



For Immediate Release

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Malandain Ballet Biarritz to Make Detroit Opera House Debut

French contemporary ballet company to dance to music by Vivaldi, Ravel and Chopin

Feb. 15 at the Detroit Opera House

DETROIT, Feb. 3, 2020 – France’s Malandain Ballet Biarritz will make its Detroit Opera House debut Feb. 15, presented by Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT). The contemporary ballet company will perform works to music by Vivaldi, Ravel and Chopin, choreographed by Company founder Thierry Malandain.

“Malandain Ballet Biarritz is one of the best contemporary ballet companies in France, and we are thrilled to present them in Detroit,” said MOT Artistic Advisor for Dance Jon Teeuwissen. “The company is known for their celebration of sensuality and humanity, and this mixed-repertoire program offers a smorgasbord of movement that captures the imagination.”

Malandain said his choreography is rooted in classical ballet but with his own style.

“A classical choreographer for some, a contemporary one for others, I play with it, simply trying to find a dance I like,” he said. “A dance that will not only leave a lasting impression of joy, but that will also restore the essence of the sacred things and serve as a response to the difficulty of being.”

The program opens with “Estro,” performed to Vivaldi’s “L’Estro Armonico Op. 3.” The piece explores a longing for elevation and the efforts needed to reach the summit of a mountain, seen as the privileged place where sky and earth meet, according to Malandain.

Next is “Nocturnes,” a darker work performed to the eponymous score by Chopin, a series of 21 pieces for piano exploring the depth of his melancholic nature to express the languor of love. The piece is painting put to motion. It is based on the “danse macabre” of the Middle Ages, an artistic genre that portrayed a series of characters led to their graves by skeletons.

The program closes with “Boléro,” a reflection on liberty performed to music by Ravel. Subjected to the obsessive repetition of the orchestral theme, 12 dancers perform almost soullessly in an enclosed and limited space, only breaking free in the end.

Ticket prices for the performance start at \$30. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

MOT's 2019-20 dance season is sponsored by Cadillac and made possible through the generosity of Joanne and Richard Brodie and the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation. This presentation is additionally supported by the Marvin, Betty & Joanne Danto Family Foundation and Jeremy Zeltzer and Kevin Dennis.

For more information visit <https://michiganopera.org/season-schedule/malandain-ballet-biarritz/>.

Malandain Ballet Biarritz

Saturday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Performed at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre, one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971 by Dr. David DiChiera, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. The organization is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown and Chairman of the Board Ethan Davidson. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.