

HOCHSTEIN

NEWS RELEASE

THE HOCHSTEIN SCHOOL | 50 N. PLYMOUTH AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14614
(585) 454-4596 | WWW.HOCHSTEIN.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

Media Contacts:

Janice Hanson, Marketing and Communications Associate, janice.hanson@hochstein.org

BIODANCE and Cordancia Perform “Carnival of the Animals” and More

This is Hochstein’s first year as a venue for Rochester Fringe Festival!

ROCHESTER, N.Y.— The Hochstein School serves as a Rochester Fringe Festival venue for the first time this year when BIODANCE and Cordancia Chamber Orchestra collaborate on the unique multidisciplinary show “Carnival of the Animals.” There are two performances: Saturday, September 14 at 7:00 pm and Friday, September 20 at 7:00 pm. **More details below.**

Please note: Photo ops are available during the rehearsal on Thursday, September 5 from 6:00-7:00 pm.

“This diverse show has something for everyone,” says Cordancia co-founder and oboist Kathleen Suher. “The portraits of animals in words, music, and dance make it a great choice for families. With live music performed by Cordancia Chamber Orchestra, the show would also be a great choice for classical music lovers.”

The show includes three works:

Carnival of the Animals

A beloved and entertaining classic, Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Carnival of the Animals* is a musical portrait of various animals including a lion, an elephant, and a swan. Narrator Jay Stetzer describes the animals in words in his own humorous take on a text by Ogden Nash. BIODANCE dancers join Cordancia musicians with choreography by Missy Pfohl Smith and costumes by Natalia Lisina.

Compass

Compass is a solo dance work featuring dancer Alaina Olivieri with new quadrophonic music (surround sound) by Austin White. Inspired by Paul Klee’s painting *Strong Dream*, this dynamic and edgy work plays with sound, light, and movement as if a “deer in headlights,” a metaphor for someone in a mental state of high arousal caused by anxiety, fear, panic, surprise, or confusion.

Le Boeuf sur le toit (The Ox on the Roof)

The carnival concludes with Darius Milhaud's *Le Boeuf sur le toit (The Ox on the Roof)*. Playful interjections of Brazilian tangos and other dance tunes surround a lively theme which opens this piece and recurs throughout. Visuals by Digital Media/Projection Artist W. Michelle Harris further enhance this unique multidisciplinary performance.

Many of this show's performers have strong ties to Hochstein. Cordancia counts many Hochstein music faculty among its members, including Pia Liptak, Matt Osika, Carl Galland, Kirsta Rodean, who will be in the orchestra for these performances. Also, Wynton Rice of BIODANCE is the Dance Department Chair at Hochstein.

Performance Details:

Carnival of the Animals: Performance 1

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Carnival of the Animals: Performance 2

Friday, September 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Location: The Hochstein School, 50 North Plymouth Avenue, Rochester, NY 14614

Tickets: \$15 for general admission, \$10 for students with ID and free for kids 12 and under
Online at: <https://rochesterfringe.com/tickets-and-shows/carnival-of-the-animals-biodance-cordancia-chamber-orchestra>.

By Phone: (585) 957-9837 (additional fees apply)

In person: At the door of the venue or at the One Fringe Place Box Office, corner of Main & Gibbs

About Hochstein: The Hochstein School is a vibrant organization in Rochester, NY, offering high-quality instruction in music, dance, and Expressive Arts (music, art, and dance therapy). Established in 1920 to commemorate the artistry, life, and service of David Hochstein – a prodigious violinist who died serving in World War I – the School welcomes students of all ages, abilities, proficiency levels, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds in an inclusive and accessible environment that provides artistic opportunities for all. More than 100 years after its founding, Hochstein annually serves more than 3,500 students from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester. The School is active throughout the community and provides tuition assistance to more than 50% of its students. The acclaimed Hochstein Performance Hall, located within the school's historic downtown building, hosts concerts and events throughout the year. For more information, visit www.hochstein.org.

About BIODANCE: BIODANCE is a non-profit contemporary dance and collaborative arts company based in Rochester, NY, and directed by Missy Pfohl Smith, who also directs the Institute for the

Performing Arts and the Program of Dance and Movement at University of Rochester. Since 2004, BIODANCE has been active in the Rochester community and tours internationally.

About Cordancia: Cordancia Chamber Orchestra performs classical music concerts throughout the year at various locations in the greater Rochester area. Cordancia was formed in 2009 by violinist Pia Liptak and oboist Kathleen Suher. Cordancia's award-winning programming blends eclectic, vibrant, lesser-known music with traditional classical repertoire. The orchestra's mission is to bring new and rarely heard music into perspective of the familiar and to illuminate and share the abundance of the lesser-known and newly created repertoire, as selected by Cordancia's Artistic Director Evan Meccarello.

About Rochester Fringe Festival: The 12-day Rochester Fringe Festival is the largest multidisciplinary performing arts event in New York State. Since the festival's inception in 2012, nearly 670,000 people have attended more than 4,500 performances by regional, national, and international artists, from emerging to superstar. From drama to dance, comedy to children's entertainment, music to magic, and so much more, this internationally-known powerhouse encourages creative expression while nurturing the artistic process, all while supplying new audiences to established and emerging arts venues. The Rochester Fringe Festival strives to be diverse and inclusive, and to stimulate downtown Rochester both culturally and economically.

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