

# DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM

APR 20–21

Virginia Johnson, *artistic director*



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Dance Theatre of Harlem at The Broad Stage made possible in part by a generous gift from Linda & Michael Keston.

There will be two 15-minute intermissions.

Arthur Mitchell, *founder*  
Karel Shook, *founder*  
Virginia Johnson, *artistic director*  
Anna Glass, *executive director*  
Keith Saunders, *ballet master*  
Kellye A. Saunders, *ballet master*  
Melinda Bloom, *interim general manager*

**DANCE ARTISTS**

Lindsey Croop, Yinet Fernandez, Alicia Mae Holloway, Crystal Serrano, Ingrid Silva, Amanda Smith, Alison Stroming, Stephanie Rae Williams, Donald Nguyen Davison, Da'Von Doane, Choong Hoon Lee, Christopher McDaniel, Nicholas Rose, Anthony Santos, Dylan Santos, Jorge Andrés Villarini

Arthur Mitchell, artistic director *emeritus*



**Council on  
the Arts**



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## PROGRAM

### **BRAHMS VARIATIONS**

World Premiere, Virginia Arts Festival, May 14, 2016

Choreography: Robert Garland

Music: Johannes Brahms

Costume Design and Execution: Pamela Allen-Cummings

Lighting: Roma Flowers

Dancers: Crystal Serrano, Da'von Doane,

Alicia Mae Holloway, Yinet Fernandez, Amanda Smith, Ingrid Silva, Nicholas Rose,

Christopher McDaniel, Donald Nguyen Davison, Dylan Santos

The inspiration for the ballet is Louis XIV, French Patron of the Arts, and Grandfather of the ballet canon. Arthur Mitchell was a big persona in my life, a Harlem version of the French Monarch. So, the ballet is, in part, Louis the XIV's court meeting Harlem Swag.

*The ballet is dedicated to former DTH Ballerina and Norfolk Native Lorraine Graves, and Fabian Barnes, our good friend and colleague...rest in peace brother*

*Brahms Variations made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*

Intermission

### **DANCING ON THE FRONT PORCH OF HEAVEN**

#### **Odes to Love and Loss**

(World Premiere 1993, DTH Premiere: October 4, 2013)

Choreography: Ulysses Dove; The Estate of Ulysses Dove: Alfred Dove Administrator

Music: Arvo Pärt (Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten, 1977)

Staging: Anne Dabrowski

Costume Design: Jorge Gallardo

Lighting Design: Björn Nilsson; Recreated by Peter D. Leonard

Dancers: Lindsey Croop, Alison Stroming, Alicia Mae Holloway, Nicholas Rose, Jorge

Andrés Villarini, Anthony Santos

Subtitled "Odes to Love and Loss," *Dancing on the Front Porch of Heaven* was choreographed for the Royal Swedish Ballet in 1993 during a challenging period in Ulysses Dove's life. Having lost 13 close friends and relatives, among them his father, Dove himself explained, "I want to tell an experience in movement, a story without words, and create a poetic monument over people I loved." Set to Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's *Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten*, Dove's spare but demanding choreography invites dancer and viewer alike to live in each moment as if it were the last.

Intermission

## **VESSELS**

(World Premiere October 17, 2014)

Choreography: Darrell Grand Moultrie

Music: Ezio Bosso

Costume Design and Execution: George Hudačko

Lighting Design: Clifton Taylor

### ***Light***

Dancers: Crystal Serrano, Alison Stroming, Ingrid Silva, Stephanie Rae Williams, Amanda Smith, Jorge Andrés Villarin, Choong Hoon Lee, Anthony Santos, Donald Nguyen Davison, Dylan Santos

### ***Belief***

Dancers: Alison Stroming, Ingrid Silva, Stephanie Rae Williams, Amanda Smith

### ***Love***

Dancers: Crystal Serrano, Jorge Andrés Villarini

### ***Abundance***

The Company

The entire journey is cyclic.

Let us all be infused with something beautiful that can be transferred to others.

*This commission is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.*

## **ABOUT DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM**

Forty-eight years ago, Arthur Mitchell and his mentor, Karel Shook, founded Dance Theatre of Harlem as a beacon of hope for the youth in the underprivileged neighborhood where Mitchell grew up. An acclaimed principal dancer with George Balanchine's New York City Ballet, Mitchell took the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a call to action. Drawing on his expertise and his prominence as the first African American to be a member of a major U.S. ballet company, Mitchell's ground-breaking idea was to transform the lives of young people in Harlem by providing training in classical ballet. In a few short years, his response to tragedy

became a leading dance institution comprised of a touring company, training school and arts education program of unparalleled global acclaim. Now a singular presence in the ballet world, the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company tours nationally and internationally, presenting a powerful vision for ballet in the 21st century. The 16-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that includes classical and neoclassical works as well as innovative and bold new forms of artistic expression commissioned to connect to contemporary audiences.

## THE DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM COMPANY



### LINDSEY CROOP

Born: Midland, TX.  
Training: A Petite Dance Studio, Midland Festival Ballet under Susan Clark. Education: cum laude graduate

of Butler University, degree in Dance Arts Administration and Journalism. Professional Experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (sixth year), Nashville Ballet (trainee). Repertoire: works by Robert Garland, Nacho Duato, Ulysses Dove, George Balanchine, Donald Byrd, Elena Kunikova and Dianne McIntyre.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



### DONALD NGUYEN DAVISON

Born: Loma Linda, CA,  
Training: San Francisco Ballet School, Ballet Austin. Professional Experience:

Dance Theatre of Harlem (first season), Anaheim Ballet, San Diego Ballet, California Ballet, Festival Ballet Theatre. Repertoire: The Nutcracker, Romeo & Juliet, Graduation Ball.

*Photo by Rachel Neville*



### DA'VON DOANE

Born: Salisbury, MD.  
Training: Salisbury Studio of Dance (now Salisbury Dance Academy), Betty Webster, Tatiana Akinfiyeva-Smith, and Elena

Manakhova, Atlantic Contemporary Ballet Theatre. Early dance experience: Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre, Kirov Academy of Ballet, and Atlantic Contemporary Ballet

Theatre. Named 2014 *Dance Magazines* one of "25 to Watch". Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (sixth year), Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, Claudia Schreier & Company, Ballet Noir and Classical Contemporary Ballet Theater. Repertoire: works by George Balanchine, Christopher Huggins, Arthur Mitchell, Billy Wilson and Donald Byrd.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



### YINET FERNANDEZ

Born: Mariano' La Habana, Cuba. Training: Provincial School of the Arts, National School of Ballet, Ballet Nacional de Cuba. Professional experience:

Dance Theatre of Harlem (first year), Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Connecticut Ballet. Repertoire: *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Coppelia*, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Don Quixote*.

*Photo by Rachel Neville*



### ALICIA MAE HOLLOWAY

Born: Morgantown, WV. Training: Kate and Company Studio, Morgantown Dance Studio with Desiree Witt, Lauren Stone, Marilyn Pipes,

Eunice Kim, and Robert Steele, and School of American Ballet with Suki Schorer, Suzy Pilarre, Darci Kistler, Kay Mazzo, and Jock Soto. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (third year) and Suzanne Farrell Ballet (apprentice) Repertoire: works by Robert Garland, Elena Kunikova, and Nacho Duato

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**CHOONG HOON LEE**

Born: Seoul, South Korea. Training: Korean National University of Arts and School of American Ballet. Early experience: semi-finalist, Varna International

Ballet Competition, Gwanju International Competition (gold medal in Pas de Deux). Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (third year), Mariinsky Ballet, Korean National Ballet, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and New York Theatre Ballet. Repertoire: works by Robert Garland and Ulysses Dove, and soloist roles in *Othello*, *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella*, *Spartacus*, *Paquita*, *Le Corsaire*, and *Giselle*.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**CHRISTOPHER MCDANIEL**

Born: East Harlem, NY. Training: Dance Theatre of Harlem School, LaGuardia School of Performing Arts, Ballet Academy East, Boston Ballet, Jacob's

Pillow. Professional Experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (1st season), Ballet San Antonio, Los Angeles Ballet.

*Photo by Rachel Neville*



**NICHOLAS ROSE**

Born: West Palm Beach Florida. Training: The Harid Conservatory, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Colburn Dance Academy. Professional Experience:

Dance Theatre of Harlem (second year) Verb Ballets. Repertoire: works by George Balanchine and Marius Petipa.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**ANTHONY SANTOS**

Born: New York, NY. Training: Alvin Ailey School, North Carolina School of the Arts. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (first

year), Zest Collective, and Caitlin Trainor Dance. Repertoire: works by Darrell Grand Moultrie, Robert Garland and Nacho Duato.

*Photo by Rachel Neville*



**DYLAN SANTOS**

Born: São Paulo, Brazil. Training: Centro de Artes Pavilhao D under Ricardo Scheir and Harid Conservatory. Professional experience: Dance Theatre

of Harlem (fourth year), Houston Ballet trainee, Orlando Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Chicago, and Paris Opera Ballet. Repertoire: works by George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Robert Garland, and Ulysses Dove, and Marius Petipa.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**CRYSTAL SERRANO**

Born: Denver, CO. Training: Pacific Northwest Ballet, School of American Ballet, Olympic Ballet Theatre. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem

(first year), Ballet San Antonio, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Sacramento Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet. Repertoire: Works by *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker*, *Peter Pan*, *Firebird*, *Donizetti Variations*, *Cinderella*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Allegro Brillante*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Cinderella*, *Serenade*, and *Swan Lake*.

*Photo by Rachel Neville*



**INGRID SILVA**

Born: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Training: Projeto Dan-cando Para Nao Dançar, Escola de Danca Maria Olenewa, and Centro de Movimento Debora

Colker. Education: Universidade da Cidade. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (sixth year), Grupo Corpo (apprentice), Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, Dancado Para Nao Dançar, Armitage Gone! Dance, and the Francesca Harper Project. Repertoire: works by Arthur Mitchell, Donald Byrd, George Balanchine, John Alleyne, Darrel Grand Moultrie, Francesca Harper, Robert Garland, David Fernandez, Carol Armitage, Deborah Colker, Rodrigo Pederneiras, and many others.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**AMANDA SMITH**

Born: Orange County, CA. Training: Charlotte Ballet, SUNY Purchase, Joffrey Ballet School, Anaheim Ballet, Pointe of Grace, Ballet Pacifica.

Professional Experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (first year), Charlotte Ballet, New York Theatre Ballet, Black Iris Project. Repertoire: works by George Balanchine, Mark Diamond, Sasha James, Dwight Rhoden, Alonzo King, Jiri Killian, and Helen Pickett.

*Photo by Rachel Neville*



**ALISON STROMING**

Born: Recife, Brazil. Training: School of American Ballet and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre,

Junior Division. Early experience: children’s roles with New York City Ballet, 2010 New York Miss Outstanding Teen, and Dizzy Feet Foundation Award 2010. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (forth year), Alberta Ballet, and Ballet San Jose. Special Awards: National Capezio Athlete. Repertoire: works by George Balanchine, Donald Byrd, Darrel Grand Moultrie, Ulysses Dove, Robert Garland, Dwight Rhoden, Twyla Tharp, and Ohad Naharin.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**JORGE ANDRES VILLARINI**

Born: San Juan, Puerto Rico. Training: Escuela de Baile Andanza in Puerto Rico and the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School at American Ballet Theatre.

Education: Marymount Manhattan College (B.F.A.). Professional Experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (forth year), Ballet Met, and Martha Graham Dance Company. Special Awards: Greater Columbus Arts Council Columbus Dances Choreographic Fellowship. Repertoire: works by Alvin Ailey, George Balanchine, John Butler, Nacho Duato, Frederick Franklin, Martha Graham, Alwin Nikolais, Amedeo Amodio, James Kudelka, Edward Liang, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Rodney Rivera, Christopher Wheeldon, and Shen Wei.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**STEPHANIE RAE WILLIAMS**

Born: Salt Lake City, Utah.  
Training: Dallas Dance Academy with Lyndette Galen and Fiona Fairrie, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Springboard

Danse Montreal, The Juilliard School, Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet, and Houston Ballet Academy. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (sixth year), Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble, The Francesca Harper Project, Complexions Contemporary Dance Company, Ballet Black, and Texas Ballet Theatre. Special Awards: August 2013 *Dance Magazine* “On the Rise,” 2006 National Foundation for the Arts Award, 2006 Youth America Grand Prix finalist, and 2004 Texas Commission on the Arts Young Master. Repertoire: works by Arthur Mitchell, Donald Byrd, George Balanchine, John Alleyne, Darrel Grand Moultrie, Francesca Harper, Robert Garland, and David Fernandez.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**VIRGINIA JOHNSON,  
artistic director**

A founding member of Dance Theatre of Harlem, Virginia Johnson was one of its principal ballerinas over a career that spanned

nearly 30 years. After retiring in 1997, Ms. Johnson went on to found *Pointe Magazine* and was editor-in chief for 10 years.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Johnson began her training with Therrell Smith. She studied with Mary Day at the Washington School of Ballet and graduated from the Academy of the Washington School of Ballet and went on to be a University

Scholar in the School of the Arts at New York University before joining Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Virginia Johnson is universally recognized as one of the great ballerinas of her generation and is perhaps best known for her performances in the ballets *Giselle*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Fall River Legend*. She has received such honors as a Young Achiever Award from the National Council of Women, Outstanding Young Woman of America and the Dance Magazine Award, a Pen and Brush Achievement Award, the Washington Performing Arts Society’s 2008-2009 Pola Nirenska Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2009 Martha Hill Fund Mid-Career Award.

*Photo by François Rousseau*

**ARTHUR MITCHELL,**



**co-founder, artistic director emeritus**

Arthur Mitchell is known around the world for creating and sustaining the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the internationally

acclaimed ballet company he co-founded with Karel Shook in 1969. Following a brilliant career as a principal artist with the New York City Ballet, Mr. Mitchell dedicated his life to changing perceptions and advancing the art form of ballet through the first permanently established African American and racially diverse ballet company.

Born in New York City in 1934, Mr. Mitchell began his dance training at New York City’s High School of the Performing Arts, where he won the coveted annual dance award and subsequently a full scholarship to the School of American



Ballet. In 1955, he became the first male African American to become a permanent member of a major ballet company when he joined New York City Ballet. Mr. Mitchell rose quickly to the rank of Principal Dancer during his 15-year career with New York City Ballet and electrified audiences with his performances in a broad spectrum of roles. Upon learning of the death of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and with financial assistance from Mrs. Alva B. Gimbel, the Ford Foundation and his own savings, Mr. Mitchell founded Dance Theatre of Harlem with his mentor and ballet instructor Karel Shook.

With an illustrious career that has spanned over 50 years, Mr. Mitchell is the recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors, a National Medal of the Arts, a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the New York Living Landmark Award, the Handel Medallion, the NAACP Image Award and more than a dozen honorary degrees.

### **KEITH SAUNDERS,**

#### ***ballet master***

Keith Saunders, a native of Baltimore, MD, began dancing in 1971 while a student at Harvard University. He began his ballet training in 1973 at

the National Center for Afro-American Artists in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Mr. Saunders joined Dance Theatre of Harlem in 1975 and continued his development under the tutelage of Arthur Mitchell, Karel Shook and William Griffith. He became a principal dancer with DTH and performed a wide range of roles throughout the company's repertoire for more than 17 years. He also danced

with France's Ballet du Nord (1986) and BalletMet of Columbus, Ohio (1987-1989).

As a guest artist, Mr. Saunders appeared with Boston Repertory Ballet, Maryland Ballet, Eglevsky Ballet, Ballethnic Dance Company and the David Parsons Company, among others. He has been a faculty member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem School, the BalletMet Dance Academy, the New Ballet School (Ballet Tech), Steps NYC and the 92nd Street Y. In 2003, Mr. Saunders was Guest Artist-in-Residence in the Dance Department at the University of Wyoming. He has taught and choreographed at their Snowy Range Dance Festival eight times.

Keith Saunders was appointed Dance Theatre of Harlem's assistant ballet master in 1994 and ballet master in 1996. From 2004 - 2010, Mr. Saunders was director of Dancing Through Barriers®, Dance Theatre of Harlem's international education and outreach initiative, in addition to directing the DTH Ensemble. In 2017, Saunders earned a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Dance from Hollins University of Roanoke, VA.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



### **KELLYE A. SAUNDERS,**

#### ***ballet master***

Ms. Saunders began her dance training at the Jones-Haywood School of Ballet in Washington, DC. She continued her dance education with Rosella Hightower at Le Centre de Danse International in Cannes, France, under the tutelage of Rosella Hightower, before joining DTH. Ms. Saunders spent most of her career with the Dance Theatre of Harlem where she was a principal dancer. Some of Ms.

Saunders' featured roles include *Firebird*, *Giselle*, *A Song for Dead Warriors*, *Apollo*, *Serenade*, *Adrian* (Angel on Earth), *The Four Temperaments*, *The Moor's Pavane*, *Allegro Brillante* and *Fancy Free*. Ms. Saunders has also appeared in the Broadway productions of *The Red Shoes* and *Porgy and Bess* and as a guest artist dancing the role of *The Striptease Girl* in *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue* in a collaborative project with The New York City Ballet. After leaving DTH, Ms. Saunders joined Ballet NY and Collage Dance Collective as a principal dancer. Some of her other guest appearances include performances with Washington Ballet, Maryland Ballet, Ballethnic Dance Company, Gala of International Ballet Stars, Configurations Dance Company, The Flint Institute of Music, Complexions Contemporary Dance and The Metropolitan Opera. Ms. Saunders has had extensive experience teaching and coaching dancers at both academic and professional levels. From 2010-2013, Ms. Saunders served as the project coordinator for the Dance Theatre of Harlem's Harlem Dance Works 2.0 Series. Harlem Dance Works 2.0 was a series of choreographic workshops whose purpose was to produce new repertoire for the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company. She is currently a Ballet Master of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**ROBERT GARLAND,**  
**resident choreographer**  
"[Gloria], Robert Garland's 2012 ballet celebrating Dance Theater of Harlem's rebirth is a transcendent work that relies as much on

imagination as steps." – *The New York Times*

Robert Garland was a member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company achieving the rank of principal dancer. After creating a work for the DTH School Ensemble, Arthur Mitchell invited Robert Garland to create a work for The Dance Theatre of Harlem Company and appointed him the organization's first Resident Choreographer. He is also Director of the Professional Training Program of the DTH school, and the organization's webmaster.

In addition to choreographing several ballets for DTH, Mr. Garland has also created works for New York City Ballet, Britain's Royal Ballet, Oakland Ballet and many others. His commercial work has included music videos, commercials and short films, including the children's television show *Sesame Street*, a Nike commercial featuring New York Yankee Derek Jeter, the NAACP Image Awards, a short film for designer Donna Karan and the "Charmin Cha-Cha" for Proctor and Gamble. Mr. Garland holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Juilliard School in New York City.

*Photo by François Rousseau*



**ANNA GLASS,**  
**executive director**

Anna has been involved in the performing arts as both an artist and arts administrator for over 20 years. She recently

produced Carmen de Lavallade's newest solo show, *As I Remember It*, an intimate portrait of this legendary artist. Anna previously served as the Managing Director of 651 ARTS, a presenting/producing arts organization dedicated to celebrating contemporary performing arts

of the African Diaspora. While at 651 ARTS, she co-produced numerous projects, including the highly regarded national tour of *FLY: Five First Ladies of Dance*.

Anna has served as a consultant providing strategic planning and fundraising guidance to various non-profit arts organizations, including Urban Bush Women and the Weeksville Heritage Center. She currently serves on the board of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. She has served as a Hub Site for the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project grant program. After receiving her Juris Doctor from the University of Dayton School of Law, Anna became the Artist Representative for the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, a company she performed with for three years (DCDC2). She is a licensed attorney in the State of New York and lives in Harlem with her husband and daughter.

**Dance Theatre of Harlem, Inc.**

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Ballet Master  
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