapes have been celebrated internationally. A figurative expressionist painter, he is considered one of Australia's foremost living artists.

Robinson was born in Queensland in 1936 and began painting in the 1960s. His broad, detailed images of the Australian bushland emphasising the skewed perspective of the beholder are among the most recognisable images of the Australian landscape. In 2009 the William Robinson Gallery was opened at the Queensland University of Technology campus in Old Government House. He recently had an exhibition at HOTA.



Philip Bacon Galleries

Philip Bacon Galleries is one of Australia's leading art galleries. It plays a pivotal commercial and educational role in the thriving Brisbane art scene. The Gallery is renowned for the depth of its stockroom and for exhibiting many of the country's most collectable, twentieth century and contemporary artists.

The Gallery was opened in 1974 with the encouragement of artists Lawrence Daws, Margaret Olley, Charles Blackman and Robert Dickerson. It soon became Brisbane's leading commercial gallery and attracted national attention. The Gallery, designed by award-winning architects Cox Rayner, has five exhibition spaces that allow for monthly represented artist exhibitions, display of works from the stockroom and a designated works on paper gallery.

Artists represented include: Rick Amor, Charles Blackman, Cressida Campbell, Peter Churcher, Ray Croke, Lawrence Daws, Robert Dickerson, William Robinson AO, the Estate of Margaret Olley, the Estate of Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, Garry Shead, the Estate of Jeffrey Smart, Tim Storrier AM, Philip Wolfhagen, Jude Rae, the Estate of Fred Williams, and Michael Zavros.



**PHILIP BACON
GALLERIES**

Aventures d'une sieste l'après-midi

(Adventures of an Afternoon Nap)

The William Robinson AO artwork *Feeding the birds* was my original inspiration for this ballet. Finding the thread of his art was the next step in the process and I was drawn towards art that had an obvious 'fragrance' of French influence to it. When delving further in Robinson's life, coincidentally I learned that he himself was very much influenced by the French masters and has had many successful art exhibitions in France. The French theme was becoming clearer and French composer Maurice Ravel's chamber music gave me the atmosphere and complemented the artwork.

Feeding the birds gave me the idea to place the elderly couple as the protagonists who fall asleep on the park bench dreaming of their youth. With their story told through their younger selves, remembering days gone by, elegant Parisian ladies are seen, through their youthful dreaming eyes, as birdlike creatures and the younger selves frolic with them while the spirit of the elderly gentleman leads them on their journey.



Paul Boyd
Academy Ballet Master
and Resident Choreographer

The artwork, *Unanimous self portrait*, had for my taste, an undeniable humour to it that I couldn't ignore so I decided to make a parody of the elderly gentleman where his five personalities are revealed. Ravel was inspired by American Blues and Jazz music when composing his Violin Sonata No. 2 in G Major, so I took liberty with a tongue in cheek approach and a nod to a frustrated dancer and gave the gentleman a vaudeville soft shoe shuffle spirit.

The artworks *Bastille* and *Pont des Arts* gave me the opportunity to take their journey to a busy Parisian café atmosphere, where characters come alive with café waiters leading the way.

The final artwork *Le Louvre* with its majestic Grecian style statue leads the ballet to a simple, quiet, elegant space where the beauty of the statue gives time for reflection. The final scene takes us back to the park bench where the elderly couple awake to a surprise...was it really a dream?

My thanks to Costume Stylist Kathryn Lee, Lighting Designer Glenn Hughes, the spirited and talented Academy dancers for bringing my vision to life, and my assistant Claire Phipps-Males for her sharp, keen eye during the creative process. To the generous and talented musicians of Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, it is always a great privilege to have you all on the *Soirée* journey with us.

Finally, to William Robinson AO whose genius allowed this artistic journey to unfold, my heartfelt thanks!



Drift

Taking the time to be still with nature. As you gaze into the sky, absorb the calmness and drift with the clouds in your own meandering thoughts. Clouds can drift on, and storms can blow in bringing about a whirl of emotions and turmoil from the stormy horizon. Rain regenerates and nature abounds, going about creating and living life.

I would like to thank the dancers for their contribution to the creative process. As well as taking the music and imagery for inspiration, it's the dancers before me that create the final outcome and each day they inspire me with their creativity and spirit of collaboration.



Louise Deleur

*Head of Contemporary Dance and Resident
Choreographer at Queensland Ballet Academy*



The Dome of Space and Time

It has been wonderful to explore the evocative artwork of William Robinson AO, I hold great respect for the artist and his incredible body of work.

I felt connected to the idea behind Robinson's quote, "I just keep painting. In the end, my paintings are a trail of a life that's left behind – whether it's satisfactory or not." This has been the starting point for this work.

The human experience encompasses love, loss, reflection, silence, solitude and sometimes chaos. The paintings are a doorway for us to enter, experiencing them through our own eyes. That is the wonderful thing about art, it suggests but does not describe.

A spiritual element resonates – we pass through forests that have been there for hundreds of years, the spirits of those who have come before us linger.

One painting, *Self-portrait with goosefeathers*, is slightly humorous at first view, but looking closer, you see more. The artist says, "I wanted to escape from what was happening at that time – to literally fly away." We have all certainly experienced such feelings.

Bringing gravitas to the work, 'The Man', portrayed by Camilo Ramos, is a reflection of moments that live eternally in his heart. He is also portrayed by three Pre-Professional Program dancers, at different stages of his journey.

I wish to thank Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra for their beautiful live performance and Brendan Joyce and Nigel Gaynor for their assistance.



Natalie Weir

Resident Choreographer at
Queensland Ballet



Thanks to Kathryn Lee for her gorgeous costume design, she brings the work visually to life. Thanks also to lighting designer Glenn Hughes for his stunning design.

Claire Phipps-Males and Camilo Ramos have been fantastic as my rehearsal assistants, they bring an experienced eye and contribute so much to the process.

Thanks to Camilo once again for being guest artist. He is both a generous collaborator and extremely charismatic performer.

The Pre-Professional Program dancers have been fearless, brave and creative, a credit to their training at the Academy. I feel there are a number budding choreographers in the mix.

Finally thank you to William Robinson for allowing us to explore his work. What an absolute privilege.

"I don't paint for any particular time — I just painted for the life we were passing through." William Robinson AO



Our Dancers

Pre-Professional Program

Asher Flynn-Kann
Brooke Tarry
Eli Southurst
James Willis
Jazmin Townsend
Jeannie Mok
Jessica McAll
Lucia Minju Song
Mia Paske
Moeki Kojima
Rubi Hawkins
Ruby Day*
Saya Hibino
Telia Townsend
Yasmin Ibrahim
Zara Ibrahim

Level 1 Classical

Arran O'Sullivan
Charlotte Falting
Emmanuel O'Kane
Eusebio Kamide
Juliana Prieto
Kyra Martynov
Leah Chapman
Madeline Hitchen
Matthew Erlandson
Maya Irimichi
Mimi Bostock
Monet Hilliard
Nicole Drynan
Sienna Baensch

Sophie Kathage
Wil Hellstedt
Xavier Xue

Contemporary Course

Callum Paterson
Isabella Magnus
Sophie Hewett
Ava Smith
Kiara Lindsay
Lili Barr

Level 2

Avril Thompson
Beatrice Doe
Charlotte D'Allura
Elijah-Jade Bowen
Erin Theone King
Lucy Hu
Matilda Guerin
Olivia Canny
Risa Kimura
Zi Sione

Level 3

Abby Grieve
Addison Englebrecht
Ari Stewart
Darcy Duane
David Windeyer
Esther Smith
Giselle Ellis
Isla Smith
Josh Durand

Lila Wilton
Moses Waters
Noah Aitken
Olivia Nason
Saebra Gallacher
Samantha O'Dowd
Sayuri Xian
Sophie Sharp
Sophie Wenxin Ter
Yuna Song

Level 4

Aven Burgess
Barbara Ilinova
Billi Stewart
Caitlin Buckle
Chloe Sharp
Daisy Aitken
Emelia Weise
Emma Kim
Georgia-Rose Shapiro
Hannah Mok
Harper Wood
Inka Kenzler
Jude Males
Kai Burrows
Kara O'Malley
Lowanna McNicol
Paton Still
Peregrine Taylor

Level 5

Chloe Beck
Ellyse Stanford
Grace Mattner
Lailah Martin
Milan Arai
Olivia Davison
Ruby Dahl

Level 6

Adalmiina Wade
Chanelle Krumins
Charlie Small
Escher Kenzler
Genevieve Schofield
Lily Hotchin
Lucy Sadler
Milla Cuthbert
Olivia Vieira
Patrick Martin
Sarah Oh
Sylvie Martin
Victoria Vangnaitam

Guest Artist

Camilo Ramos

*Queensland Ballet
Company Artist as of
November 2024

Live Music Partner

Camerata – Queensland's Chamber Orchestra is a two-time Helpmann Award nominated ensemble and was recently awarded the APRA AMCOS Award (2024) for Championing Australian Music. Camerata has established itself as a chamber orchestra of national significance, and is known for its innovative and adventurous programming, thriving on collaborations with artists across a range of artforms.



CAMERATA

QUEENSLAND'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Founder

Elizabeth Morgan AM

Chair

Dr Pamela Greet

Artistic Director

Brendan Joyce

Interim Executive Director

Angela Loh

Managing Producer

Tammy Weller

Producer

Sonia Keenan

Production Coordinator

Andrew Meadows

Marketing & Development Manager

Jacquiline Fraser

Marketing Coordinator

Debopam Talukdar

Violin

Jason Tong

Claire Litwinowicz *

Viola

Gregory McNamara

Cello

Alison Smith-O'Connell

Double Bass

Deakin Darby *

Clarinet

Rianne Wilschut

Piano

Roger Cui

*Member of Camerata's
2024 Upbeat Program



Image courtesy of Camerata.

Staff and Production Credits

EXECUTIVE

Executive Director

Dilshani Weerasinghe

Acting Artistic Director

Greg Horsman

ACADEMY ARTISTIC TEAM

Director of Queensland Ballet

Academy

Christian Tatchev

Academy Ballet Master

& Resident Choreographer

Paul Boyd

Head of Lower School

Veronika Sheremetieva

Head of Contemporary Dance

& Resident Choreographer

Louise Deleur

Pre-Professional Program

Coordinators

Camilo Ramos

Claire Phipps-Males

Guest Academy Program

Coordinator

Guy Wheatstone

Foundation Program

Coordinator

Kym Stokes

Academy Teachers

John Sandurski

Lisa Edwards

Tabitha Buttsworth

Associate Teachers

Amelia Waller

Clare Morehen

Grant Aris

Paige Ristevski

Academy Pianists

Benjamin Drozdovskii

Brett Sturdy

Catherine Yu

Gary Dionysius

Mark Leung

Michelle Kim

Sunny Na

ACADEMY BUSINESS TEAM

Head of Academy Operations

Gabrielle Johnston

Academy Manager

Kali Harris

Wellbeing Manager

Nicola Pierrepont

Enrolments & Pathways

Specialist

Taylor Andrews

Academy Coordinator

Jane Wilkinson

Academy Receptionist

Hannah Carden

Facilities Officers

Riley van der Werf

Stephen Grenfell

PERFORMANCE HEALTH TEAM

Academy Physiotherapists

Michelle Istria

Olivia Quinn

Academy Strength Coach

Tony Lewis

Pilates Instructor

Catherine Neal

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director of Production Services

Shaun O'Rourke

Head of Production

Don Mackenzie

Lighting Designer

Glenn Hughes

Lighting Desk Operator

Riley Silk

Stage Manager

Bella Wilkinson

Assistant Stage Manager

Hayley Woodward

Production Mechanist

Sam Gehrke

Gabriel Richter

Head of Costume

Lauryn Jackson

Academy Costume Manager /

Associate Designer

Kathryn Lee

Costume Workroom Manager

Kathi Lionheart

Costumier / Milliner &

Costume Administration

Assistant

Vicki Martin

Costumiers

Karen Blinco

Michelle Potts

Yasmin Rich

Chiahui Tseng

Costumie Assistant

Lieze Mulder

Theatre Dresser & Maintenance

Lieze Mulder

Yasmin Rich

Chiahui Tseng

Shoe Coordinator

Amanda Newman

Art Finisher

Elsbeth Cameron

To view our full staff list, please visit
[queenslandballet.com.au/discover/
company/staff](https://queenslandballet.com.au/discover/company/staff)

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

HOME OF Queensland Ballet


On Yuggera and Turrbal Country


From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination, cultural precinct, and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, dance studios, and will soon unfold a beautiful café, and restaurant. With health and wellbeing at its heart, the Thomas Dixon Centre has become the first arts precinct in the world to achieve the International WELL Building Certificate.

The revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an incredible story of passion, tenacity, and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, refurbished its heritage home, not only to house its own artists and arts workers for years to come, but to create a vibrant space for its neighbours, sector and wider community.

The Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary space, where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and connections between artists and audiences are forged.

Discover more about the Thomas Dixon Centre at thomasdixoncentre.com.au and see stories unfold.

 @thomasdixoncentre

 Thomas Dixon Centre

We are welcoming and accepting of people from diverse backgrounds and identities, and strive to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all.

Our Supporters

Queensland Ballet Academy gratefully acknowledges Philip Bacon AO for his generous support of this unique artistic collaboration. Our thanks also to Camerata - Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, for enriching this stunning performance season with live music.

Queensland Ballet Academy is generously supported by the Frazer Family Foundation, Ian & Cass George and Mr Trevor St Baker AO & Mrs Judith St Baker. In addition, our grateful thanks go to every supporter who has donated to Queensland Ballet and Queensland Ballet Academy. Your support assists us to make the greatest impact in our community.

Scholarships, awards and bursaries

Ergon Energy & Energex Scholarship

Queensland Department of Education

ADFAS Brisbane

Paulette Carson Trust, managed by Perpetual Trustees

Ruth Lane Memorial Bursary

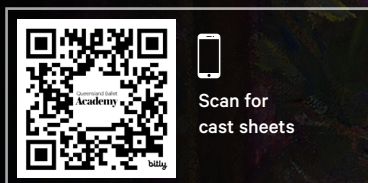
Prof Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE KSS KM

Glen Holland

Allison Baden-Clay Scholarship

If you would like to know more about supporting Queensland Ballet Academy, please call the Queensland Ballet Philanthropy team on 07 3013 6660, email give@queenslandballet.com.au or visit queenslandballet.com.au/support



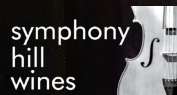


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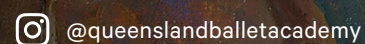
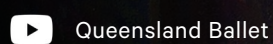
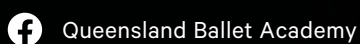


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