

GENEVA CONCERTS

presents

Darrah Carr Dance



Saturday 2 March 2019 • 7:30 p.m.
Smith Opera House

GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.

2018–2019 SEASON

Thursday 27 September 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Chanticleer

Then and There, Here and Now—celebrating Chanticleer's 40th year
Called “the world’s reigning male chorus” by *The New Yorker*, the San Francisco-based Grammy Award-winning ensemble is known around the world as “an orchestra of voices” for its seamless blend of twelve male voices.

Friday 9 November 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Carlos Kalmar, conductor; Ahrim Kim, cello

KODÁLY Dances of Galánta

SCHUMANN Concerto in A Minor for Cello, Op. 129

HAYDN Symphony No. 98 in B-flat Major

LISZT Hungarian Rhapsody No. 1 in F Minor

Friday 1 February 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Ward Stare, Music Director; Jon Nakamatsu, piano

RACHMANINOFF The Isle of the Dead

BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major, Op. 19

STRAVINSKY The Rite of Spring

Saturday 2 March 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Darrah Carr Dance

Ceilidh: An Evening of Irish Music and Dance

The champion Irish step dancers are acclaimed for their lightning-fast renditions of both hard shoe and soft shoe styles set to live music on fiddle, accordion, spoons, and guitar.

Friday 12 April 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Francis, conductor

Yekwon Sunwoo, piano (2013 Van Cliburn Gold Medalist)

WALTON Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Minor

RACHMANINOFF Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 30

Programs subject to change.

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



These concerts are made possible by generous underwriting from the Williams Family Foundation, by a continuing subscription from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and, in part, with public funds from NYSCA's Decentralization Program, administered locally by Finger Lakes Community Arts Grants (FLCAG).

GENEVA CONCERTS, INC.

Saturday 2 March 2019 • 7:30 p.m.

Ceilidh: An Evening of Irish Music and Dance

Darrah Carr Dance

Darrah Carr Byrne Michelle Esch Trent Kowalik
Kelli Laskowski Jonathan Matthews Caitlin McNeill
Alexandra Williamson

The Band

Deirdre Corrigan Matt Diaz Liz Hanley Eoin Kearns

*All tunes traditional

- 1) Round Up Reels – *full company*
- 2) Hard Shoe Jig – *Trent Kowalik*
- 3) Figure Dance – *full company*
- 4) Musical Interlude
- 5) Four Hand Reel – *Trent Kowalik, Kelli Laskowski, Jonathan Matthews, Alexandra Williamson*
- 6) Traditional Set Dance – *Caitlin McNeill*
- 7) Hard Shoe Treble Jig – *full company*
- 8) Musical Interlude
- 9) Tell Me Ma – *Trent Kowalik, Jonathan Matthews, Caitlin McNeill*
- 10) Rattlin' Bog
- 11) Wild Rover – *Michelle Esch, Jonathan Matthews*
- 12) Musical Interlude
- 13) Over 2-3 Time – *Michelle Esch, Trent Kowalik, Jonathan Matthews, Caitlin McNeill*
- 14) Trad Step – *full company*

Intermission

1) RhythMOTION – *full company*

Quartet:

*Darrah Carr Byrne, Trent Kowalik, Jonathan Matthews,
Caitlin McNeill*

Duets:

Michelle Esch, Trent Kowalik

Darrah Carr Byrne, Trent Kowalik

Trio:

Darrah Carr Byrne, Michelle Esch, Caitlin McNeill

Quartets:

*Michelle Esch, Jonathan Matthews, Caitlin McNeill,
Alexandra Williamson*

*Michelle Esch, Trent Kowalik, Jonathan Matthews,
Alexandra Williamson*

Duet:

Trent Kowalik, Alexandra Williamson

Soloists:

Jonathan Matthews

Trent Kowalik

2) Musical Interlude

3) Step Dance Suite – *full company*

Geneva Concerts Educational Outreach

On Friday morning, Darrah Carr Dance presented a mini-performance to all Geneva high school students in the GHS gym, underwritten by the Wyckoff Family Foundation and Finger Lakes Community Arts Grants. The company provided an introduction to the history, costumes, and traditions of the distinctive Irish hard shoe and soft shoe dance styles accompanied by traditional Irish musical instruments.

On Friday afternoon, the full company also presented a masterclass on Irish step dancing to students of dance at the Gearan Center for the Performing Arts on the Hobart and William Smith Colleges campus.

ABOUT DARRAH CARR DANCE



The Bessie Award-nominated company **Darrah Carr Dance** brings a bold new twist to conventional Irish dance. Their acclaimed performances draw from Irish music, step dance footwork and spatial patterns to create high-energy, rhythmically based work that is accessible to a broad audience. In commemoration of the company's 15th Anniversary season in 2013, Macater Press published *ModERIN: Contemporary Irish Dance Works - Darrah Carr Dance*. This impressive artist's catalogue documents the company's lasting impact on the field of Irish dance and features stunning images and in-depth descriptions of their major repertory works. Recent performance highlights include *Good Morning America*, a return appearance on NBC's *The Today Show*, a performance with The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, a benefit performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center, "Victory Dance" at The New Victory Theater, "The Yeats Project" at the Irish Repertory Theatre, The Duke Theater on 42nd Street, BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival, Inside/Out at Jacob's Pillow, MASS MoCA, The Yard at Martha's Vineyard, Dublin's Bank of Ireland Arts Center, and the company's annual New York City season at Irish Arts Center.

Darrah Carr Dance is represented exclusively by Siegel Artist Management. www.siegelartist.com

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

DARRAH CARR BYRNE (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) holds a PhD in Dance from Texas Woman's University. She received her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University. Named one of the "Top 40 Under 40" by *The Irish Echo*, one of the "Top 100 Irish Americans of the Year" by *Irish America Magazine*, and one of the "Most Influential Women of 2010" by *The Irish Voice*, Carr has been active for 20 years in both the Irish and modern dance communities as a choreographer, dancer, educator, and writer. In addition to her work as the artistic director of *Darrah Carr Dance*, she and her Irish step dance partner, Niall O'Leary, have performed their duet act in locations ranging from Disney World to the Osaka Festival Hall in Japan. They are featured dancers in "Absolutely Irish!," a PBS documentary directed by Academy Award winner Paul Wagner, with a cast of the finest traditional Irish musicians led by Dr. Mick Moloney. Carr served as the assistant choreographer to Seán Curran for the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *James Joyce's "The Dead"* and has set original works on Trinity Irish Dance's Junior Company (Chicago) and the Mise Eire Irish Dancers (Long Island). Carr is an assistant professor in the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College and is associated with Mason Gross Arts Online at Rutgers University. She has a decade of experience teaching in both the Dance and Irish Studies programs at Hofstra University and has been a guest choreographer at Adelphi University, Manhattanville College, and Queensborough Community College. Carr is a respected dance scholar and has presented her research at the Dance Studies Association, the Congress on Research in Dance, the World Dance Alliance, Dance Research Forum Ireland, the Popular Culture Association, and New York University's Percussive Dance Symposium. She has written extensively for *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Studio Life*, *Dancer*, and *The Dance Insider*. Carr has also contributed chapters to *Close to the Floor: Irish Dance from the Boreen to Broadway* and *ModERIN: Contemporary Irish Dance Works - Darrah Carr Dance*, published by Macater Press.

DEIRDRE CORRIGAN (MUSICIAN) was born into the 1970s Irish music revival scene of New York City, where her parents were founding members of the Irish Arts Center. As a result she grew up immersed in traditional Irish music and culture, surrounded by the great musicians of that time and place. Corrigan first learned the tin whistle and wooden flute from East Galway master Jack Coen. She traveled to Ireland to learn

the Sligo style of playing, where she met and studied with Seamus Tansey. Corrigan's deep love of the Irish music tradition inspired her to create a life around it. In addition to playing gigs and sessions in her hometown and around the country, she started her own business as a massage therapist and acupuncturist. This integration of health and art allowed her to offer healing treatments to many of her musician friends over the years. She currently lives in New York City and has a home and acupuncture practice in the beautiful Catskill Mountains.

MATT DIAZ (MUSICIAN) is a New York City-based musician, working primarily in the Irish and Scottish session scene as a sought-after accompanist. He was first introduced to traditional music in the late 1990s when he stumbled upon a pub session in Galicia, Spain. He was immediately struck by the intimate nature of the music and marveled at the musician's ability to play a seemingly endless repertoire of tunes without sheet music. Diaz leads the Iona weekly Scottish Session in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a popular destination for music fans and professional musicians. Last year the session hosted MBE award-winning singer Christine Primrose, fiddler Alastair White of Battlefield Band fame, and the great flute player Kevin Crawford of Lúnasa. Diaz's driving and inventive guitar work is featured on the Iona Session CD *Island Wild*, released in 2015, which is available on Bandcamp. Diaz is also a member of the band Contra Positive; their most recent appearance was at the 2018 Furry Festival main stage. Contra Positive also completed a "no tunes repeated tour" of the American Southeast. The act of not repeating a single tune over the entire 10-show run is a testament to both the enormous tune repertoire of the band's fiddle player and Diaz's near psychic ability to follow and accompany unfamiliar melodies on the fly. It is his sensitivity and intuition to both melody and musician that has made him a valuable accompanist. It has afforded him the pleasure of playing with some of the great traditional musicians working today. Diaz is currently living in Jackson Heights, Queens, and like many of us, he is trying to make sense of this crazy world by making music and art.

MICHELLE ESCH (DANCER) graduated *magna cum laude* with a BFA in dance from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of The Arts, and she studied jazz/musical theater at The Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival. She is currently a company member with Darrah Carr Dance Company. Esch has taught and choreographed for the Irish Arts Center, The Discover Opera graduate program at Manhattan School of Music, The Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival, Arts Horizons, The Laurie Berkner Band's Greatest Hits

Tour, and several music videos. Esch has worked with Syncopated City Dance Company/Swing FX, Flexicurve, Meagan Woods & Company, EDP Dance Project, and Nikki Manx Dance Project. Her additional dance credits include “A Jazz Happening” with Chet Walker, “Flightless Birds” at The Joyce Soho, Cirque du Soleil’s “Poetic Social Mission,” Jazz at Lincoln Center Spring Gala, Monday Night Entertainment at The Rainbow Room, Microsoft’s Launch Party for X-Box Kinect, Midsummer Night Swing at Lincoln Center, Frankie 100 Celebration at the Edison Ballroom, and Dance Legends at the Hammerstein Ballroom. Learn more at www.michellepuskas.com

LIZ HANLEY (MUSICIAN), a native of Boston, is one of the top young musicians in the New York Irish music scene. She plays the fiddle with great energy and flair and is a fine singer whose repertoire spans multiple genres, from Irish traditional and rock to hip-hop and classical. Hanley graduated from New York University with a bachelor of music degree in classical violin performance, and she has toured the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia. She can be seen playing around New York in sessions and with the likes of Mick Moloney, the Washington Square Harp and Shamrock Orchestra, Emanuel and The Fear, and Frogbelly and Symphony. Be sure to check out Hanley’s debut album, *The Ecstasy of St. Cecilia*.

EOIN KEARNS (MUSICIAN) is a banjo/guitarist and singer from Lurgan, County Armagh. He grew up in the vibrant traditional music scene in the North of Ireland learning from the foremost banjo players in the area: Mark Mohan, Brian McGrath, and Cathal Hayden. In 2011, Kearns formed a musical partnership with fellow Lurgan fiddle player Fionntan McDonald when they met at the local traditional music sessions. In 2013, they were crowned winners of the new “An Re Nua” competition in conjunction with Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann for the best new traditional acts in Ireland. A critically acclaimed EP was released soon after. They still perform together today around the North. Kearns has appeared on TV and radio programs broadcast on BBC, RTE, TG4, and BBC Radio Ulster. In the past few years he has shared the stage with Molloy, Carty and McGlynn, Beoga, Damien O’Kane, Damien Mullane, Padraig Rynne, PJ McDonald, and Brid Harper. Kearns continues to perform at home and abroad at festivals and sessions, recently spending time playing around the New York City traditional music scene. He plans to record his first solo album in the coming few months.

TRENT KOWALIK (DANCER) began dancing at age 3. In his younger years, he competed in Irish step dancing competitions, winning numerous titles

in the U.S., Ireland, and Scotland. He is a five-time North American champion, and a World Champion. At 12, Kowalik began his performance career, playing the title role of *Billy Elliot* in London's West End. He then opened the show on Broadway and won the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Lead Actor in a Musical. Kowalik has studied in a number of dance styles, including intensive training at the JKO school of American Ballet Theater. Presently, he is a junior at Princeton University and continues to pursue dance and performance. He is very excited to be performing with Darrah Carr Dance this season.

KELLI LASKOWSKI (DANCER) was introduced to Irish dancing when her grandmother took her to see *Riverdance* at age 5, and she enrolled in classes immediately. The New Jersey dancer attended the Early McLoughlin School of Irish Dance. She has competed individually and with Ceili teams and has won rankings at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Oireachtas, North American Nationals, and World Championships. Laskowski plans to become an Irish Dance teacher, with aspirations of judging competitions in the future. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to dance with Darrah Carr Dance.

JONATHAN MATTHEWS (DANCER) is a performer, choreographer, writer composer, and teacher from Memphis, Tennessee. A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a minor in music, Matthews studied with Phyllis Lamhut, Gus Solomons, Jr., and Stephen Petronio, and contributed to the processes of original works by Pamela Pietro, Charlotte Boye-Christensen, Kendra Portier, and Deborah Jowitt before joining Darrah Carr Dance for their 2014 season. His studies have taken him abroad to Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance, Springboard Danse Montreal, and Toscana Dance HUB, where he studied accompaniment with Robert Boston. A collaborative musician, Matthews currently plays for technique class at his alma mater and has created original music for Giada Ferrone, Patrick Corbin, and Rashaun Mitchell, among others. Between additional dancing with Christina Noel & The Creature, mishiDance, and BAREFOOTHAUS, he recently made his choreographic debut in a bathtub for This is Not a Theatre Company's *Versailles 2015* and will choreograph for their upcoming project, *Where Have All the Glaciers Gone*. His criticism on performance can be found at *Eye On Dance and the Arts*, *The Dance Enthusiast*, and *The Journal of Dance Education*. A yoga teacher licensed through the Perri Institute for Mind and Body's 300-hour Pedagogy course, Matthews is passionate about seeking, integrating, and sharing a wide range of interdisciplinary study through physical practice.

CAITLIN McNEILL (DANCER) from Brooklyn, New York, received her initial training from the Niall O’Leary School of Irish Dance and achieved championship level status. McNeill has been a guest dancer with the Trinity Irish Dance Company as well as on Mick Moloney’s Greenfields of America Tour. She has also toured with the Prodigals, the McLean Avenue Band, and the Andy Cooney Band. McNeill has recently appeared on *Fox and Friends*, *The Today Show*, *CBS This Morning*, *Good Morning America*, and at Carnegie Hall. In 2011, McNeill was crowned the New York City Rose of Tralee and traveled to Ireland to represent New York in the Rose of Tralee International Festival. McNeill dances with the Niall O’Leary Irish Dance Troupe, Emerald Fire Dance, and Darrah Carr Dance. This is her 10th year dancing with Darrah Carr Dance.

RANDI RIVERA (PRODUCTION MANAGER and LIGHTING DIRECTOR) is a native New Yorker. She is the stage manager and lighting director for Half Straddle theater company, traveling both internationally and domestically with their work since 2012. She is also the technical director and production manager for Keigwin + Company. Rivera is proud to freelance for many performing arts organizations both in New York City and on the road — her favorites include Faye Driscoll Group; Doug Elkins Choreography, Etc.; Sidra Bell Dance New York; The Chocolate Factory; Andrew Schneider; Ivy Baldwin; and Harlem Stage. Rivera has been on the Phantom Limb team since 2011, stage managing both *69°S* and *Memory Rings*. All of her work is for her family.

ALEXANDRA WILLIAMSON (DANCER and COSTUME DESIGNER) is a graduate of Montclair State University. She holds a BFA in dance and a minor in musical theater. Williamson is a recipient of the Dance and Theatre Department Service Award. At the age of 10, Williamson began her adventure as a dancer with Irish Step Dancing. At 12 she started performing in the annual Frank Patterson Concerts at New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Carnegie Hall. Happy to be dancing with Darrah Carr Dance, she also dances with Moe-tion dance theater, DiMauro Dance Company, and Kristina Berger and Dancers. She has studied at the Paul Taylor School, the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, and Bates Dance Festival. Williamson has a certification in Pilates and teaches in New York and New Jersey. She teaches Horton technique at the Performing Arts School at bergenPAC, The Joffrey Ballet School, and the School at Steps. Williamson is also on staff at Union County College and Hofstra University.

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