



ACADIA

music by
michael
coffin

natasha carlitz dance ensemble

october 28 & 29, 2016 | cubberley theatre

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble

with *Brilliante Strings*

Acadia

A map of Acadia National Park with several locations marked by diamonds. The locations are: Somesville, Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Manset, Bass Harbor, and Cranberry. Other geographical features labeled include Western Bay, Eagle Lake, Jordan Pond, Mount Desert Island, Echo Lake, Seal Cove, West Tremont, and Salsbury Cove.

Natasha Carlitz
artistic director

Mike Coffin
composer in residence

the company

Emily Anderson

Colette Bakke

Julia Canavese

Erwin Columbus

Elise Johnson

Rachel Lovett

Thea Patterson

Alyse Romano

Jessica Stucke

Julianna Woodman

guest artists

Helena Birecki
choreographer / dancer

Mia Bella D'Augelli, violin

Addi Liu, viola

Crystal Pascucci, cello

Luke Santonastaso, violin



Our appreciation to DanceVisions / Laura Zweig for their support; to all the volunteers who have helped this production to come into being; and to Cubberley Theatre staff and crew.

Thanks to our donors: Pablo Cohn, Cynthia Howard, Xiaoming Jia, Barbara Kingsley, Brenda Koch-Bakke, Rhandeev Singh, and our dear old friend Anonymous (and any others who may contribute after we go to press, and to whom we are equally grateful).

Most of all, thank you to Mike, whose music inspired this entire evening; to the performers past and present who helped create these pieces, patient with endless experimentation and wise in their suggestions; and, as always, to Grace Butler.

Concert Program

all music by Mike Coffin

choreography by Natasha Carlitz unless otherwise noted

Present 2016

music Allegro
costumes Karen McWilliams
dancers Emily Anderson, Colette Bakke, Julia Canavese,
Erwin Columbus, Elise Johnson, Thea Patterson,
Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman

Inconceivably Found 2012

music NP Complete
dancer Helena Birecki

Euclidean Plane 2015

music Prelude in A
costumes Karen McWilliams
dancers Julia Canavese, Rachel Lovett, Alyse Romano,
Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman
understudy Emily Anderson

Icarus Learning To Fly 2016

music Gavotte for Solo Cello
dancer Erwin Columbus

Spheres 2013 / 2016

music Spheres
dancers Julia Canavese, Rachel Lovett, Alyse Romano,
Julianna Woodman

Pause ~

Four Winds 2015

music Fugue for Winds
costumes Karen McWilliams
dancers Colette Bakke, Julia Canavese, Elise Johnson,
Alyse Romano, Julianna Woodman
understudy Emily Anderson

Turnabout 2015

music Spinster
costumes Natasha Carlitz
dancers Thea Patterson, Jessica Stucke

Flamenco à la Russe 2015

music Time Off
costumes Natasha Carlitz
dancers Julia Canavese, Alyse Romano, Julianna Woodman
understudy Thea Patterson

A note on the music you're about to hear: "Circles" was originally composed to accompany a dance by Maggie Hurd. The next two dances, both set to this piece, pose the question of whether what you see changes how you hear the music. What do you think?

Paths 2016

choreography by Helena Birecki
music Circles
dancers Helena Birecki, Rachel Lovett

Study in Entomology 2016

music Circles
costumes Natasha Carlitz, Celeste McDougal, Ruby McDougal
dancers Colette Bakke, Erwin Columbus, Elise Johnson,
Thea Patterson, Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman

Intermission ~ ~

Acadia Suite

music played by Brilliante Strings

Mia Bella D'Augelli, violin

Addi Liu, viola

Crystal Pascucci, cello

Luke Santonastaso, violin

Soundings 2015

music Somes Sound

costumes Natasha Carlitz, Karen McWilliams

dancers Colette Bakke, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus,
Elise Johnson, Thea Patterson, Alyse Romano,
Jessica Stucke, Julianna Woodman

understudy Rachel Lovett

Daily Bread 2016

music Little Notch

costumes Erika Tingey

dancers Colette Bakke, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus,
Elise Johnson, Julianna Woodman

Waiters' Waltz 2015

music Jordan Pond

dancers Helena Birecki, Thea Patterson, Alyse Romano,
Jessica Stucke

Echo Lake 2015

music Echo Lake

costumes Julia Canavese, Fabian Cardenas, Natasha Carlitz,
Monika Chock, Maggie Hurd, Thea Patterson,
Alyse Romano, Jessica Stucke, Deanna Woodman,
Julianna Woodman

dancers Helena Birecki, Julia Canavese, Erwin Columbus,
Thea Patterson, Alyse Romano, Jessica Stucke,
Julianna Woodman

understudy Rachel Lovett

About the Company

Ten years ago, in November 2006, the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented its inaugural concert in partnership with the internationally acclaimed California Guitar Trio. Tonight's concert celebrates a return to live music and the culmination of a two-year collaboration with composer Mike Coffin. The Dance Ensemble uses a wide variety of music, from classical to contemporary rock, and critics have commented on the company's tight coordination of shape, colour, and musicality: "Serious and graceful work... displays creativity and talent that are worth seeing... One of the really successful features of Carlitz' work is that the selected music and choreography fit so well together," writes Michael Phelan of baydance.com.

The Ensemble performs an annual full-length program as well as appearing in group concerts and festivals around the Bay Area. Athletic and spirited, NCDE dancers bring both strong technique and emotional depth to their performances.

In 2010, NCDE was invited to represent the United States at the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival, performing evening-length concerts in Cairo and Alexandria. "Last week the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented a breathtaking show," wrote Rania Khallaf for Cairo's Al-Ahram Weekly. "A choreographer and dancer, Carlitz imbued the stage with a spirit of enthusiasm, romance and joy. The ensemble... resonated with a sense of ecstasy and challenge."



NATASHA CARLITZ began her dance training in Palo Alto some 40 years ago with Grace Butler, a former Nikolais dancer, and performed as a child and young adult with CHORD (Children's Original Repertory Dance) and SMDC (the Saturday Morning Dance Company). She has studied dance in California, London, Amsterdam, Massachusetts, and Maine—including improvisation and choreography workshops with Pilobolus founder Jonathan Wolken and aerial dance in the Sierras with Bandaloop. For the past 25 years, Natasha has choreographed and performed around the Bay Area, both independently and as

a member of the collective High Release Dance (1998 through 2005 and 2011 through the present). Natasha has shown her choreography in a variety of festivals and showcases, including productions by sjDANCEco, ODC, and Dance Mission. After presenting concerts of her own work in 2002 (San Jose) and 2005 (Palo Alto), in fall 2005 she founded NCDE to bring her work to new audiences. At the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival in 2010, Natasha led a modern master class with Egypt's national dance company; she now teaches on occasion, and works at Google to support her dance company, her garden, and her cat, Perboly.



MIKE COFFIN started playing classical guitar in grade school and began writing guitar music soon after. Thankfully, most of his early music has been lost. In the last few years he has begun composing for other instruments and ensembles as well. His new music sounds as if it might have been written by one of the slower-witted students of J. S. Bach, though he also sprinkles in bits of flamenco, jazz, and blues. You can hear more of his compositions at <https://soundcloud.com/mhcoffin>. His latest project is composing hold music for Google customer service phone lines.

Company Dancers



EMILY ANDERSON discovered her love for dance in ballet class at the age of four. However, wanting to try a little of everything, she soon moved on to tap, jazz, and hip hop. Upon joining her high school dance ensemble, Emily established her absolute passion for dance and performed lyrical, modern, jazz, and hip hop routines. Emily also competed on her high school cheerleading team and went on to coach cheerleading for four years. She recently graduated from California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and continues to choreograph cheerleading on a freelance basis. Emily is exceptionally excited and grateful to be dancing with NCDE!



COLETTE BAKKE began dancing in a ballet class as a child and has since grown to study various styles while deepening her passion for the art. Colette received a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Arts with a concentration in Dance at Sonoma State University having studied under Kristen Daley, Nancy Lyons, Scott Wells, and Christine Cali. Her dance style is currently focused in Contemporary / Modern Technique, Improvisation, and Somatic Awareness. During her undergraduate program, Colette had many opportunities to dance in works by guest artists including: Mark Haim, Rogelio Lopez, and The Dance Exchange. Colette is now dancing professionally in and around the San Francisco Bay Area and is in her first year as an NCDE company member.



JULIA CANAVESE has been an active member of the Silicon Valley arts scene for over 15 years. Graduating from Santa Clara University with a B.A. in Theatre Arts with a Dance Emphasis, Julia studied primarily Horton technique, although she also has training in Graham, Cunningham, and Lewitzky, as well as jazz, tap, ballroom, and folk dance. In 2012, Julia participated in a two-week dance intensive at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London where she studied a mix of contemporary technique, contact improvisation, choreography, and Flying Low technique. She is honored to be a member of Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, Released Dance Coalition, The Lively Foundation, and High Release Dance. In addition to dance performance, Julia is a passionate arts administrator. She works for Silicon Valley Creates (formerly Arts Council Silicon Valley) as the LiveSV.com content editor, and she is the Managing Director of PUSH Dance Company. Volunteer activities include being a Steering Committee Member and Marketing/Communications Subcommittee Member of genARTS Silicon Valley, a network of emerging arts professionals, and being on the staff of Fanime Black & White Ball, an annual ballroom dance event for more than 2,500 attendees. Julia enjoys every opportunity she can to engage in meaningful expression through the arts and is committed to the growth of the arts sector as a whole.



ERWIN COLUMBUS is a Chemical Engineer who discovered dance at Iowa State University in 2012. He has honed his talent performing with Orchestis I and II at ISU, and enjoys choreographing as well as performing. Erwin attended the American Dance Festival and has performed at FACES and Octagon Arts Festival in Iowa. Since moving to the Bay Area, he has appeared with Zohar Dance Company and ArtistEDGE. Currently, Erwin is an active member of ArtistEDGE, Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, and High Release Dance.



ELISE JOHNSON grew up in Seattle, Washington, training mostly in ballet. While attending college, her primary dance focus transitioned from ballet technique to an emphasis in modern dance. She went to Hope College, studying Dance Performance and Choreography under Matthew Farmer, Sharon Wong, Crystal Frazier, Linda Graham, Julie Powell, Steven Iannacone, Angie Yetzke, and Nicki Flinn. Her college years allowed her to embody dance in a whole new persona, utilizing improvisational skills, Laban movement analysis, and embracing the different forms of modern, jazz, and contemporary.

Elise's time at Hope College landed her a position as a company member in the H2 Dance Company directed by Matthew Farmer. Elise now resides in San Francisco where she looks forward to collaborating and continuing to learn from different artists. She is thrilled to be working with NCDE and all the wonderful dancers in the company.



RACHEL LOVETT started dancing at age seven at Pacific Ballet Academy. She has trained at schools including Pacific Ballet Academy, American Ballet Theatre, The Joffrey Ballet School in New York, San Jose Ballet, The Joffrey Academy in Chicago, and the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Russia. At age 17 she moved to New York City and began her pre-professional training at the Joffrey Ballet School. Rachel currently is a member of the New Ballet School's Studio Company and has recently worked as a professional dancer with Alameda Civic Ballet, Western Ballet, Santa Clara Ballet, and Earl Mosely's Diversity of Dance. Rachel joined NCDE in 2016.



THEA PATTERSON is a dancer from Oakland, California. She began dancing at Conservatory of Classical Ballet in San Leandro under the direction of Ann Fisher-Ratto, performing an array of classical ballet repertoire such as Giselle, Swan Lake, and La Bayadère. During this time she was fortunate to perform original works by noted Bay Area choreographers Carlos Carvajal and Michael Lowe. From 2009-2013 she attended UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts, where she continued her training in ballet as well as modern, jazz, and improvisation, graduating Cum Laude with degrees in Dance and English.

Thea has danced for various Bay Area choreographers and companies, including Peninsula Ballet Theater, Sarah Bush Dance Project, and Kathryn Roszak's Danse Lumière, and is currently a member of Lissa Resnick's No Strings Attached Dance Company and Frederick Gaudette's Blue Scorpion Dance Theater. Thea is honored and thankful to be dancing with Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble.



ALYSE ROMANO began dancing at age four at Pacific Ballet Academy where she continued her ballet training throughout high school. Along the way she attended summer intensives with American Ballet Theater in Alabama and Texas as well as with the Joffrey Ballet in New York. She went on to major in dance at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she was introduced to modern dance, improvisation, and choreography. In her fourth year at UCSB, Alyse was grateful to become a member of the UCSB Dance Company and have the opportunity to go on tour throughout California, New York, and Italy.

After graduating from UCSB with a B.F.A. in Dance, Alyse returned to the Bay Area where she has been teaching ballet to children and adults and has performed principal roles in Pacific Ballet Academy's productions of the Nutcracker and Swan Lake. She recently traveled to New York as an Arnhold Scholar to attend the Dance Education Laboratory at Harkness Dance Center and to perform with Selah Dance Collective. Alyse is currently working with both NCDE and Bay Pointe Ballet.



JESSICA STUCKE grew up in San Mateo, doing gymnastics and competitive cheerleading, but it wasn't until she joined her high school's dance ensemble that she discovered dance. She continued to study dance at UC Santa Barbara where she spent her time refining her modern and ballet technique and exploring her own choreography interests. During her senior year, she was given the opportunity to join the UCSB Dance Company, which spent the entire year learning repertoire from prestigious guest artists and faculty, culminating in an international performance tour throughout California, the Czech Republic,

and Italy. Aside from performing, Jessica is an emerging choreographer and was awarded the UCSB Sherrill C. Corwin-Metropolitan Award for her B.F.A. senior project, as well as being competitively selected to self-produce a research-based Honors Project in collaboration with one of her fellow classmates entitled "The Body as a Metaphor." In 2014, Jessica graduated from UCSB with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and has since returned to the Bay Area in search of more dance opportunities, including becoming a member of NCDE. She is extremely honored and excited to be working with the company this upcoming season!



JULIANNA WOODMAN, born in the Bay Area, began her dance training at the age of six. In 2012 she had her first professional experience when she was invited to perform in Jose Limón's "Missa Brevis" with the company sjDANCEco. In 2013 she had the honor of performing as a soloist in Nahn Ho's original work "Bridging the Gap 2." In 2014 she was blessed with the opportunity to perform in Adrienne Foley's original trio "Hit 'Em Up Style," along with original work by Jeannine Charles. She is excited to be a member of both NCDE and the newly formed company ArtistEDGE. She loves performing because it gives

her the opportunity to express herself and demonstrate one of her passions. Another passion involves helping people by touch therapy. She has recently graduated from National Holistic Institute where she earned her license to work as an Advanced Neuromuscular Massage Therapist. She is currently a TA and an Ambassador at NHI. When she is not dancing, teaching, or treating people, she enjoys hiking, reading, and going on adventures with her boyfriend, friends, and family.

Guest Artists



HELENA BIRECKI has been moving to music (and silence) since her third Christmas when her parents put on a record of the Nutcracker and she lost all interest in the presents. She later earned a BFA in dance from the University of Michigan. Since moving back to the San Francisco area, she has had the pleasure of performing with groups including number9/kelly kemp, David Herrera Performance Company, Lizz Roman and Dancers, and High Release Dance, and has presented her own choreography at West Wave Dance Festival, Collaboration! Music and Dance, and the San Jose Choreographer's Project. Helena

is thrilled to be performing again with the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble. When not in the dance studio, you are likely to find Helena teaching Pilates, hiking, or volunteering at the animal shelter.



MIA BELLA D'AUGELLI: As a violinist, Mia Bella works closely with composers of today as well as creating programs that breathe life into classical music. While also exploring sound as a composer and improviser, she studied with Gloria Justen and received a BA in Music Performance from Mills College in 2014. She is a member of the Town Quartet, Seismic Strings, Redwood Tango Ensemble, Ensemble Mik Nawooj, Livermore Valley Opera, and the North State Symphony Orchestra, and plays periodically with other chamber ensembles, symphonies, pit orchestras, and pop groups throughout the Bay Area. For a performance calendar and more, visit musicmiabella.com.



ADDI LIU divides his time performing on modern viola and baroque instruments in the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated with a B.M. and M.M. from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Jodi Levitz and Elizabeth Blumenstock and received a departmental award for excellence. Recent performances include a modern revival of a 1679 Venetian opera with Ars Minerva and Mozart Sinfonia Concertante with La Petite Bande Academy in Collevecchio, Italy. He is a founding member of the baroque ensemble MUSA, with upcoming programs: Noontime Concerts at Old St. Mary's

Cathedral, Wednesday Noon Concerts at Throckmorton Theatre, Old First Concerts, and Arts at St. Bede's.



CRYSTAL PASCUCCI is a cellist, composer, and improviser. As a performer, she is most active in the contemporary and experimental music communities. As a composer, she has researched vocal transcription and performative scoring of vocal inflections and rhythms. A graduate of Mills College, she is an active performer of free improvisation. She has performed with Roscoe Mitchell, Pamela Z, William Winant Ensemble, Ellen Fullman, Greg Saunier, Gino Robair, Zeena Parkins, David Behrman, and the Paul Drescher Ensemble. She's been a featured performer at Soundwave Festival, Hot Air Festival, and Switchboard Festival.

Crystal writes for and performs with Two Aerials and frequently performs solo cello with electronics. As a specialist in chamber music, she has worked with Nonsemble 6, Magik*Magik Orchestra, and Oakland Active Orchestra. Crystal was an artist in residence at Lijiang Studio in 2015 in Yunnan, China, where she collaborated with local artists to compose “Lijiang Flute Poems for Mixed Quartet.” She premiered the work in New York as a participating artist in the Lijiang Studio Index, and will return to Yunnan in summer 2017.



LUKE SANTONASTASO currently resides in San Francisco under the tutelage of Dan Carlson & David Chernyavsky in the San Francisco Academy Orchestra. As an avid chamber musician and orchestral violinist, he has worked with world-class artists such as Midori Goto, Maxim Vengerov, Bill Preucil, Osmo Vänskä, Lynn Harrell, Gilbert Kalish, David Halen, and The Borromeo String Quartet. Luke holds a B.A. and M.M. in Violin Performance from UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music, where he studied with Movses Pogossian and Guillaume Sutre. Outside of violin, Luke enjoys discovering new foods, hiking, and the ever-expanding world of technology.

Production Crew

director & producer	Natasha Carlitz
lighting designer	Jarku Tang Virtanen
sound technician	Byron Binns
stage manager	I-Heng McComb
stage assistants	Emily Anderson, Rachel Lovett
production assistants	Mike Coffin, Louis Coffin, Xiaoming Jia, Luiz-Otavio Zorzella
rehearsal assistant	Elena Grindley
wardrobe mistress	Karen McWilliams
graphic designer	Natasha Carlitz
videographers	Virginia Bock, Jeannine Charles
photographers	Yaron Kidron, Rahal Waladi
house manager	Brian Kimmy
box office managers	Paul Colley, Tracey Stanelun
theater manager	Brian Haines
ushers	Kerry Aradhya, Mike Coffin, Krystina Columbus, Elena Grindley, Rachel Mudge