



Ballet Austin Kicks Off 55th Year with the World Premiere of *The Mozart Project*

***Featuring new choreography by Stephen Mills with musical collaboration by
Graham Reynolds and LIVE performances by Dr. Michelle Schumann and DJ Spooky***

- WHO:** Ballet Austin
Choreography by Stephen Mills
Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Graham Reynolds, and DJ Spooky
Live Performances by the Austin Chamber Music Center and DJ Spooky
Set Design by Michael Raiford
- WHAT:** World Premiere of *The Mozart Project*
- WHEN:** September 30-October 2, 2011
- WHERE:** Dell Hall at the Long Center for the Performing Arts
- TICKETS:** \$15 - \$78 at www.balletaustin.org, 512.476.2163
Ballet Austin Box Office at 501 W. 3rd Street

AUSTIN, TX – August 30, 2011 – Mozart’s classics receive a contemporary facelift as Ballet Austin presents the world premiere of *The Mozart Project*, September 30-October 2, 2011, at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

Envisioned and choreographed by Ballet Austin’s Artistic Director Stephen Mills, *The Mozart Project* honors this classical genius in the traditional sense, while gradually melding his masterpieces into a contemporary exploration of sound, movement, and visual art.

“*The Mozart Project* honors Ballet Austin’s vision of bringing ‘classical innovation’ to our audiences in every way,” explains Mills. “My intention is to celebrate Mozart’s iconic traditional works while exploring how his music inspires artists and audiences today.”

The Mozart Project features three musical luminaries collaborating on two of Mozart’s most beloved works. World-renowned electronic and experimental musician and artist Paul D. Miller/DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid joins forces with Dr. Michelle Schumann (Austin Chamber Music Center) and critically acclaimed composer Graham Reynolds in a collaboration produced to transcend the imagination.

The three-movement ballet features Schumann and the artists of the Austin Chamber Music Center performing a traditional rendition of Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major* followed by an "electrified and effected" contemporary twist on the classic by Reynolds, a composition newly commissioned by Ballet Austin specifically for *The Mozart Project*. To cap off the evening, DJ Spooky remixes an entirely new, multimedia arrangement of Mozart's well-loved *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* using both audio and video technology. With guest set design by Michael Raiford, it all comes together to provide the context for Ballet Austin's renowned dancers who blend Artistic Director Stephen Mills' signature, contemporary movement style into three newly choreographed pieces.

"We set out to expand a traditional art form with collaborators who, by filtering the music through their own experience, create a contemporary point of view," Mills explains. "What's exciting about *The Mozart Project* is its use of technology to deliver a classical art form that brushes up against new media."

The world premiere of *The Mozart Project* is the second project of its kind after 2010's *Truth and Beauty/The Bach Project*, featuring the music of J.S. Bach also reinterpreted by Dr. Schumann and the Austin Chamber Music Center, and Graham Reynolds' Golden Arm Trio. Both projects emerge from the same question: How do you reinterpret iconic works of classical music and what contemporary movement exploration might it inspire?

The Mozart Project is the first production on the heels of a record-breaking 54th year for Ballet Austin, with 2010/11 named as Ballet Austin's best-selling and top attended season ever. The 10th anniversary for Artistic Director Stephen Mills saw 42,257 paid attendees and \$1,992,430 in ticket sales.

Additional Opportunities

Studio Spotlight

Thurs, Sept 22, 2011

12 – 1 pm and again at 6 – 7 pm

Join us at Ballet Austin's Austin Ventures Studio Theater where you can watch company dancers in rehearsal, learn about *The Mozart Project* and the collaborative process involved in making the work, and ask the choreographer and dancers questions about the artistic process. Cost is \$5 per guest (or free for Ballet Austin season ticket holders, donors, Academy/Butler Community School students, and production ticket holders). [Learn more about Studio Spotlight.](#)

Footlights (and Iluminación)

Arrive one hour early to the Long Center on performance nights for a look at the final preparations of the three pieces. See the last-minute workings of dancers and production crew as you learn about the history, music, and artists involved in the production. Free for ticket holders. **Now also available as a full Spanish-language program, Iluminación.** [Learn more about Footlights.](#) [Learn more about Iluminación \(en español\).](#)

Encore

Immediately following each performance, join us for an informal conversation with Ballet Austin Artistic Director Stephen Mills, musicians, and company dancers on the creative and artistic facets of the production. Free for ticket holders. [Learn more about Encore.](#)

About Ballet Austin

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, a commitment to creating access to programs and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their home at the Butler Dance Education Center in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and Artistic Director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. The New York Times proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

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