

Simon

DANCE COMPANY

PROPOSES A COLLABORATIVE REVIVAL OF

MISSA BREVIS

An emotional embodiment of human resilience,
community, & catharsis



Missa Brevis

is a song of a strong and simple people, a song of thanksgiving for deliverance from the unspeakable horrors of war.

Its dances express a deep awareness of the wonder of life, and the transcendent joy at its resumption.... Here the movement seems to spring directly from the heart.

- Dance Magazine





Music



Dance



Story

ABOUT

THE MUSIC

Zoltán Kodály's choral work "Missa Brevis in Tempore Belli" was composed for mixed chorus, soloists, and organ during World War II.

It is a Mass in time of war.

Kodály's complex score was completed during the siege of Budapest and reflects the hardship of this difficult time. It premiered in the cloakroom of the Budapest Opera house while the city was still under siege (February 11, 1945).

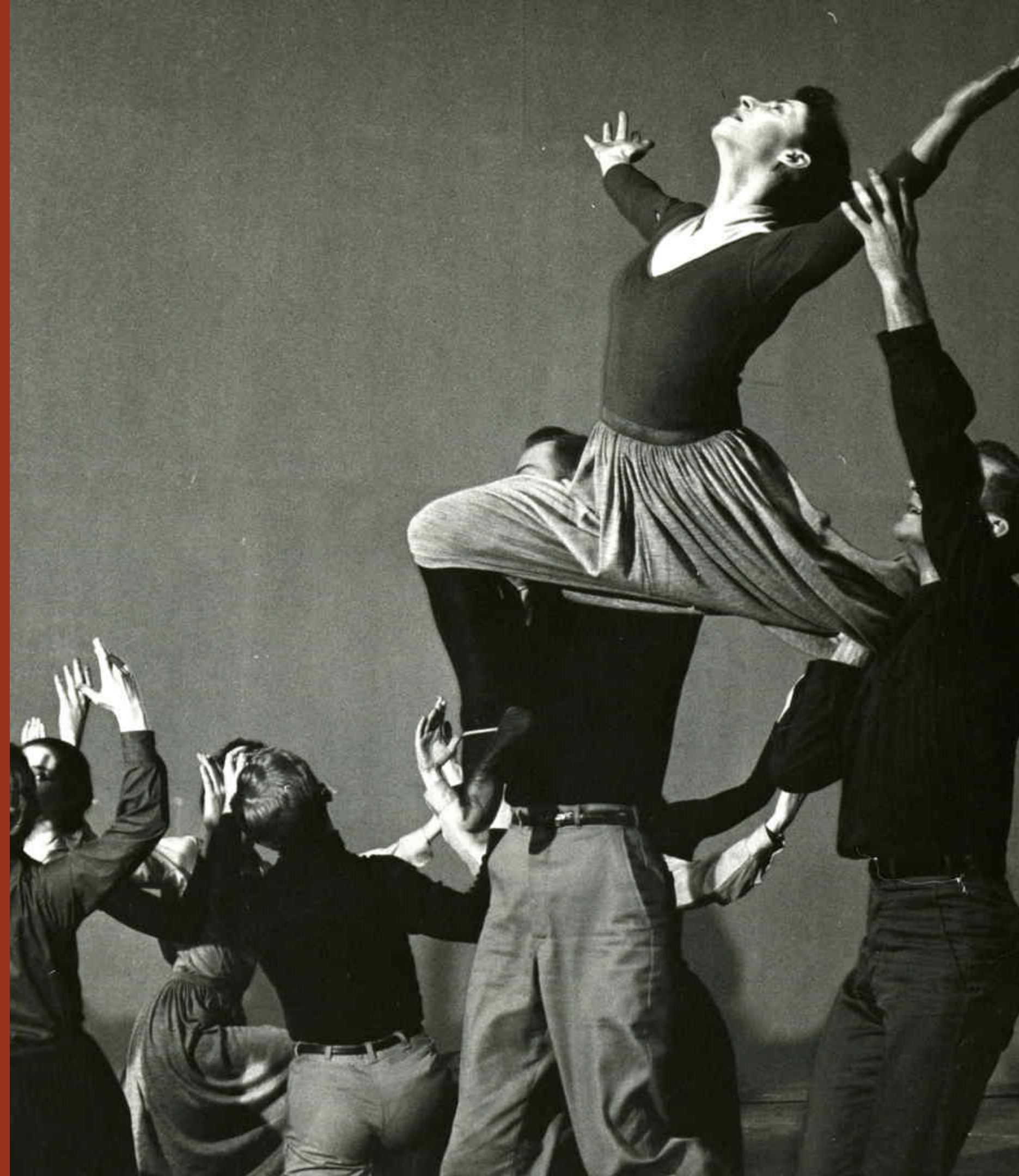


ABOUT

MISSA BREVIS

After hearing “Missa Brevis in Tempore Belli,” and witnessing the resilience of humanity after the destruction of World War II, José Limón choreographed this powerful memento.

During the Cold War, the Limon Dance Company toured throughout Eastern Europe. This is where Limon was profoundly inspired by the optimism and willingness to rebuild by the people.





ABOUT

MISSA BREVIS

In 1958, Limón premiered his work as an unifying litany against the destruction of war and to commemorate the human spirit.

Missa Brevis is an artistic call to peace.

2023 marks the **65th anniversary** of the premiere of ***Missa Brevis***.

ABOUT

THE STORY

Elements of folk-dance, theological symbolism, and Limón's expressive fall-and-recovery movement vocabulary illustrate a story of affirmation, rebirth, and community.

The choreography epitomizes how intertwined the hopes and fears of humanity can be during times of hardship.

Missa Brevis affirms dance as a universal language.



22 +
DANCERS

MULTIPLE
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR COMMUNITY
CONNECTION &
COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

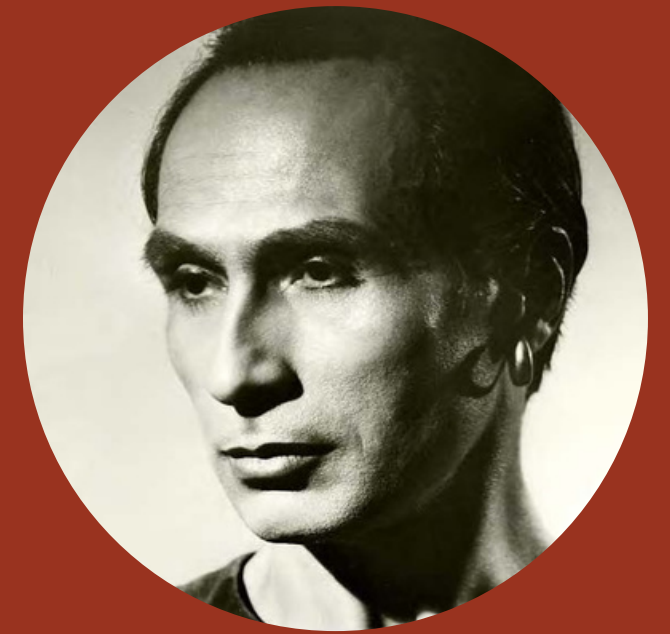
- Potential to have performance opportunities with the Limón Dance Company.
- Opportunity to create a conversation through music and dance with local artists.
- Community engagement through critical storytelling relevant to the turbulent and precarious times we are living in today.



PAST

LIMON HISTORY & LEADERSHIP

JOSÉ LIMÓN (Founder/Choreographer, 1908 - 1972), born in Culiacan, Mexico, spent a year at UCLA as an art major before moving to New York to study at the dance school of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman, performing in most of their works. In 1946, after serving in the army, Limón collected a small group of dancers and formed his own company with Humphrey as his artistic director. During the ensuing years, many of his 74 works were hailed as masterpieces, most notably ***The Moor's Pavane***, and the company grew in size and stature. In his later years, Limón was the recipient of numerous commissions, awards, and honorary doctorates.



DORIS HUMPHREY (Founder/Choreographer, 1895 - 1958), a founder of American modern dance, developed a distinctive movement approach based on the body's use of weight and its relationship to gravity. Her choreographic contributions include many works now considered modern dance classics. Between 1928 and 1944, Humphrey collaborated with Charles Weidman, producing great dances as well as some outstanding performers, José Limón among them. When physical disability ended her career as a dancer, she became the artistic director for José Limón and his company, creating new works for the dancers.



PRESENT

LIMON HISTORY & LEADERSHIP

DANTE PULEIO (Artistic Director), a widely respected former member of the Limón Dance Company for more than a decade, Puleio was appointed only the sixth Artistic Director in the Company's 75-year history. After a diverse performing career with the Limón Dance Company, touring national and international musical theatre productions, television and film, he received his MFA from University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on contextualizing mid 20th century dance for the contemporary artist and audience. He is committed to implementing that research by celebrating José Limón's historical legacy and reimagining his intention and vision to reflect the rapidly shifting 21st century landscape.





CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Founded in 1946 by José Limón and Doris Humphrey, the Limón Dance Company has been at the vanguard of American Modern dance since its inception and is considered one of the world's greatest dance companies. Acclaimed for its dramatic expression, technical mastery, and expansive yet nuanced movement, the Limón Dance Company illustrates the timelessness of José Limón's work and vision. The Company's repertory, which includes classic works in addition to new commissions from contemporary choreographers, possesses an unparalleled breadth and creates unique experiences for audiences around the world. It's Artistic Director, Dante Puleio, assumed artistic leadership on July 1, 2020 succeeding, Colin Connor and Carla Maxwell who led the Company from 1978-2016 before becoming the Foundation's first Legacy Director. Numerous honors have been bestowed upon both Limón and the Company he founded seventy five years ago, including the White House's 2008 National Medal of Arts for Lifetime Achievement. Additionally, the Company was the first modern dance group to tour under the auspices of the State Department and to perform at Lincoln Center.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Pre-performance talk
- Master classes
- Workshops
- Lecture Demonstrations
- Specially created events



PRESS QUOTES



“But the Limón Dance Company lives on, now nearly 70, and its members remain heroic defenders of their patrimony, the work of a man who was born in Mexico but became part of the core of modern dance in the United States.”

— Brian Seiber, New York Times

“The dance of Limón is for always... a spectacle of the highest artistic level...still the most unique and original American dance company.”

— Il Messaggero, Rome, Italy

“As long as we lie, hate, envy and betray, Jose Limon’s work will continue to fascinate.”

— Sarah Kaufman, Washington Post

“Logan Frances Kruger moves through Limón’s formal patterns with silky radiance. Even more than the movement, which hints at character dancing and at times can become too unvarying, the treasure of this dance is how it creates a private universe.”

— Gia Kourlas, The New York Times

“In this season of worldwide pain, Limón’s work is balm and anchor. Limón’s work is heroic; the legacy of his movement and musicality continues to honor him.”

—Martha Sherman, Dance View Times

INTERESTED IN PRESENTING OR SETTING THIS WORK?

ACCESS MORE INFO ABOUT



[www.redshellmgmt.org
/limon-dance-company](http://www.redshellmgmt.org/limon-dance-company)

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