



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2005

GUEST ARTIST RESIDENCY: GARY MASTERS

José Limón Technique and Repertory

SEATTLE, WA - Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to announce a visiting artist residency with Gary Masters, former co-artistic director of the José Limón Dance Company. During the residency, January 17-28, Gary Masters will teach master classes to Dance Department students and set José Limón's *Suite from A Choreographic Offering* for the Cornish Dance Theater Spring 2005 Concert. The residency will also include a master class for dancers in the Seattle community and a lecture demonstration, both open to the public. The lecture demonstration, "The Ongoing Genius of José Limón" will present an overview of José Limón's choreographic contribution and the importance of his place in dance history, exploring Limón's four major creative inspirations: literature, Catholicism, music and his Mexican heritage. The residency is made possible by support from the Bossak Heilbron Foundation.

José Limón (1908-1972) was one of the master choreographers who shaped American modern dance. Born in Mexico, he studied and performed in New York with Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman. In 1946, with Humphrey as his artistic director, Limón formed his own company. The Limón Dance Company continues to tour internationally, presenting the choreography of Limón and other artists.

Originally premiered in 1964 at the American Dance Festival, *A Choreographic Offering* was created as a tribute to Limón's mentor Doris Humphrey. It contains variations, paraphrases and motifs from fourteen Humphrey works. The Cornish Dance Theater production of *Suite from A Choreographic Offering* will present excerpts from the hour-long work.

Reconstructor Gary Masters joined the Limón Dance Company as a dancer in 1969. The originator of many roles in the Limón repertory, he later served as associate artistic director of the company. In 1994, he created Limón West Dance Project, the company's West Coast training center and ensemble. Masters is a key reconstructor for the Limón Institute, and has staged Limón's choreography around the globe. A renowned choreographer himself, Masters has received choreographic fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arts Council Silicon Valley. His choreography has been commissioned by the Limón Dance Company, Diablo Ballet, Nashville Ballet and Dance Kaleidoscope among others; Masters also created dances for the Mathews Masters Dance Company in New York. He is currently a member of the Dance faculty at San José State University and Co-Artistic Director of sjDANCEco.

GARY MASTERS RESIDENCY EVENTS

Monday, January 17, 2005, 9am – 10:45am

Limón Technique Advanced Master Class with Gary Masters

Studio 300, Kerry Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Free and open to all intermediate/advanced level dancers.

Space is limited; no advance reservations—admission on first-come, first-served basis.

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Friday, January 28, 2005, noon-1pm

“The Ongoing Genius of José Limón”: a Lecture/Demonstration with Gary Masters

An overview of José Limón’s choreographic contribution and the importance of his place in dance history, exploring Limón’s four major creative inspirations: literature, Catholicism, music and his Mexican heritage.

PONCHO Concert Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Free and open to the public.

Friday, April 15, 8pm; Saturday, April 16, 2pm & 8pm

Spring 2005 Cornish Dance Theater Concert

Choreography by José Limón (set by Gary Masters), Peter Kyle, Wade Madsen and Gerard Théorêt.

Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway Ave, Seattle

Tickets: \$8 general, \$4 students, seniors, & Cornish College Alumni.

Tickets are available through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com, or in person at the Ticket Window box offices in the Broadway Market, Pike Place Market, and Meydenbauer Center.

Images available upon request.

ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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