

GENEVA CONCERTS

presents



KORESH

DANCE COMPANY

Friday, September 10, 2010 • 7:30 p.m.
Smith Opera House

GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.

2010-2011 SEASON

Friday, 10 September 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Koresh Dance Company *ev•o•lu•tion*

Thursday, 7 October 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Syracuse Symphony Orchestra

Daniel Hege, conductor
Yeol Eum Son, piano (2009 Van Cliburn Silver Medalist)
Music of Glinka, Mozart, Prokofiev, and R. Strauss

Friday, 19 November 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Christopher Seaman, conductor
Olga Kern, piano (2001 Van Cliburn Gold Medalist)
Music of Rachmaninoff and Sibelius

Sunday, 6 March 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra

Martin Panteleev, conductor
Philippe Quint, violin
Music of Bernstein, Tchaikovsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov

Saturday, 9 April 2011, 7:30 p.m.

New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players *The Pirates of Penzance*

Performed at the Smith Opera House, 82 Seneca Street, Geneva, New York

These concerts are made possible, in part, with public funds
from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency,
and by a continuing subscription from Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.

Friday, September 10, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Koresh Dance Company

Tonight's program consists of a single work, performed without intermission.

ev•o•lu•tion

2009

Choreography: Ronen Koresh

Lighting Design: Robb Andersen

Costume Design: Brittany Ann Cormack

Music: Ekho, Fariborz Lachini, Pete Namlook,
Daniel Bernard Roumain, Franz Peter Schubert, Greg Smith,
John Vosebikian, Reid Willis

Dancers:

1. Full Company
2. Full Company
3. Eric Bean, Jr.
4. Micah Geyer & Melissa Rector
5. Eric Bean, Jr., Shannon Bramham, Jessica Daley, Fang-Ju Chou Gant,
Asya Zlatina
6. Joe Cotler & Alexis Viator
7. Full Company
8. Jessica Daley
9. Full Company
10. Melissa Rector
11. Shannon Bramham, Jessica Daley, Fang-Ju Chou Gant,
Alexis Viator, Asya Zlatina
12. Eric Bean, Jr., Micah Geyer, Joe Cotler, Kyle McHargh
13. Alexis Viator & Asya Zlatina
14. Shannon Bramham & Full Company

From the choreographer:

Language and art have remained essential to human nature throughout the ages. The need for human expression is as universal as the need for replenishing ourselves through procreation. Expression is fundamental to the reasons for our existence and to understand that expression in its purest form is to understand ourselves.

Please join us for Q&A with Ronen Koresh immediately following the performance at the front of the auditorium.

KORESH

DANCE COMPANY

**2020 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-751-0959
www.koreshdance.org**

MANAGEMENT

Ronen Koresh *Artistic Director and Founder*
Alon Koresh *Executive Director & Co-Founder*
Melissa Rector *Assistant Artistic Director*
Emily O'Rourke *Education & Outreach Director*
Nir Koresh *School Director*
Stephanie Gargano *Development Associate*
Robb Andersen *Lighting Director*
Alexei Charov & Natalia Charova *Ballet Masters*
Donald Byrd *Artistic Advisor*

DANCERS

Melissa Rector, Eric Bean, Jr., Shannon Bramham, Fang-Ju Chou,
Joseph Cotler, Jessica Daley, Micah Geyer, Kyle McHargh, Alexis Viator,
Asya Zlatina (*apprentice*)

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PENNSYLVANIA PERFORMING ARTS ON TOUR

This project is partially supported by a grant from Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, a program developed and funded by The Heinz Endowments; the William Penn Foundation; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and administered by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Renowned for their powerful stage presence, Philadelphia's Koresh Dance Company has been hailed as a vital force to both national and international stages. Koresh Dance Company was founded in 1991 by Israeli born choreographer and artistic director Ronen Koresh and his brother, executive director Alon Koresh. The company presents repertory which includes over 60 works by Ronen Koresh as well as work by guest choreographers including Robert Battle, Donald Byrd, and Itzik Galili. Roni is an artist who draws on his life experiences and the culture that surrounds him to create new work. From these life experiences, Roni has developed a repertory of work that ranges from explosive and passionate to intimate and restrained.

Koresh Dance Company has received local, national, and international recognition. The company has been honored to receive the *Philadelphia City Paper's* **Reader's Choice Award for Best Dance Company** for consecutive years, most recently in 2007. *Dance Magazine*, the nation's premiere dance publication, featured the company in its August 2004 issue, with an in-depth article and three full page photos. In February 2008 the company was also featured in an article about the thriving dance community in Philadelphia. Roni is a multi-year recipient of choreography fellowships from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. **The company remains on the roster of Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour** (a program developed and funded by *The Heinz Endowments; the William Penn Foundation; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and administered by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation*).

Koresh Dance Company's critically acclaimed work attracts increasing audiences across the nation and abroad, and their reputation for passion and outstanding technique results in sold-out performances. In 2007, to further support our ability to present high quality dance performances, we added an apprentice program. The company has two apprentices who train at the Koresh School of Dance, rehearse with the company while on contract and perform during the Philadelphia season. The company presents annual home season concerts at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, home of Philadelphia Theatre Company. In addition, the company performs at various national festivals and performing arts centers and tours internationally to destinations including Turkey, South Korea, and Israel. Koresh Dance Company is making it known to the world that Philadelphia engenders creativity and artistic excellence!

Opened in 1993, the Koresh School of Dance has remained dedicated to its goal of being a dance training center for the Philadelphia community. With two studios in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, the location offers 68 weekly classes to children and adults in our community. During a typical week, approximately 1,000 dance students pass through the studio doors. We offer a wide variety of movement instruction to students of all ages, beginners to professionals. Classes include ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop, tap, and Pilates. We also offer several toddler classes including Creative Movement and Pre

Ballet. Now in its second year, the Koresh Youth Ensemble was formed to give serious, young dancers greater opportunities for training and performance. Members have the opportunity to work with teachers from Koresh Dance Company and learn Koresh repertory.

Koresh Dance Company is also committed to community outreach. We have two segments within our programming: Koresh Kids Dance and the Koresh Artist Showcase. Koresh Kids Dance promotes the arts and brings arts education directly to underserved children in our community through dance classes taught right in the schools. The Koresh Artist Showcase, a bi-monthly event, was created in an effort to give options to emerging talent in the community and more specifically to give them a platform to present their work. In giving artists a space to house their work, we are nurturing and supporting the future musicians, painters, actors, photographers, and independent choreographers of Philadelphia.

RONEN KORESH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

Ronen (Roni) Koresh was born and raised in Israel. He began his dance education as a youth as he trained with his mother, a folk dancer in the Yemenite tradition, and with a local Tel Aviv folk dance group. Two of Roni's earliest teachers in Israel were Alida Gera and Micha Deri. At 17, he moved on to more comprehensive study with Nira Paz and Moshe Romano and then became a member of Martha Graham's Batsheva 2 Dance Company. Following a three year enlistment in the Israeli army, during which he was able to continue with his dance training, Roni decided to pursue a career in the dance field.

Immigrating to the United States in 1983, Roni trained at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City, but it was in Philadelphia that he chose to spend his life and let his artistic expression be realized. In 1984, Roni began performing with Shimon Braun's acclaimed Waves Jazz Dance Company. He was also one of the original Evening Magazine Dancers and won a *People's Choice Award* in 1987 as *Philadelphia's Most Outstanding Jazz Dancer*.

In 1991 Roni accomplished a lifelong dream and formed Koresh Dance Company. Since then, they have performed throughout the world, traveling to over 25 different states, as well as to South Korea, Turkey, and Israel. Roni has created a repertory of over 60 works, most of which have been video archived and can readily be recreated. He continues to create two to three new works each year. Attributable to Roni's unique and engaging choreographic style, his work has been commissioned by numerous companies across the country including: Odyssey Dance Theatre in Salt Lake City, Utah; Spectrum Dance Theater in Seattle, Washington; the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California; Dance Celebration: a co-presentation of Dance Affiliates and Penn Presents in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Brandywine Ballet in West Chester, Pennsylvania. For his choreography, he has received individual fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts.

Roni embarked on his teaching career at an early stage while he continued to train and perform professionally. He began teaching at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia in 1986 and remains on faculty as a professor of jazz dance to this day. In 1993, Roni fulfilled another dream and opened the Koresh School of Dance in Philadelphia where he teaches weekly classes and workshops. The studio serves as the home base for his company and has also become a mecca for dancers of all ages in the community. In addition to teaching locally, he has taught masterclasses and created choreography on students throughout the country. His expertise is frequently requested as he is invited to be a guest teacher and speaker at various festivals such as Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the Northwest National Dance Project.

Over the years, Roni has become an integral member of the local Philadelphia arts community and his goal remains true: to sustain and increase the artistic reputation of Philadelphia. Roni contributes to this effort by initiating numerous inter-disciplinary projects with other local artists. Principal among these are composers Daniel Bacon, John Vosbikian, Zenon Marko, Eric Vincent, Gregory Smith, John Levis, and Karl Mullen. Roni has also forged a fruitful relationship with art photographers Martin Jackson, Pete Checchia, Cylla von Tiedeman, Gabriel Biencycki, and Mark and Danya Henninger. Roni is truly an artistic resource and a leading force, not only in the Philadelphia community, but also on the national and international level.

COLLABORATING ARTISTS

Robb Andersen, *Lighting Director*

Robb hails from Kenya, Africa and obtained his MFA in theater design from Temple University. He spent numerous years on the west coast designing in California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada. For three years he taught Design at Drexel University in Philadelphia. His lighting designs have taken him to Europe, Asia, Africa, and across North America. Robb has been designing for Koresh Dance Company since 2003.

THE DANCERS

Melissa Rector, *Dancer & Assistant Artistic Director*

After studying at the North Carolina School of the Arts and Point Park College in Pittsburgh, Melissa graduated from the University of the Arts in 1993. Following graduation, she obtained a scholarship to study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Ballet. Melissa has been dancing with Koresh Dance Company since its inception in 1991 and is the company's Assistant Artistic Director. She is also a teacher at the Koresh School of Dance where she teaches her unique style which mixes modern jazz and Luigi. Her work has been performed locally at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, the Annenberg Center, Drexel University, and Brandywine Ballet. She frequently travels around the country to perform, teach masterclasses, and set choreography on students. In 2008, Melissa began working with the Koresh Youth Ensemble, setting both original choreography and company repertory on them.

Eric Bean, Jr., Dancer

Eric began his formal training at United Dance Productions in Bermuda under the instruction of its founder, Suzette Harvey. As a member of its junior company, he had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to perform with the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. He then went on to study at the University of the Arts where he graduated with a BFA in dance education. While in school, he was a member of Eleone Dance Theater for four years. As a choreographer he has set work on students of American Ballet Theatre's Dance Bermuda Intensive, the Bermuda Civic Ballet, Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Eleone Connect, Eleone Dance Theater, and most recently Brandywine Ballet. 2010-11 is Eric's fourth season with Koresh.

Shannon Bramham, Dancer

Originally from Virginia, Shannon graduated with her BFA in dance performance from East Carolina University. While in school, she had the opportunity to perform in works chosen to be part of the American College Dance Festival Association in 2006 and 2007. In 2007 her own choreography was selected to be shown at the American College Dance Festival Association Gala. She also had the chance to set her work on the South Dayton Dance Theatre in Dayton, Ohio. She has experience teaching at the Ann Catherine Cross School of Dance in Mechanicsville, Virginia and the Academy of Dance Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She teaches both adults and children at the Koresh School of Dance. 2010-11 is Shannon's third season with Koresh.

Fang-Ju Chou, Dancer

Fang-Ju, born and raised in Taiwan, came to the United States to further her study of dance. She earned an associate degree of dance in Australia from Queensland University of Technology, Academy of the Arts/Dance, and received her BFA in dance education from the University of the Arts. Fang-Ju is trained in a wide range of dance styles and stagecraft. She intends to continue her post-performance career as an instructor and teaches ballet extensively in the Philadelphia area. Fang-Ju has been performing with Koresh since 1998.

Joseph Cotler, Dancer

Joe Cotler grew up in Batavia, New York and trained at his mother Robin Cotler's dance studio, Images in Dance. He graduated from the University of the Arts in May 2009. While at school, he had the opportunity to work with numerous choreographers including Scott Jovovich, Ronen Koresh, and Paul Selwyn-Norton. He teaches and choreographs for numerous studios in the area. He was an apprentice for Koresh in 2009-10 and this is his first season as a company dancer.

Jessica Daley, Dancer

Hailing from Philadelphia, Jessica has been performing since she was a young child, whether singing for her family or tap dancing across the kitchen floor. Jessica eventually began her formal training and studied at the Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet, Jason Douglas Dance Academy, and the Ailey School. She then attended the University of the Arts where she earned her BFA in modern dance in 2004. Her performance experience encompasses a wide

variety of styles including the 76ers Dance Team, *West Side Story*, and Eleone Dance Theater. 2010-11 is Jessica's seventh season with Koresh.

Micah Geyer, Dancer

Raised in North Carolina, Micah started dancing at a young age with Nina's School of Dance in Durham. He later joined the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble under the direction of Gene Medler. Throughout his career, he has had the privilege to perform at the Kennedy Center and the Joyce Theater for Tap City, as well as tour throughout Europe and South America. He received his BFA in dance performance and psychology from East Carolina University. 2010-11 is Micah's fourth season with Koresh

Kyle McHargh, Dancer

Originally from Windsor, Connecticut, Kyle was born into an artistic family and has been an entertainer since he was young. Kyle began his formal training at the Artist Collective, Hartford Ballet School, Hartford Conservatory. He graduated from the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts and then went on to study and train at the Lines Ballet and the Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet. He graduated from the University of the Arts with a BFA in ballet performance in 2008. 2010-11 marks Kyle's third season with Koresh.

Alexis Viator, Dancer

Alexis began her dance training at Morgan St. Dance Company in her hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana. In 2005, Alexis graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arizona with a BFA in dance. During her time there she performed works by George Balanchine, Paul Taylor, Sherry Zunker, Sam Watson, and Susan Quinn. Immediately following graduation, she performed aboard the *Rhapsody of the Seas* for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. She then moved to Chicago to continue her training on scholarship at the Lou Conte Dance Studio. 2010-11 is Alexis' fourth season with Koresh.

Asya Zlatina, Dancer

Asya was born in Moscow, Russia and immigrated to the United States in 1992. She trained throughout the D.C./Baltimore area and graduated in May 2008 from Goucher College with a BA in psychology and dance. While at Goucher, she had the privilege of working with talented coaches and notable guest artists including Ann Hutchinson Guest, Tiffany Mills, Michael Vernon, and Nilas Martins. In 2008, Asya had the opportunity to perform at the Di-Capo in New York City with the Nilas Martins Dance Company. She has also performed at various venues, including the Kennedy Center, with the Clancy-Works Dance Company of Silver Spring, Maryland. Asya is a teacher at the Koresh School of Dance. 2010-11 is her third season with Koresh.

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