

MPH PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS



**20th Annual**  
**STUDENT**  
**CHOREOGRAPHY**  
**CONCERT**  
**2021**

Live Stream from the  
MPH COVILLE THEATER

### **Director's Note:**

*Our dancers have persevered through many new challenges to bring together a spectacular concert under extraordinary circumstances. Before 2020, we could never have imagined that we would witness student choreographers virtually teaching their work to in-person students, or spending weeks rehearsing over Zoom from our bedrooms and home spaces. We have watched in astonishment this semester as our students have pushed through unbelievable limitations with admirable focus, hope, and commitment to each other and their creativity. The result is a very special concert which we will always remember as a deeply unifying experience.*

### **BEHIND THE WALL**

Choreographed by Katie Sullivan (Senior)

Music by Tracy Chapman

Performed by Keara Dreyfuss, Maya Heimes, Ella Pisciarino, and Katie Sullivan

In the past, my work has drawn its basis and inspiration heavily from the music, rather than emotion or an intended message. In choreographing this piece, my work has changed pace; "Behind the Wall" takes a much more somber tone, exploring themes of domestic violence and isolation. The walls around us, whether figurative or literal, self-imposed or otherwise, prevent others from being able or feeling welcome to support us. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence and needs support, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 799-7233.

### **STATUE**

Choreographed by Grace Bugin (Senior)

Music by SYML

Performed by Omia Gaines-Howard and Grace Montas

This is my second year choreographing. For my piece I was inspired by unity. In unity there is strength.

### **DANCE TO THE BEAT**

Choreographed by Joyeuse Sekarore (Junior)

Music by Levixone ft Timeless Noel

Performed by Joyeuse Sekarore, Claire Sekarore, and Emily Spear

This is my first ever performance, and I'm really excited to showcase this piece because i wanted to bring something different to the table.

### **DREAMS**

Choreographed by Keara Dreyfuss (Senior)

Music by Nuages

Performed by Keara Dreyfuss, Omia Gaines-Howard, Ella Pisciarino, and Katie Sullivan

This is my third year choreographing and my fourth year in student choreography. This year, I wanted to challenge myself by choosing music that was different than I have previously used. The song I chose includes a passage by philosopher Alan Watts who discusses the idea of dreams and their connection to real life. When I first listened to this song, the theme of being grateful for what you already have stuck out to me, however, I'd like to leave the audience to their own interpretation of the dance. Despite the challenging circumstances of this year, I have enjoyed having a space to be creative and am thankful for all the dancers in my piece!

### **HONEY AND GLASS**

Choreographed and performed by Maya Heimes (Senior), Grace Montas (Junior), and Emily Spear (Junior)

Music by Peyton Cardoza

Our piece, *Honey and Glass*, is performed to a spoken word poem that really stood out to us because of how much we could relate to it. This trio was really fun to choreograph because we could all mix and mash our unique styles. Despite only having a couple weeks to put this piece together, it turned out really well and we are so excited to share it with you all.

### **WALK WITH ME**

Choreographed by Ella Pisciarino (Senior)

Music by Mumford and Sons

Performed by Keara Dreyfuss, Rafael Jennings, and Katie Sullivan

This was my third year choreographing my own group piece; I wanted to put together all the skills I have learned to make a meaningful dance. This piece was meant to tell a story through the dancers about the struggles we all face. While we are all in this together, it is easy to feel isolated, especially these days. In the piece, though the dancers are all together on stage, they are often dancing on their own, and often reaching for the others. There are many ups and downs in the piece, and the dancing often moves from fast tempo to moments of pause. There are many aspects of this dance that are meant to be symbolic of real life, and I hope that the story comes through as you watch.

I would also like to thank Mrs. K and all the teachers and dancers who have been a part of these past four years. The dance program has been one of my favorite experiences at MPH, and I will definitely miss it. I am sad to be leaving next year, but I am so grateful to have had this experience. Thank you all.

### **WASH US AWAY**

Choreographed by Grace Montas (Junior)

Music by Niall Horan

Performed by Omia Gaines-Howard, Maya Heimes, Grace Montas, and Emily Spear

While choreographing, I continued to think of the back and forth motion of the ocean, a battle of moving forward and being pulled back. I was inspired by things that can bring us down and what will motivate us to keep going, so I created a piece about growth.

### **LOVELY**

Choreographed by Omia Gaines-Howard (Freshman)

Music by Billie Eilish Instrumental

Performers: Keara Dreyfuss, Omia Gaines-Howard, and Rafael Jennings

This is my first year in the student choreography performance. I've been dancing for 11 years and I'm excited to share my piece with you. This is my first time choreographing a piece by myself. This piece is mainly about technique and focus. This is about love and being loved. I definitely achieved my goal for this semester. I've worked really hard on this piece and put a lot of thought and effort into it.

### **L A L A L A**

Choreographed by Emily Spear (Junior)

Music by Jasmine Thompson

Performed by Grace Montas, Ella Piscarino, and Katie Sullivan

Hi everyone! This is my second piece that I choreographed for student choreography. It is definitely different than the one last year for obvious reasons. Despite online rehearsals and social distancing, I am really happy with how my dance turned out. I am so grateful to have these three amazingly talented and understanding dancers that made this process so much easier. This year I feel like so much has happened, so for me my dance is a way of expressing wanting to lose myself in the music and block the rest of the world out.

### **THE LION DANCE**

Choreographed by Claire Sekarore (Junior)

Music by King Promise

Performed by Rafael Jennings and Claire Sekarore

This is my 1st year choreographing my own piece. I was inspired by Izzie Odigie, who is a Nigerian Afrobeats choreographer. Her pieces were able to lift my mood and bring a smile over my face. I would like for my piece to impact you all like it did for me. Enjoy!

## **TOXIC**

Choreographed by Rafael Jennings (Freshman)

Music by Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears and Nicole Scherzinger

Performed by Omia Gaines-Howard, Rafael Jennings, and Ella Piscarino

This was my first year choreographing. I was heavily inspired by the music of my childhood and how it made me feel. These songs were my favorite songs when I was little and I can remember chanting them and dancing wildly to them with my cousins. In a time of so much sadness and confusion I wanted to remind myself of a time that was purely fun. Enjoy!

## **00:02:43**

Choreographed by Maya Heimes (Senior)

Music by Mura Masa, Ellie Rowsell, and Wolf Alice

Voiceover by Abisage Sekarore and Grace Montas

Performed by Grace Montas and Maya Heimes

This is my fourth and final year choreographing at Manlius Pebble Hill. This year, I decided to choreograph a piece that shows the desensitizing of youth in our generation. By mixing pieces of songs, news footage, and original audio, I was able to create a soundtrack that matches the idea. I would like to note that Abisage Sekarore was originally choreographed in this dance but I will have to take her place during the concert. Thank you to everyone in the dance program. I cannot wait to come back and visit to see future dance concerts.

## **DANCING UNDER THE STARS**

Choreographed by Huiyin Queenie Weng (Senior)

Music by Xukun Cai

Performed by Huiyin Queenie Weng

This is my 2nd year choreographing. I was inspired by a Chinese movie called House of Flying Daggers. In the dancing scene, the dancer moves her sleeves beating drums to make some rhythmic beats. Her movements are so light, which make herself look like a butterfly. Therefore, the impressive dance performance in the movie inspired me to choreograph jazz dance. Also, in the first year of learning dance choreography, I choreographed a piece of hip hop dance. This time I want to try something different. Therefore, I finally choreograph my dance called *DANCING UNDER THE STARS*.

## **SENIOR ENERGY**

Choreographed and Performed by seniors Keara Dreyfuss, Maya Heimes, Ella Pisciarino, and Katie Sullivan

Music by WILLOW

In our freshman year of dance, we choreographed a piece with all the other first-time choreographers. To create that dance, we all came up with simple short phrases and added them together to create a longer group piece. Four years later, we wanted to use a similar technique to create a piece with all the seniors in our class. Please sit back and enjoy our female energy.

## **FINALE**

Music by Valeria

Presenting all Choreographers!

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

Director/Producer - Michele Koziara

Co-Director - Maya Dwyer

Technical Director/Light Designer - Alex Koziara

Stage Manager - Annabel Davis

Light Board - Jake Aretsky

Sound Board - Ava Benedict

Projection - Arman Nizam

Deck Crew - Barrett Howard