

# Temptation of the Muses

**An evening of music and dance**

Thursday, April 25, 2013 • 8:00 p.m.

Fisher Auditorium, IUP Performing Arts Center

**Artistic Director/Choreographer:** Nai-Ni Chen

**Composers:** Kenji Bunch, David Balakrishnan, Pat Metheny, Ronn Yedidia

**Lighting Designer/Stage Manager:** Carrie Wood

**Costume Designer:** Anna-Alisa Belous

## Ahn Trio

Angella Ahn, violin

Maria Ahn, cello

Lucia Ahn, piano

## Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

Greta Campo, Ekaterina Chernikhova, Eun Kyung Hong,  
Sabrina Jaafar, Daniel Johnson, James Johnson, Yoo Sik Kim

**Skylife**..... **David Balakrishnan\*\***

**Yu Ryung**..... **Pat Metheny**

Dancers: Greta Campo, Ekaterina Chernikhova, Eun Kyung Hong, Sabrina Jaafar,  
Daniel Johnson, James Johnson, Yoo Sik Kim

**Tremors** ..... **David Balakrishnan**

**Dies Irie**..... **Kenji Bunch**

Dancers: Greta Campo, Ekaterina Chernikhova, Eun Kyung Hong, Sabrina Jaafar,  
Daniel Johnson, James Johnson, Yoo Sik Kim

**Concrete Stream**..... **Kenji Bunch**

Dancers: Greta Campo, Ekaterina Chernikhova, Eun Kyung Hong, Sabrina Jaafar,  
Daniel Johnson, James Johnson  
Costumes: Karen Young

**Concrete Stream** is made possible by the Live Music for Dance Program from the American Music Center which is supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

• Intermission •

**Riders on the Storm..... The Doors**

Transcribed by Michal Rataj

**Lullaby..... Ronn Yedidia**

Dancers: Greta Campo, Sabrina Jaafar, Daniel Johnson, James Johnson

**Backstep, from ‘danceband’\* ..... Kenji Bunch**

Dancers: Dancers: Greta Campo, Ekaterina Chernikhova, Eun Kyung Hong, Sabrina Jaafar, Daniel Johnson, James Johnson, Yoo Sik Kim

**Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac..... Kenji Bunch**

Dancers: Ekaterina Chernikhova, Daniel Johnson

**Disco Boogie, from ‘danceband’\* ..... Kenji Bunch**

**Grooveboxes, from ‘Swing Shift’ ..... Kenji Bunch**

Dancers: Greta Campo, Ekaterina Chernikhova, Eun Kyung Hong, Sabrina Jaafar, Yoo Sik Kim

All pieces have been written or transcribed for the Ahn Trio.

\* Commissioned by the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

\*\* Transcribed by Kenji Bunch

**Program copy** has been provided by the artist management company, and appears here without edit.

**Concrete Stream  
Composer’s note-**

“Concrete Stream” usually refers to an artificial trickle of water in a backyard garden- essentially an elaborate home improvement project. Perhaps a more poetic interpretation of the term could suggest the paradox between the organic and man-made; the struggle for the existence of fluidity and natural beauty in an urban, industrial context. This work explores these two conflicting concepts, by incorporating elements of “floating”

melody, free from traditionally notated rhythms, juxtaposed with the insistent inflexibility of repetitive motives.

-Kenji Bunch (November 2010)

**Choreographer’s note-**

It is always very exciting to bring talents together from different disciplines in the arts. Each one of us is driven by inspiration from poetry, drama, music, dance and our lives. We are the muses tempted to toss our energy and pass on from one to the other. During the creative process the dancers are actively involved in improvisation. I gave them a lot of freedom to express themselves. The outcome is not only the collaborative effort between the composer, musicians and me. It is many hours of hard work from my dancers. I am grateful for the input from all of my dancers, especially for their enthusiasm, support and creativity throughout the process.

While I was searching for ideas to create a piece in collaboration with Ken-

ji Bunch (later he titled it “Concrete Stream”), this poem provided me with movement and sound images. I shared it with all collaborators and we started from there, moving on to what you are seeing tonight.

### **A Word for Freedom**

By Latif Nazemi

Translated from the Persian/Dari by  
Bashir Sakhawarz

Let's kiss water  
the root of civilization  
a word for freedom

I'm in love with water  
with roaring and restless rivers  
that are not seduced by trees  
nor captured by jungles  
They flow day and night  
carry on forever.

Let's praise rivers that lust for flowing  
for searching for a heart of temptation  
that know what message water delivers  
to stone,  
the questions water asks from quiet  
coasts.

Passerby, for a long time  
the river has been constrained in an  
old robe  
on our street and thrown into a well

Water wars with the well  
water in the mind of a tree  
water in the solitude of a cup,  
water in the memory of flowerpot,  
inconsolable.

I had a wonderful dream on Friday  
night.  
I dreamed the river ran free  
that on its roaring horse  
it rode over stones,  
past the border of farms.

## **About the Artists**

**Nai-Ni Chen** *Choreographer/Artistic Director* comes from a rich dance tradition. She was a renowned traditional dancer in the Republic of China and served on several ambassadorial culture missions to nineteen countries around the world. An early member of the Cloud Gate Dance Theater in Taiwan, she graduated from the Chinese Cultural University in 1982 and came to America to seek her own voice in the world of contemporary dance. Since the inception of her Company in 1988, Ms. Chen has created a wide-ranging repertory, from dances that originated thousands of years ago to highly abstract, modern works. The inspiration for her dances often comes from the poetic motion of the Chinese painting brush, from folk rituals and ceremonies, and from the phenomena of nature. Winning critical acclaim worldwide, Ms. Chen has received a two years Choreographer's Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is also a three times recipient of the Choreographer's Fellowship from New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Her work has also been commissioned by the Joyce Theater Foundation, the Lincoln Center Institute, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Dancing in the Streets, and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. She has taught master classes at colleges and universities throughout the United States and at dance festivals in Russia, Poland, Taiwan, and China. Besides creating dances for her own Company, she has choreographed the opera *Turandot* for both the Westfield Symphony's production at the PNC Center and the Boheme Opera Company's production at the War Memorial Hall in Trenton,

New Jersey. As a guest choreographer, she created "Unconquered Warrior" for Dancing Wheels Company of Cleveland, Ohio. She was one of the choreographers for Ballet Met's 30X30 project in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Chen also completed a new ballet, "The Three Riddles of Turandot," for New Jersey Ballet in 2009. In New York, she has taught at Mary Anthony Dance Studio, Peridance, and New York University, where she received her MA in Dance and Dance Education. She has been a principal affiliate artist of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center since its inception. On television, Ms. Chen is an often-featured artist on PBS/NJN's "State of the Arts." For her contribution to the community, she has won rewards from New Jersey International Institute, NJ Organization of Chinese American. She received the "Culture Ambassador" award from NJ Chinese American Chamber of Commerce in 2011.

**The Ahn Trio** has been hailed as "exacting and exciting musicians" by the LA Times. The three sisters (Lucia on the piano, Angella on the violin, and Maria on the cello) have earned a distinguished reputation for embracing 21<sup>st</sup> century classical music with their unique style and innovative collaborations. The Ahn sisters were born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at the Juilliard School in New York City. Reflecting the two cultures in which they grew up, the Trio brings a new energy and excitement to the chamber music world. Such luminary composers as Michael Nyman, Maurice Jarre, Pat Metheny, Paul Schoenfield, Mark O'Connor, Kenji Bunch, Nikolai Kapustin, and Paul Chihara have written works for them. The trio's latest CD, "Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac" (released

## HINTING HEADLINES

**For some hints on what's in store for Ovation's! 2013-14, see page 31.**

by Sony) is a showcase of their fearless creativity, which made No. 8 on the Billboard Charts for 26 weeks in the Classical album category. In over ten years of touring, the Trio has performed in all 50 states and in over 30 countries, and has recorded six albums. The first, a recording of Ravel and Villa-Lobos trios brought rave reviews, with Audio Magazine praising "this is one of Ravel's best and never better played". The next EMI recording of trios by Dvorak, Suk, and Shostakovich, won Germany's prestigious ECHO Award. An MTV appearance on Bryan Adams' "Unplugged" inspired the trio to make "Ahn-Plugged" (EMI), and "Groovebox" (EMI) soon followed. The Trio recently formed LAMP (Lucia Angella Maria Productions), producing "Lullaby For My Favorite Insomniac". This album led to a fruitful relationship with Sony. Meanwhile, the sisters made a joint album "Smetana" (Warner) with the Czech Grammy-winning rock group Tata Bojs. Maria, Lucia and Angella thrive on dissolving the barriers between art forms. They have fused their work with a range of artists and musical genres, from dancers and lighting designers to DJ's. The Trio enjoyed their successful collaboration with the David Parsons Dance Company, touring extensively to critical acclaim. More recently, they performed in the Czech Republic with the Tata Bojs to sold-out shows. The Ahns regularly perform Kenji Bunch's *Hardware Concerto* and Mark O'Connor's *March of the*

*Continued on page 13...*

*Gypsy Fiddler*, both of which were written for them, with orchestras around the country. The Ahns frequently enjoy having guest artists join them on stage. Recent favorites include the Kin, a two-brother rock band from Australia, as well as electronic music artist Juno a.k.a Superdrive from Berlin. It is precisely this vitality and commitment to innovation that has the Ahn Trio continually drawing new audiences to classical music.

**Kenji Bunch** has emerged as one of the most engaging, influential, and prolific American composers of his generation. Hailed by the New York Times as “A Composer To Watch” and cited by Alex Ross in his seminal book “The Rest Is Noise,” Mr. Bunch’s unique blend of wit, exuberance, lyricism, unpredictable stylistic infusions, and exquisite craftsmanship has brought acclaim from audiences, performers, and critics alike. Mr. Bunch’s symphonic music has been performed by over forty orchestras, and his genre-defying chamber works have been performed in premiere venues on six continents. His music is regularly broadcast on radio stations worldwide, and has been recorded on numerous labels, including Sony Classical, EMI, RCA, Naxos, Innova, and Koch.

Mr. Bunch maintains an active career as a violist, and is widely recognized for performing his own groundbreaking works for viola. A versatile musician with a deep interest in vernacular American music traditions and improvisation, he plays bluegrass fiddle, sings, and is a frequent guest performer, recording artist, and arranger with many prominent rock, jazz, folk, and experimental artists. Upcoming projects include the world premiere of his Piano Concerto in May 2011 with pia-

nist Monica Ohuchi and the Colorado Symphony. In October 2011, the American Composers Orchestra will premiere his viola concerto “The Devil’s Box” with Mr. Bunch as soloist, in Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall. A native of Portland, Oregon, Mr. Bunch graduated from the Juilliard School with degrees in both viola and composition, and currently lives in Brooklyn.

**Carrie Wood** *Lighting Director/Stage Manager* design credits include Luciana Achugar: *FEELingpleasuresatisfactioncelebration-holyFORM* (Abrons Art Center), Katie Workum: *Fruitlands* (The Chocolate Factory), *TARGET::furnace* (The Chocolate Factory), Walter Dundervill: *Asthetic Destiny I: Candy Mountain* (Dance Theatre Workshop), Melanie Maar: *Spaces & Bones* (The Chocolate Factory). *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus* (Abrons Art Center), Walter Dundervill: *Dear Emissary* (The Chocolate Factory), Reggie Wilson/ Andreyia Ouamba: *The Good Dance* (BAM), The Sarah Michelson: *Dover Beach* (The Kitchen), *Sonya and Layla go Camping* (The Kitchen), Daniel Charon: *Conduit* (Joyce Soho), Helen Simoneau (Joyce Soho), VIA Dance: *Lullaby in Surrealism* (Ailey Citigroup Theatre), *A Dream Play* (St Ann’s Warehouse), Ivy Baldwin: *Could be nice* (La Mama), *The Boy in the Bathroom* (45th street Theatre), Ivy Baldwin: *Its only Me* (Dance New Amsterdam), *The Siege of Corinth* (Baltimore Opera). Carrie is a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts.

**Anna-Alisa Belous** *Costume Designer* holds an MFA in Textile and Interior Design from the Art and Design Academy St. Petersburg, Russia and an MFA in Costume Design from Brandeis University, Boston. Anna-Alisa has worked as a costume designer for Rebecca Kelly Ballet, Carolyn Dor-

fman Dance Company, The Juilliard School, Actor's Shakespeare Project (MA), Philadanco (PA), Portland Stage Company (ME), Manhattan School of Music Opera Department, Immigrant Theater, The New School for Drama, LAB Theater, Boston Playwrights Theater (MA), Modus Opera, Blessed Unrest Company both as set and costume designer. Since 2002, she is a resident costume designer for Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre. She worked on the Feature Film "Kerosene Cowboys" and for the Washington Ballet, Boston Ballet, the Santa Fe Opera, the American Repertory Theater, the Gotham Chamber Opera, Columbia University, the Milwaukee Ballet and "Law and Order". This is Anna-Alisa' second collaboration with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company and she hopes to continue working with them in a future. For more information visit [www.abelous.com](http://www.abelous.com).

**Greta Campo** *Dancer* began her dance training in her native Milan at the Carcano Theater, where she was first introduced to Martha Graham's work. At age 19, she began the Professional Training Program at the Martha Graham School in NYC and, after a couple of months, she joined Graham II, performing in ensemble and solo roles. She recently performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company in their 2012 New York Season and has also been traveling nationally and internationally with them. She completed the Teacher Training Program at the School. Greta has performed choreography by Pascal Rioult, Larry Keigwin, among others and has worked with renowned choreographers, such as Eryc Taylor and Nejla Yatkın. This is her first season with the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company.

**Ekaterina Chernikhova** *Dancer* began her dance studies in her home city of Moscow, Russia, where she attended the Moscow School of Contemporary Dance. Internationally, she has also attended the Ecole Supérieure de Danse Cannes Rosella Hightower (France) and the Cologne Dance Academy (Germany). Ekaterina received her BFA in dance from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, where she performed choreography by José Limón, Paul Taylor, Martha Graham, among others. After graduating she moved to New York City where she has worked with various choreographers, including Michael Thomas and his Motion Theatre Lab dance company and Pascal Rekoert. Ekaterina is also a fully certified, practicing Pilates instructor. This is her third season with the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

**Eun Kyung Hong** *Dancer*, from Seoul, South Korea, graduated from Dong-Duk Women's University with a degree in Ballet from the prestigious Performing Arts School. While majoring in Ballet, she also honed her skills in Modern Dance, traditional Korean Dance, Contemporary Jazz, and Lyrical. In 2002 she joined the POZ Dance Theater Company in Seoul as a featured dancer with major tours to Japan, Italy and London. She moved to New York in 2008 to continue refining her craft as a student of the Peridance International Student Program. her performances here have included Nina Buisson Move's *Passage* and Yuri Yoshida's *Holiday Recital*. This is her first season with the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company.

**Sabrina Jaafar** *Dancer* graduated Cum Laude from the Alvin Ailey/Fordham University BFA program in Dance. She has worked with Buglisi Dance Theater, Yaa Samar! Dance The-

ater, Hope Boykin Dance, The Dance Now Ensemble!, Broward Ballet, apprenticed with Pascal Rioult Dance Theater and had the honor of dancing *Memoria* with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at NY City Center in 2005. Sabrina has performed a wide range of works by choreographers such as Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Ohad Naharin, Doug Varone, Ronald K. Brown, Tim Rushton, Elisa Monte and Sidra Bell. Along with performing, teaching is one of her passions, having taught for schools such as Alvin Ailey, The Friends Seminary School, Hellenic Classical Charter School and has been on staff at The Joffrey Ballet School since 2009. Sabrina is thrilled to be joining the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company for her first season.

**Daniel Johnson** *Dancer* began his dance studies at a young age in his hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida, where he attended the Academy of Ballet Arts under the tutelage of Ms. Suzanne Pomerantzeff. He went on to study ballet from Peter Stark in Tampa, Florida, at the Patel Conservatory. Daniel attended Summer Intensives on scholarships at American Ballet Theater, Orlando Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Nashville Ballet, The Rock School and with Lines Ballet. He competed in

the Youth America Grand Prix in NYC after achieving 1st and 2nd places at the YAGP regional competitions. Daniel graduated in 2012 from The Boston Conservatory with a BFA in Dance. He has performed the title role in José Limón's *The Moor's Pavane*, pieces from Alwin Nikolais (*Merlin of Multimedia*), Anna Sokolow (*Diaries of Franz Kafka*), David Lichine (*Graduation Ball*), Paul Taylor (*Cloven Kingdom*), José Limón (*Winged*) as Pegasus and multiple soloist roles in George Balanchine's *Nutcracker*. Daniel is excited to join the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company for his first season.

**James Johnson** *Dancer* was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he received his early training in dance. He recently graduated from The Juilliard School where he received his Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts in Dance. During his time at Juilliard he had the privilege to create and perform works with many choreographers, including José Limón, Fabien Prioville, Mark Morris, Alexander Ekman, Nacho Duato and Jerome Robbins. James is happy to be joining the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company for his first season.

**Yoo Sik Kim** *Dancer* is from Seoul, South Korea. He holds a BA in Dance



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from Seo-Kyeong University and a MFA in Dance Performance from Korea National University of The Arts. He was the finalist for the fourth Seoul International Dance Competition. In Seoul, as a performer, he has danced with Pilla Moving Company, Dance Theater-ON, Laboratory Dance Project and SEO Ballet Theatre. In New York, he has danced with AKADA, Goyou Ballet Company, REVERBdance and Dzul Dance. This is his first season with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company.

## About Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

Bringing the dynamic freedom of American modern dance together with the elegant splendor of Asian art, the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company reaches more than 100,000 audience members a year. Ms. Chen's unique choreography transports audiences beyond cultural boundaries to the common ground between tradition and innovation, discipline and freedom, and form and spirit. Winning critical acclaim everywhere, the Company has become the pride and joy of Asian-American communities across the United States. Celebrating the diversity of ideas shaped by the immigrant's journey, the Company bridges the gap in understanding between cultures.

Since its inception in 1988, the Company has earned a broad base of public support and has toured extensively to major performing arts centers throughout more than thirty states. In 2001, the Company also began touring abroad and has performed in Central America, Korea, China, Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, and Mexico. Today, it is one of the country's most widely toured professional Asian-American companies.

In addition to its extensive season of touring and performing, the Company has developed Arts in Education residency programs in many school districts to bring culture and arts into educational settings. The Company's colorful and engaging in-school assembly program "The Art of Chinese Dance" has been presented in hundreds of schools in NJ, NY, CT and PA, reaching hundreds of thousands of youth. In New Jersey, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company has developed residency programs in the elementary schools of Hillsborough and at School No. 26 in Elizabeth.

Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Department of State, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Fund for US Artists at International Festivals & Exhibitions, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, the Connelly Foundation, the E.J. Grassmann Trust, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Verizon, Sony, and others.

For additional Company information, visit our website, [www.nainichen.org](http://www.nainichen.org); write to Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, P.O. Box 1121, Fort Lee, NJ 07024; or call (800) 650-0246.

*The Ahn Trio and Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company are managed by: JOANNE RILE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT, INC. 93 Old York Road, Jenkintown Commons Suite 222; Jenkintown, PA 19046-3925 Tel: 215-885-6400; Fax: 215-885-9929 Email: [artists@rilearts.com](mailto:artists@rilearts.com) Web: [www.rile.com](http://www.rile.com); [www.ahntrio.com](http://www.ahntrio.com); [www.nainichen.org](http://www.nainichen.org).*