

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Dancers Wanted for Contemporary Ballet

Company: Arts Westchester/Dan Blake (composer/artist)
Compensation: \$200 plus reasonable expenses

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Got My Wings
A ballet triptych by Daniel Blake (composer) and Todd Hall (choreographer)


"Got My Wings" is a ballet triptych for 6-8 dancers, a collaboration between composer/saxophonist Daniel Blake (KBAL member, music coordinator for Mt. Kisco Arts Council) and choreographer/educator Todd Hall. The work's title pays homage to Jarvis Jay Masters, an incarcerated Buddhist practitioner and author whose life and writings demonstrate the restorative potential of the human spirit. The music and choreography will take the metaphor of flight revealed in Jarvis' writings as a wish for freedom that is at once corporeal and profoundly spiritual.

Musically, "Got Wings" will portray the theme of "flight" through a post-minimalist texture of layered woodwinds and synthesizers, as well as the more literal flight that is so central to the ballet form. Flight as a symbol of freedom takes on a more nuanced dimension in the choreography, where a body's freedom becomes discernible not only through a dancer's ability to jump, but also through other gestures such as the movement of arms, facial expressions, and the more subtle interplay between individual dancers inhabiting the performance space.


"Got Wings" began in a [parking lot in Newtown, CT](#) during the Covid-19 lockdowns and is a work in progress. The work has garnered the support of Arts Westchester for a late fall performance, and the creators are looking for experienced students or early career professional dancers to perform in this work in progress, and would be able to offer a small stipend for participation in the project.

Please view a sample of this work at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFq9p9z0x64&t=7s>

Saxophonist and composer **Daniel Blake** has toured and recorded both with luminaries of jazz and popular music like three-time Grammy winner Esperanza Spalding, NEA Jazz Master Anthony Braxton, and Velvet Underground founding member John Cale, among many others. His long-form works for string quartet, live animation and orchestra have been supported by the Jerome Foundation, the Tri Centric Foundation, ASCAP and others.



Choreographer **Todd Hall** has studied at some of the most prestigious ballet schools in the country, including The Boston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet and The School of American Ballet. He has danced professionally with the Washington Ballet and the Boston Ballet. While in Boston, he earned a degree at Emerson College. He has taught ballet and Pils de Deux classes across the country from as far away as Alaska and up and down the east coast.



Dancers needed for new collaborative ballet work entitled "Got My Wings" (see attached description for info). Performance in January 2022 at Bethany Arts Center (Ossining, NY), with stipend support from Arts Westchester. Commitment is 4 rehearsals and performance

Arts Westchester/Dan Blake (composer/artist)

For more information:
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