

MUSIC BECOMES DANCE

THE PREMIERE OF »BEETHOVEN / RAVEL« BY THE LEIPZIG BALLET

The Leipzig Ballet's first premiere of the season is presented in honor of 25 years of sister-cityhood between Leipzig and Houston. On Saturday, October 27, 2018, the curtain will rise on "Beethoven / Ravel." In one evening, three seminal choreographic signatures from the two cities will meet.

The evening opens with the symphonic ballet "Seventh Symphony," which Uwe Scholz created for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1991, and which premiered in Leipzig in 1993. Scholz created a detailed and filigreed work, set to Beethoven's music, that uniquely expresses the choreographer's extraordinary musicality. Each musical motif finds its counterpart in dance, which is characterized by a timeless, austere, neoclassical form. The stage and costume design were also drawn from Uwe Scholz's own sketches, and are based on the painting *Beta Kappa* by the American painter Morris Louis.

Stanton Welch, artistic director of the Houston Ballet, also draws on a classical piece from the repertoire for "Tu Tu:" Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G major*. Here, Welch skillfully contrasts the music with over-stylized movements. The dancers appear on stage in colorful tutus, sketched by costume designer Holly Hynes, after paintings by Gustav Klimt. For the premiere in Leipzig, Houston Ballet's principal dancers Karina Gonzáles and Ian Casady will dance the "Red Couple."

The evening will be rounded off by the world premiere of "Geschöpfe" ("Creatures") by Mario Schröder, the Leipzig Ballet's ballet director and principal choreographer. In his examination of the "Seventh Symphony" and Beethoven's music, he wants to build a bridge to his own work and break with the classical aesthetics of the first two pieces of the evening. Beethoven's *Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus* (*The Creatures of Prometheus*) serves as inspiration for the title. The choreography concerns itself with the exploration of a dancer's movements, and how they are influenced by changes in the body.

Tickets (15 € – 78 €) are available in person at the Opera House Box Office, by phone at +49 (0)341 – 12 61 261 (Mo – Sa 10.00 – 19.00 Uhr), via E-Mail at service@oper-leipzig.de, or online at www.oper-leipzig.de.

Premiere: Saturday, October 27, 7:00pm

Further Performances: October 31 / November 9, 2018 / May, 19 & 23 2019 (all performances feature an introductory presentation 45 minutes before curtain; audience discussion follows the performance, except for the premiere)

Beethoven / Ravel

3-part ballet performance by Uwe Scholz, Stanton Welch AM and Mario Schröder | Music by Ludwig van Beethoven, Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky, and Elena Kats-Chernin

Direction

Musical Direction **Moritz Gnann**

Dramaturgy **Nele Winter**

Seventh Symphony

Ballet by **Uwe Scholz**

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (Seventh Symphony)

Choreography, Stage, Costumes **Uwe Scholz**

Light **Uwe Scholz**

Yun Kyeong Lee | Carl van Godtsenhoven | Anna Jo | Juliano Toscano | Soojeong Choi | Joshua Swain | Lou Thabart | Yan Leiva | Laura Costa Chaud | Lou Thabart

Tu Tu

Ballet by **Stanton Welch AM**

Music by Maurice Ravel (Piano Concerto in G Major)

Choreography **Stanton Welch AM**

Costume Design **Holly Hynes**

Light **Lisa J. Pinkham**

Gold Couple **Madoka Ishikawa / Juliano Toscano** | Red Couple **Karina González / Ian Casady** | Blue Lady **Anna Jo** | Blue Gentleman **Alessandro Repellini**

Geschöpfe (Creatures)

Ballet by **Mario Schröder**

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (The Creatures of Prometheus / Moonlight Sonata, Third Symphony), Igor Stravinsky (Circus Polka), Elena Kats-Chernin (Naive Waltz)

Choreography **Mario Schröder**

Stage, Costumes **Paul Zoller**

Cast

Leipzig Ballet

Gewandhaus Orchestra

Piano **Wolfgang Manz**