

Queensland
Ballet

Queensland Ballet
at Home

21 - 24 FEBRUARY 2024

11 - 13 MARCH 2024

TALBOT THEATRE

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE



From the Artistic Director

I am delighted to experience my first Queensland Ballet season as Artistic Director here at the Company's magnificent Brisbane home, the Thomas Dixon Centre.

Queensland Ballet has an incredible history of statewide touring dating back to the 1960s, and this production will tour throughout February and March, visiting vibrant towns around Queensland. Growing up as a young dancer in Rockhampton, I know intimately the value of bringing the arts to the regions. I warmly welcome the opportunity to continue this tradition.

This year's program is a treasure trove of excerpts from local and international productions spanning continents and centuries, selected by former Artistic Director Li Cunxin AO. The evocative *Three Preludes* choreographed by Ben Stevenson OBE is a love story of two dancers that has been performed far and wide featuring music by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Marius Petipa's *Le Corsaire pas de deux* is one of the most famous excerpts in ballet history, inspired by Lord Byron's 1814 poem, *The Corsair*. We are thrilled to share with you the beautiful and memorable *A Rhapsody in Motion* choreographed by renowned Australian choreographer and Queensland Ballet's own talented Assistant Artistic Director, Greg Horsman. And, premiering last year at NOOSA alive! festival,

Matthew Lawrence's *Tchaikovsky Mash* is an enchanting mix of tutus and Tchaikovsky music from classical ballets including *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Thank you to the choreographers and creative teams behind these stunning works.

It takes a talented group of people to present a ballet, and my gratitude goes to the entire Queensland Ballet team for bringing this one to life. A heartfelt thank you must also go to the organisations and individuals who support Queensland Ballet and enable us to share our art form, including the State and Federal Governments, our Partners, and our family of generous donors.

On a personal note, I look forward to sharing these ballets and many more with you as I embark on my journey as Artistic Director. I am so thrilled to have been given this opportunity to work with the incredible team and dancers of Queensland Ballet.



Leanne Benjamin

Leanne Benjamin OBE AM
Artistic Director

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

HOME OF Queensland Ballet

On Yuggera and Turrbal Country

From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot and shoe factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination and cultural precinct, abundant with stories and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, community dance studios, and will soon unfold beautiful green spaces, a café, and bars. The Thomas Dixon Centre is aiming to be the first performing arts organisation in the world to achieve Platinum WELL™ accreditation, with health and wellbeing at its heart.

The Talbot Theatre at the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary new performance space, where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and connections between artists and audiences are forged.

The recent revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary story of passion, tenacity and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, chose to refurbish 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.

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



Thomas Dixon Centre



@thomasdixoncentre

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations 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.

The Program

Three Preludes

Choreographer Ben Stevenson OBE

Music Sergei Rachmaninoff Op.32 No.10, Op.23 No.1, Op.32 No.9

Lighting Designer Cameron Goerg

Music recording by Pianist – Vladimir Ashkenazy

The evocative *Three Preludes*, choreographed by Ben Stevenson OBE, is a tale of two dancers falling in love. Comprising only a ballet barre, piano music, and the duo, this sweeping and romantic story is exemplified by compelling choreography and graceful, synchronised movement to sublime music by Sergei Rachmaninoff.



Tchaikovsky Mash

Choreographer Matthew Lawrence

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Lighting Designer Cameron Goerg

Music recording by L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, conducted by Charles Dutoit, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Nicolae Moldoveanu, and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Patrick Flynn

Tchaikovsky Mash evokes the Classical era of dance in a compilation of short works featuring the music from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. The piece is a collage of influences and a mix of his renowned music; familiar, and yet, perhaps not.

Interval

Le Corsaire Pas de Deux

Choreographer Marius Petipa

Music Riccardo Drigo 1846 - 1930 (arr. John Lanchbery) Pas de deux and Variations

Costume Designer Zoe Griffiths

Lighting Designer Cameron Goerg

Music recording by Orchestra of the London Festival Ballet, conducted by Terence Kern

Marius Petipa's *Le Corsaire* pas de deux is one of the most famed excerpts in ballet history. Transporting audiences to a world of swash-buckling pirates and exotic landscapes, the elegant excerpt requires technical brilliance and precise partnering. Premiering in Paris in 1856, the full-length ballet was inspired by the 1814 poem *The Corsair* by Lord Byron.

A Rhapsody in Motion

2nd and 3rd Movement

Choreographer Greg Horsman

Music Sergie Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Op.43

Costume Designer Zoe Griffiths

Lighting Designer Cameron Goerg

Music recording by Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Pianist – Daniil Trifinov

Greg Horsman's beautiful *A Rhapsody in Motion* premiered in 2022 to audience and critical acclaim and explores the fascinating relationship between the dancer and the captivating music of Rachmaninoff.

Production performed to recorded music.

The performance duration is approximately one hour and 30 minutes including one 20-minute interval.

1. Principal Artist Alexander Idaszak and Senior Soloist Chiara Gonzalez performing in *Three Preludes* in 2023.

2. Principal Artist Patricio Revé and Soloist Laura Tosar performing in *A Rhapsody in Motion* in 2022.

Photography David Kelly.

Queensland Ballet

Queensland Ballet was founded in 1960 by Charles Lisner OBE.

PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable
Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM,
Governor of Queensland

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DANCERS

Principal Artists

Lucy Green, Alexander Idaszak, Yanela Piñera,

Patricio Revé, Joel Woellner and

Neneka Yoshida

Senior Soloists

Chiara Gonzalez and Kohei Iwamoto

Soloists

Vito Bernasconi, Lina Kim, Georgia Swan

and Laura Tosar

First Company Artists

D'Arcy Brazier, Liam Geck, Vanessa Morelli,

Libby-Rose Niederer, David Power,

Ivan Surodeev, Rian Thompson and

Sophie Zoricic

Company Artists

Luca Armstrong, Mali Comlekci, Shaun Curtis,

Luke DiMattina, Lewis Formby, Clayton Forsyth,

Heidi Freeman, Renee Freeman,

Ines Hargreaves, Kaho Kato,

Bronte Kielly-Coleman, Dylan Lackey,

Callum Mackie, Edison Manuel, Briana McAllen,

Amber Mitchell-Knight, Frederick Montgomery,

Joshua Ostermann, Alisa Pukkinen,

Brooke Ray, Paige Rochester, Leisel Rose,

Jessica Stratton-Smith, Isabella Swietlicki,

Ari Thompson, Kayla Van Den Bogert and

Eliza Wenham

Jette Parker Young Artists

Ashlee Basford, Joshua Douglas, Taron Geyl,

Milana Gould, Jack Jones, Gina Lee,

Seth Marshall, Annabelle McCoy, Joseph Moss,

Ethan Mrmacovski, Alyssa Park and Corina Poh

ARTISTIC STAFF

Ballet Mistresses

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Jillian Vanstone

Ballet Master

Matthew Lawrence

Company Pianist

Roger Cui

ARTISTIC OPERATIONS

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Craig Cathcart

Acting Company Manager

Darcy Boyd

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Stage Manager

Nicole Alexander

Manager of Lighting

Matthew Allan

Lighting Coordinator

Riley Silk

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Lauryn Jackson

Costume Performance Manager

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Principal Cutters

Saffron Firkins

Anna Ilic

Erin Krosch

Costumier / Milliner &

Costume Administration Assistant

Vicki Martin

Costumiers

Bethany Cordwell

Ana Draca Hilan

Isabelle Lacombe

Ella Lollback

Michelle Potts

Ai Shaw

Costume Theatre Supervisor

Bethany Cordwell

Shoe Coordinator

Amanda Newman

Art Finisher

Elsbeth Cameron

PERFORMANCE HEALTH TEAM

Head of Performance Health

Michelle White

Company Physiotherapist

Renee Meffan

Pilates Instructor

Catherine Neal

Strength Coach

Tony Lewis

Massage Therapist

Pedro Alcobio

To view our full staff list, please visit
queenslandballet.com.au/discover/company/staff

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 queenslandballet.com.au for updates.

