The Hartt School of the University of Hartford

The Hartt School is the comprehensive performing arts conservatory of the University of Hartford. Hartt offers innovative degree programs in music, dance, and theater. Renowned faculty who perform and teach around the world mentor our students in their pursuits of excellence. With dozens of performing organizations and more than 400 instrumental and vocal performances, recitals, plays, master classes, dance performances, and musical theater productions a year, performance is central to Hartt’s curriculum.

The Hartt Dance Division Seniors would like to thank: Gregory S. Woodward, Larry Alan Smith, David Bell, Fred Sweitzer, Dale Smith, Elizabeth McMillan, Larry Rowe, Leonard Bretton, Thomas Fetera, Amy Manfredi, Sally Roig, Lief Ellis, Jillian Cote, Sarkis Kaltakhtchian, our mentors: Stephen Pier, Katie Stevinson-Nollet, Nina Watt, Debra Collins Ryder, all guest choreographers, and our families for all their love and support.

The Hartt School gratefully accepts gifts and bequests in support of its programs and performances.

For more information contact the office of Dean, Larry Alan Smith at: 860.768.4468
For more information on Hartt’s degree programs, contact Hartt Admissions at: 860.768.4465
For non-degree classes and individual instruction contact the Community Division at: 860.768.4451
To purchase tickets, visit www.hartford.edu/hart or call the Box Office at 860.768.4228
To join our mailing list or subscribe to our e-newsletter, visit www.hartford.edu/hart or call 860.768.4862

Upcoming Performances:

Hartt Dances

Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford
Friday, April 26th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 27th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 28th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Chasing Light

“Being able to find light in darkness at different times in our lives is a fundamental need that we all share and is perhaps the most important art of all in life.” – Christine Toomey
Choreographer: Ruby Cabbell
Dancers: Naomi Greenspan, Victory Johnson, Alex Larson, Elizabeth Rookey, Kelsie Washington, Rachel Russell (Understudy)

Final Hour
Choreographer: Yoshito Sakuraba
Music: “Paloma IV” by Murcof
Dancer: Christopher Henry

Through the Fire
“What matters most is how well you walk through the fire.” – Charles Bukowski
Choreographer: Cassandra Laskowski
Music: “Motivation” by Jacob Blodgett
Dancers: Elijah Evans, Marigel Fernandez, Janelle Holmes, Felicia Isotti, Emma Randolph, Erica Wolf, Hannah Davis (Understudy), Meredith Bolton (Understudy)

Undertow
Choreographer: Colin Connor
Music: “Breathing” by Aleksandra Vrebalov
Dancer: Ruby Cabbell

~Intermission~

HARTT SCHOOL DANCE DIVISION FACULTY & STAFF:
Barbara Ally: Dance Administration
Debra Collins Ryder: Ballet, Pointe, Dance History, Music in the Ballet Studio, Repertory, Pedagogy Supervisor
Lief Ellis: Technology in Dance
Katrina Hawley: Movement Fundamentals, Pilates, Issues in Pedagogy
Sarkis Kaltakhtchian: Character Dance
Nelly Lugo-Larcheveque: Physical Therapist
Amy Manfredi: Dance Division Administrator, Dance Pedagogy, Production Practicum, Pedagogy Coordinator
Elizabeth McMillan: Ballet, Pointe, Repertory
Tim Melady: Ballet, Pas De Deux, Men’s Class
Hilda Morales: Ballet, Point, Repertory, Ballet Pedagogy
Fritha Pengelly: Kinesiology
Ralph Perkins: Martha Graham Technique, Repertory
Miki Orihara: Martha Graham Technique, Repertory
Stephen Pier: Dance Division Director, Ballet, Men’s Class, Repertory, Contemporary Partnering
Leana Reisman: Music Theory and Ear Training, Music History, Music in the Ballet Studio, Musicianship for Dancers
Pam Rosow: Nutritionist
Larry Rowe: Dance Production
Katie Stevinson-Nollet: Contemporary Dance Forms, Composition, Repertory, Dance for Camera
Nina Watt: Limón Technique, Performance Techniques, Repertory

Production Crew:
Roberts Theater Technical Director & Lighting Designer and Board Operator: Thomas Fetera
Audience Services Manager: Rachel Yacoub
Costume Shop Manager: Jennifer Ellenberger
Wardrobe Mistress: Sally Roig
Costume Assistants: Hannah Davis, Isis Schwellenbach, Alex Larson
Stage Manager: Jasmine Urban
Sound Assistant: Kelly O’Brien
Videographer: Samantha Watson
Stage Crew: Meredith Bolton, Colby Connelly
Concessions and Fundraising: Cameron Whitney, Colby Connelly
Photographers: Rachel Russell, Erica Wolf
Guest Artists Continued:

**Shannon Gillen** is the founder and artistic director of New York’s visionary dance company VIM VIGOR. Gillen is one of NYC’s most sought after choreographers with an established and passionate audience following and commissions at prestigious national and international venues. Gillen graduated from The Juilliard School with her BFA (2003) and from Tisch School of the Arts/NYU (2013), where she was awarded a full fellowship to obtain her MFA. Gillen danced with the Johannes Wieland Company at the Staatstheater Kassel, Germany as a full time company member. She danced in 56 international performances and was singled out in the press for being ‘in top form, a feat of strength’ (HNA, German News). While dancing in Germany, Gillen burst into the choreographic scene receiving 3rd Prize at the International Solo-Tanz Competition in Stuttgart and commissions at the Mainfranken Theater Würzburg and the TIF Theater in Kassel. She was also selected as a THINK BIG choreographer in residence with the Staatsoper in Hannover, creating a piece that premiered at the TANZ Theater International Festival. Recent creations and educational commissions for Gillen include the B12 Workshops in Berlin, the Ruvelo International Festival in Chile, with New Dialect in Nashville, the Lines Training Program in San Francisco, the University of Michigan, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Springboard Danse Montreal, L.A. Dance Project and Manhattanville College. She is currently a choreographer in residence at Princeton University.

**Yoshito Sakuraba** is the founding artistic director of Abarukas and an award-winning choreographer. His work was seen in Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Israel, Mexico, and the U.S. He won the International Choreographic Competition at NW Dance Project and Choreographic Shindig at Whim Whim in the U.S. He was awarded for Best Choreography Award in Italy. He won Audience Prize at Masdanza International Contemporary Dance Festival in Spain. He's presented his work for International Solo Tanz Festival in Germany, Gdansk Dance Festival in Poland, Masdanza International Contemporary Dance Festival in Spain, Mash International Choreography Festival in Israel, and FIDCDMX in Mexico, and FINI Dance Festival in Italy. He's appeared in the television and his work has been featured in NY1 as well as Bric TV in Spectrum Cable Channel. He teaches at Peridance, GIBNEY, and the Graham School.

**Jonathan Royse Windham** is a native of Vail, Colorado. He has a BFA in Dance Performance from SUNY Purchase. Jonathan was named Dance Magazine’s “25 to Watch” in 2013 for his performance with Gallim Dance. He has also worked with the Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, American Repertory Ballet, Company XIV’s Nutcracker Rouge, Ramon Oller, The Kevin Wynn Collective, Alexandre Proia, and the DASH Ensemble. Jonathan was most recently part of the original revival company of Fiddler on the Roof on Broadway, choreographed by Hofesh Shechter. Jonathan’s choreography has been seen in theaters all over the U.S., including the theater at Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Dixon Place, The Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Contemporary Dance Wyoming, among others. Teaching credits include; Harvard University, University of Michigan, University of the Arts in Philadelphia, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Oswego, Skidmore College, the Martha Graham school, Houston School for the Performing Arts, Goucher College, Dancewave, and the Capezio Peridance Center.

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**This Familiar Feeling**

Choreographer: Khris King Henry

Music: “untitled #1” by Benjamin Stayner

Dance: Sydney Hitchell, Eric Kruger, Daimy McLaren, Mira Kaplan, Kyleigh Olivier, Isis Clark Schwellenbach,

**Wilder**

Choreographer: Shannon Gillen

Music: “Dazed and Confused” by Led Zeppelin and “Throwing Grain into Air” by Maelstrom

Dancer: Mikaela Papasodero

**Madrugada**

Choreographer: Jonathan Royse Winham

Music: “Flint (For the Underpaid and Underemployed)” by Sufjan Stevens

Dancer: Cassandra Laskowski

**Spectrum**

Choreographer: Mikaela Papasodero

Music: “Spectrum” by Joshua Stitt

Performers: Ane Arrieta, Austin Kelly, Blue Richardson, Joshua Stitt, Colby Connelly (Understudy)
Choreographers:

Ruby Cabbell is from Los Angeles, California. Ruby competed nationally as a Rhythmic Gymnast from ages 10 to 13. She began her dance training at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts where she was introduced to ballet, modern and contemporary dance, as well as dance composition. Ruby is currently a Senior Ballet Pedagogy Major at the University of Hartford where she has performed in original works by Bryan Arias, Norbert De La Cruz III, Stephen Pier, Katie Stevinson-Nollet and Debra Collins-Ryder. She has performed in reparatory works by Jose Limón (staged by Nina Watt), Martha Graham (staged by Miki Orihara) and Marius Petipa (staged by Hilda Morales). Ruby has trained during the summers at intensives such as Alonzo King Lines Ballet, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance and Joffrey Chicago. In 2013 she was proud to be a member of PRISM Project, a music and dance mentorship program for children with exceptionalities.

Khris King Henry is a native of Boston Massachusetts and began his dance training at the Origination Cultural Arts Center in 2011 under the instruction of Shaumbam-Yandje Dibinga. There he has studied Contemporary, Modern with Horton based technique as well as Hip-Hop and African dance. In 2011-2015, Khris was a dancer major at the Boston Arts Academy where he began his ballet training with instructor Chris Alloways Ramsey; former dancer with the Boston Ballet. During his time at Boston Arts Academy he was able to work with choreographers Nathan Trice on a new work titled Conversions as well as Katherine Young; artistic Director of the Boston Conservatory. In 2013 Khris attend Complexions Contemporary Ballet’s Code 3 workshop were he was able to work with Desmond Richardson, Dwight Rhoden and Jae Man Joo.

Cassandra Laskowski grew up in Goffstown, New Hampshire. She began dancing at the age of three. She started her training with New Hampshire School of Ballet at the age of eleven, where she competed regionally and nationally in ballet, jazz, tap and contemporary. While at Hartford as a Dance Performance Major, Cassandra has performed in works by Jose Limón, Martha Graham, Michelle Thompson Ulterich, Claudia Schreier, Katie Stevinson-Nollet and Stephen Pier. She is currently serving as Dance Director of The Hartt School’s PRISM Project. Along with her desire to perform in a modern company after graduation, Cassandra hopes to pursue a Masters in Dance and Movement Therapy.

Mikaela Papasodero is from Middleboro, MA. She was a member of Project Moves Dance Company at The Gold School under the direction of Rennie Gold. While there Mikaela had the opportunity to work with artists such as Tyce Diorio,Teddy Forance and many more. She was also a member of Boston Community Dance Project under the direction of Sarah Katarina- Jerome, and performed in the Boston area while on the company. Mikaela is currently a student at The Hartt School at The University of Hartford pursuing a BFA in Dance Performance. She has performed works by Jose Limon, Manuel Vignouelle, Bryan Arias, Martha Graham, Katie Stevenson-Nollet, and Stephen Pier. She teaches throughout the New England region at local studios in styles such as ballet, modern, jazz, and contemporary. Mikaela is endlessly grateful for all the opportunities she has had teaching, performing, and learning.

Composers:

Jacob Blodgett (b.1992) is an American composer, musician, and writer. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Jacob is always one to pay homage to his California roots, integrating elements of jazz, film, and world music into his compositions. An accomplished guitarist and percussionist, he has had experience performing in a wide array of ensembles, from Latin combos and jazz big bands to both West African and Taiko percussion groups. Jacob’s music is all-encompassing, with a flexibility that has stretched into writing music for theater, dance, video and film, jazz, and the concert stage. Though mild-mannered in person, Jacob has never been one to shy away from confronting complex social and political issues relevant to our time within his music, subtle or otherwise. Jacob is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition at the University of Hartford’s Hartt School, and serves as the department’s Graduate Teaching Fellow.

Benjamin M. Stayner is a conductor, cellist, composer, and pianist from Western NY. He has conducted the Hartt Orchestra and the Foot in the Door Ensemble, as well as the String Orchestra of Brooklyn in a masterclass with Tito Muñoz. In 2014, he won a TANYS Award for Outstanding Musical Direction of Fiddler on the Roof with Theatre in the Mist. As a strong advocate for new music, he has commissioned many new works for himself, as well as his cello and double bass duet, Duo716. This past fall he curated a program of all new music for cello, including five commissions and six total premieres, including pieces with electronics. He conducted the premiere of his piece, Wake Up! for solo percussionist and chamber ensemble, this last March with the Foot in the Door Ensemble. Benjamin is currently pursuing undergraduate studies in music theory and composition at The Hartt School. He studies conducting with Edward Cumming and cello with Mihai Tetel. He also studied composition with Larry Alan Smith.

Joshua Stitt found his way to the bench of a piano at a young age and never looked back. He enjoys the study of various subjects with a consistent focus in music as a cultural phenomenon; knowing why we make and listen to the music. The study of ethnomusicology has taken him around the globe a few times. He has spent time doing some folk music research in Eastern Europe and Turkey and headed up the research aspect of multimedia project on the Thai-Burma border. Collaboration is something Josh seeks out, as he prefers working directly with musicians and artists so that they may learn from each other. Aside from the composition and research parts of his life you can probably find him cooking in the kitchen and challenging his physical and mental strength through parkour.

Guest Artists:

Colin Connor’s dance career spans performing, teaching, choreographing and directing dancers. He was appointed as the Artistic Director of Limón Dance Company in July, 2016. Mr. Connor began dancing in Canada and was a soloist with the Limón Dance Company for eight years, guest performed with several other companies, and toured extensively with his own work. He has always been committed to the idea that dancers are creative artists and that dancing is the act of drawing from a large range of influences, musical, literary, sensory, social and scientific, to bring attention back to the visceral communicative power of the human body. Mr. Connor’s over fifty choreographic commissions span the worlds of contemporary, ballet and flamenco companies, and his works have been presented at numerous venues across the Americas and Europe. As an educator, Mr. Connor has been on the faculties of The Juilliard School, New York University, and the City College of New York. For fourteen years he was full-time faculty at the California Institute of the Arts where he served as Director of Student Professional Development.