



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2009

**CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PRESENTS
CORNISH DANCE THEATER SPRING 2009 CONCERT**

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish Dance Theater, the performing ensemble of the Dance Department at Cornish College of the Arts, is pleased to present their Spring 2009 Concert with choreography by Steve Casteel, Mark Haim, Pat Hon, Wade Madsen and KT Niehoff.

Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2009 Concert

Friday, April 10, 8 pm

Saturday, April 11, 2 & 8 pm

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway Avenue, Seattle

Tickets: \$10 general, \$5 students, seniors & alumni

For more information on how to purchase tickets please visit www.cornish.edu/events or call 206.726.5011.

For additional information or to request images please contact Meike Kaan or Beth Fleenor (see information above) or visit www.cornish.edu.

About the Performance

The Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2009 Concert includes five dances that showcase the work of guest choreographers Mark Haim and KT Niehoff, in addition to Cornish faculty members Steve Casteel, Pat Hon and Wade Madsen. Guest artist Mark Haim has restaged excerpts from his internationally acclaimed *The Goldberg Variations*, a series of solos set to music by Johann Sebastian Bach, on six Cornish dancers. Each solo has its own expressive language that challenges a performer's capabilities, making for a dynamically diverse, highly crafted, virtuosic work. *The Goldberg Variations* received its world premiere at the American Dance Festival in 1997 and has since been presented at Danspace Project, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, On the Boards, at theaters in Korea and Russia, and over 25 theaters in the U.S.

In his Cornish Dance Theater debut, faculty member Steve Casteel presents a classical ballet piece en pointe that is joyous and lighthearted where one ballerina commands the other dancers using a riding crop as a wand. Pat Hon presents a new contemporary dance piece set to music by Toru Takemitsu with an all female cast. In this dance, titled *Emaki*, which means "picture scroll," the characters emerge out of a scene of disaster into a life with a renewed sense of hope. Originally set on Bellingham's Dance Gallery in 2001, *Garden Party*, choreographed by Wade Madsen, is a theatrical modern dance piece set to music by Handel, Purcell, Corelli and Mozart. KT Niehoff's dance is a collaboration with her cast of 11 dancers. Throughout the course of the performance, the dancers construct their space by moving the theater's structural elements: the floor, curtains, and lights, breaking down theatrical conventions.

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Please note: the Saturday, April 11 matinee performance will be followed by an informal question and answer period.

Biographies

Pat Hon performed extensively for 10 years with ballet companies in France, Austria, Spain, and Germany. In 1983 she received the National Endowment for the Arts' Choreographic Fellowship and since then has choreographed for the Atlanta Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet's Summer Inventions, Singapore Ballet, Ballet Concerto of Miami, Goh Ballet in Canada, Federal Ballet Company of Malaysia, Ballet Petit, and for dancers competing in the International Ballet Competitions in Jackson, Mississippi. Before coming to Cornish in 1978, she taught at the Morelli Studios in New York and in Florence, Italy. Pat began studying ballet at the age of 10 in her native Singapore and continued her studies at Rosella Hightower's Centre de Danse Classique in France. She also studied Flamenco and Classical Spanish dance in Madrid, Spain, and performed with the foremost Spanish dance company, Antonio and his Ballets of Madrid, before coming to New York to attend the Joffrey School and the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. She has been teaching for 30 years as Professor in the Dance department at Cornish College of the Arts. Between June and December 2008, Pat taught

Professor Wade Madsen has been teaching at Cornish College of the Arts for over 24 years and has premiered nearly 23 dances for the college dance company. Wade has been teaching in Seattle since moving here and continues his classes at Velocity Dance Center. He finds new growth and stamina as a teacher with various workshops and performances throughout the country. Wade has been producing and performing his own work with his company Wade Madsen and Dancers in Seattle since 1977. A former member of the Bill Evans Dance Company and Tandy Beal & Company, Wade has received choreographic grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts; Washington State, King County, and Seattle Arts Commissions; Artist's Trust; and Allied Arts. His work has been produced in Seattle by the Allegro! Dance Festival, Seattle Dance Project, On the Boards, Bumbershoot, Rockhopper Dance, d-9 dance collective, Spectrum and Composer/Choreographer. He has also performed with various dance groups in Seattle, including Spectrum Dance Theater, DanceWorks Northwest, Dayna Hanson, Amy O'Neal, Amy Legendre, and Co-Motion Dance. Wade has performed, choreographed, and taught for various companies and colleges throughout the country. Wade continues to choreograph for A Contemporary Theater (ACT), Seattle Repertory Theater, Seattle Opera and Seattle Shakespeare Ensemble. Last year, Madsen had the opportunity of choreographing The Pajama Game in collaboration with several departments at Cornish College. His acting credits include The Notebooks of Leonardo, co-produced with the Seattle Repertory Theatre and Chicago's Goodman Theater, as well as the films Threshold and Crocodile Tears. He earned his BA from the University of New Mexico.

Born in New York City, **Mark Haim** began studying classical piano at age 6. He was accepted to the Dance Division of the Juilliard School on an honorary scholarship, graduating with a BFA degree in 1983. He received his MFA in Dance in 2006, in the first graduating class of the Hollins/ADF MFA program. From 1984 -1987, he directed Mark Haim & Dancers, which performed at the Riverside Dance Festival in NYC, and at various theaters and venues in the US, Luxembourg, and Holland. In 1987-1990, he was Artistic Director of the Companhia de Danca de Lisboa where he created 8 dances for the company, which toured Portugal, Spain, and Italy. Mark has created new works for many dance companies in the US, Europe and Asia, among them the Nederlands Dans Theater, Ballet Frankfurt, the Limon Dance Company,

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the Joffrey II Dancers, the Rotterdamse Dansgroep, the Silesian Dance Theater, the Companhia de Danca de Lisboa, CoDanceCo, the TRANS Dance Co. He has restaged his works on companies such as The Joffrey Ballet, the Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel, Djazzex and the Juilliard Dance Ensemble. His full-evening solo project, "The Goldberg Variations," received its world premiere at the American Dance Festival and been presented at the Danspace Project in New York, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, On the Boards, and other theatres in the U.S., Korea and Russia. He is a recipient of a 1987 NYFA Fellowship, a 1988 and 1996 NEA Fellowships, and grants from the NPN Suitcase Fund, ArtsLink, Inc., the Harkness Foundation and the Jerome Foundation. Mark was Artist in Residence at the UW Dance Program from 2002-2008 and is a Fulbright Senior Specialist Roster Candidate.

Steve Casteel was born in Tacoma, WA and received his early training from Jan Column School of Classic Ballet. At age sixteen Steve joined Boston Ballet II. In 1987, Steve became a member of Houston Ballet where he was promoted to soloist and performed many of the great classical works such as Swan Lake, Don Quixote, Coppélia, and Cinderella. With Houston Ballet, he performed works by such renowned choreographers as Christopher Bruce, Jirí Kylián, Sir Kenneth McMillan, Ben Stevenson, and Paul Taylor. In addition, he has performed with Diablo Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Next Stage Dance Theatre, and Spectrum Dance Theatre. Locally, Steve has danced in works by Kay Englert, Dominique Gabella, Amii LeGenre, Wade Madsen, Dale Merrill, Crispin Spaeth and Deborah Wolf. From 1997 to 1999 he worked for Washington Contemporary Ballet in Tacoma as Assistant to the Director. In 2001, Steve received his Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in dance from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle WA. In 2004, he received his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Arizona in Tucson AZ. From 2004 to 2006 Steve was the Public Relations Coordinator for Next Stage Dance Theatre. Steve has taught at Bainbridge Dance Center (Bainbridge Island), Berkeley Ballet Theater (Berkeley CA), Cornish Preparatory Dance Program (Seattle), Dance Fremont (Seattle), Spectrum Dance Theater (Seattle), and The University of Washington (Seattle).

KT Niehoff is the recipient of three Seattle Arts Commission Individual Artist awards, a 2001 Seattle Artist Trust Fellow and a 2006 Choreographic Fellow at the Maggie Allessee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University. She holds a BFA from New York University. Since 1998, the major platform for her work has been with her company of collaborating artists, Lingo, with which she has created five full-length dance theater works and numerous short works. As of late, her curiosities surround shifting the entry point of how the public interfaces with dance. She is interested in environments outside the limitations of proscenium-based performance, such as art "events" including food, drink, gathering and dancing, museum installations, film work and one on one encounters in urban, public settings. Lingo has been presented internationally in Canada, Japan, Ecuador and Cuba and nationally by venues including On the Boards, Joyce SoHo, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival Inside/Out, The Southern Theater in Minneapolis, SUSHI performance gallery in San Diego, and Vanderbilt University, among others. The company's artistic integrity has been recognized by such institutions as The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Dance Project, The National Performance Network, Meet the Composer and Arts International. As a teacher, Niehoff has taught contemporary technique and composition worldwide at institutions including The SNDO (Amsterdam), Oberlin College (Ohio), Estudio 3 (Madrid), The Hong Kong Academy of the Performing Arts and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. From 1996-2006 Niehoff was the co-founder and director of Velocity Dance Center in Seattle.

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About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts is nationally recognized as a premier college of the visual and performing arts offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in dance, theater, art, design and performance production, and a Bachelor of Music degree. A pioneer in arts education, Cornish College of the Arts sprang from the remarkable vision of Nellie Cornish, a woman determined to cultivate the arts in Seattle when it was scarcely more than a frontier town. Her philosophy of educating the artist through exposure to all the arts was progressive at the time, and continues to be innovative today.

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