

Velocity! Concert Dance — new name, same splendid moves

Bridgette Redman, For the Lansing State Journal 6:47 a.m. EDT September 24, 2015



(Photo: Courtesy Happendence.org)

Act I: Happendence christens new name at fall concert

They've been around for a long time — longer than any other modern dance company in Michigan.

This fall, they're announcing a new name at their concert. The Happendence Professional Company will now be known as Happendence Velocity! Concert Dance. The overall company that encompasses the professional company, the school and student dancers will still be known as Happendence.

"We are excited to introduce our new name that reflects the vitality and creative talent of our dancers and our repertoire," said the company's artistic director, Patricia Villanueva.

They'll inaugurate their new name at a concert called "Something Old, Something New" at LCC's Dart Auditorium 3 p.m. Sunday.

"Something Old, Something New" is a wonderful blend of contemporary dance that will feature some of our audience favorites as well as exciting new works and dancers," said Villanueva.

There are several dances that tell stories through dance. "Widow's Walk" explores a widow's thought as she contemplates her life ahead. "Trio" is a quirky and athletic endeavor that is about fun and the playful interaction between three dancers. "Summertime" is a lighthearted interpretation of George Gershwin's classic. "Never Let Me Go" is a solo created for Shannon Simon by Carrie Crawford, a well-known L.A. dancer and choreographer.

"The audience is definitely in for a treat," says Happendence CEO Missy Lilje. "Happendence professionals will charm and move you as they dance their way into your hearts. The quality of this concert is what you would expect to see in a big city like New York."

The concert will also have two works with Happendence Impulse, which is the student company, including a premiere by guest choreographer Jim McEwan.

"One of the most wonderful aspects of Happendence Velocity! Concert Dance is our professional dancers, peoples who are highly trained artists and have chosen to live in our community," said Villanueva.

Dancers performing are Lauren Mudry, Deanne Rivera, Josh Smith, Clara Martinez, Shannon Simon, Cami Ernst, Aiden Foster-Fishman, Jennifer Ruth and Abbie Smith.

The concert runs for about an hour with an afterglow immediately following. The show is appropriate for all ages.

•**Something Old, Something New, Happendence Velocity! Concert Dance**, LCC Dart Auditorium, 3 pm. Sunday, \$15, \$12 for seniors and students. www.happendence.org or 517-333-3528.

Act II: Guest composer provides music for MSU College of Music concerts

It won't be your typical opening concert when the Michigan State University choral and instrumental bands take the stage next week for four different concerts.

These concerts will all feature works by a single guest composer, a composer who is an alumnus of the College of Music from 1971 and who will be in residency Sept. 28-Oct 2 to work with the students directly on his music. The composer is David Maslanka and four student ensembles will give performances featuring his music.

He'll work with each of the four ensembles — Concert Band, Symphony Band, Musique 21 and Wind Symphony — and will give composition master classes.

“(Performing his music) is like entering this magnificent dreamlike state of mind. You truly feel that you're creating something awe-inspiring, unforgettable and beautiful,” said Wind Symphony percussionist and composition student Josh Trentadue.

Trentadue said Maslanka is the man whose music inspired him to attend music school and he's excited to gain insight on composition from him.

Maslanka is most recognized for his larger band pieces like Symphony No. 4, Give Us This Day, or his 9/11 tribute, Testament.

This concert also marks the 10th anniversary of Kevin Sedatole, director of bands and the director of the Wind Symphony. He chose Maslanka to be the guest artist in resident, saying he was a great fit because of his ties to Michigan State and his broad spectrum of compositions.

“Maslanka has written everything from marimba solo to larger ensemble works,” said Sedatole.

The full-week concert schedule is:

- Monday, Sept. 28 - Musique 21 at 7:30 p.m. in MSU Auditorium's Fairchild Theatre
- Tuesday, Sept. 29 - Symphony Band at 7:30 p.m. in Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall
- Thursday, Oct. 1 - Wind Symphony at 7:30 p.m. in Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall
- Tuesday, Oct. 6- Concert Band/Campus Band at 7:30 p.m. in Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and free for students with ID and anyone under the age of 18. Tickets can be purchased by calling 517-353-5340 or at the door.

Guest composers Patrick Harlin with Musique 21 and Michael Markowski with Symphony Band will also be in attendance.

The concerts will also welcome five new faculty members to the College of Music. They include:

- Assistant Director of Bands Dustin Barr conducting Musique 21
- Voice Professor Marc Embree soloing with Musique 21
- Music Theory Instructor Patrick Johnson playing organ with Musique 21
- Trumpet Professor Justin Emerich soloing with Wind Symphony
- Assistant Director of Bands David Thornton conducting Concert Band

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