

## **BALLET AND BACH COMBINE IN MACPHAIL SPOTLIGHT SERIES: VOYAGE**

*Members of James Sewell Ballet to perform around MacPhail's downtown location in virtual concert –  
April 24<sup>th</sup>*

**MINNEAPOLIS—MARCH 31, 2021**—Inspired by the works of J.S. Bach, Chad Hughes and Merce Cunningham, company members of the James Sewell Ballet will perform an innovative work that explores the technical boundaries of ballet. A dance throughout MacPhail Center for Music's building in downtown Minneapolis is the next virtual installment of this season's MacPhail Spotlight Series, Voyage.

Rebecca Merblum, cello, will accompany dancers Jarod Boltjes, Chloe Duryea and Da'Rius Malone of the James Sewell Ballet as they use MacPhail Center for Music's modern space as their backdrop. The performance is choreographed by Malone.

"James [Sewell] presented me with this beautiful music and I felt inspired! I allowed the piece to create itself and had Merce Cunningham's movement for movement's sake approach," said Da'Rius Malone, member of James Sewell Ballet and lead choreographer. "Getting back to a creative side was very much needed. Just being in the space with other dancers is rewarding as we've been deprived from it for about a year now. As of now the work is about relationships and connecting to others. As far as a storyline, I want the audience to create their own interpretation."

The virtual performance includes videography by MacPhail Spotlight Series artistic director Mischa Santora. The performance will premiere Saturday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. on MacPhail.org and Facebook. The performance will be available to stream on demand afterwards.

James Sewell Ballet was founded in New York City by James Sewell and Sally Rouse and brought to Minnesota in 1993. Combining their expertise, vision and chutzpah they envisioned a close-knit company of dance artists willing to both challenge their physical limits and expand notions about ballet. Over three decades later, critically acclaimed JSB performances move and delight audiences across the country. Learn more at jsballet.org.

MacPhail Center for Music is committed to transforming lives and strengthening communities through music learning experiences that inspire. Each year, MacPhail offers programming to 16,000

students of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, at locations in Minneapolis, White Bear Lake, Chanhassen, Apple Valley and Austin, as well as 104 community partnerships across the Twin Cities. An industry leader in online music education, MacPhail's Live Online and Online School Partnerships programs have reached students for the past ten years. MacPhail has a 113-year history of excellence, promoting life-long learning and building long-term relationships between students and teachers. For more information, visit [macphail.org](http://macphail.org).

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