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Spring 5-6-2022

### Spring Dance Concert

Jennifer Backhaus

Liz Curtis

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# SPRING DANCE CONCERT

JENNIFER BACKHAUS AND LIZ CURTIS

Co-Directors

MAY 6 & 7, 2022



CHAPMAN  
UNIVERSITY

College of  
**Performing Arts**

Department of Dance



MARYBELLE AND SEBASTIAN P.  
**MUSCO** CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS  
Chapman University

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends:

We are absolutely thrilled to be back, ready to perform for you in person! And we know how happy you are to be able to see live performances again—there's really nothing quite like the experience.

As we present the final dance concert of our performance season, I can tell you everyone is eager to showcase the hard work our faculty, staff, and talented students have done to produce this semester's concerts and shows—all of which are an extension of our curriculum.

If you were able to see one of our shows last season, you saw how much the pandemic altered the way we operate, requiring us to change protocols for audience, performer and crew safety. It also changed the way we deliver information, shifting from printed matter to digital content, a change that will likely remain permanent. I encourage you to [sign up for our e-mail list](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) (@ChapmanCoPA) to ensure you don't miss any news.

And now, please sit back and enjoy the performance!

**Giulio Ongaro, PhD**  
Dean and Professor  
College of Performing Arts  
**Chapman University**

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE PRESENTS:**

# **SPRING DANCE CONCERT**

**Jennifer Backhaus and Liz Curtis**  
Co-Directors

An evening of new choreography  
by senior dance majors.

**Anna Clay**

**Meghan Caito**

**Josh Escover**

**Anne Elise Garrison**

**Sara Iisaka**

**Dani Mullan**

**Max Prosser**

**Matthew Schroeder**

**Olivia Rose Liberati**

**Bethany Violet**

May 6 & 7, 2022

7:30 p.m.

**MUSCO CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

All federal, state, and local regulations and safety precautions regarding COVID-19 were considered in the creation of this production.

# PROGRAM

## SLATE

Choreographer: Matthew Schroeder  
*sonder n. the realization that each person is living a life as vivid and complex as your own*

Music: *Columns*—Michael Wall  
*Sonder*—Takazo Hall original composition featuring v.o. by Amy Sara Lim  
*Nocturne no. 20 in C Sharp Minor DG*—Frederic Chopin, performed by Ken Iisaka

Dancers: Chloe Andersson Taylor Fine  
Mary Campbell Elle Holland  
Donny Collinson Sara Iisaka  
Kate Constantini Dani Mullan  
Josh Escover Savannah Sauer

## CAPITAL "R" RELIGION

Choreographer: Anna Clay, in collaboration with the dancers  
*The richness, beauty and depths of love can only be fully experienced in a climate of complete openness, honesty and vulnerability.*  
—Anthony Venn Brown

Music: *Waiting* by Brianna Tam

Dancers: Zachary Buri Jesse Kohn  
Anne Elise Garrison Max Prosser  
Julia Gaspari Olivia Schroeder  
Madison Heniff Matthew Schroeder  
Alyssa Johnson

# PROGRAM

## THIS IS (OUR) PIECE AND YOU CAN GO AND MAKE YOUR OWN.

Choreographer: Sara Iisaka, in collaboration with the dancers  
*Solitude isn't loneliness. Solitude is when the entire serene universe seems to surround and hold you quietly.*

—Victoria Erickson

Music: *3 Unlikely Corporate Sponsorships:  
No. 3, Halliburton, Marc Applebaum  
Nocturne No. 19 in E-Minor, Chopin,  
performed by Ken Iisaka*

Dancers: Jack Bianchi                      Camryn Mandelbaum  
Taylor Bolger                          Ione Ogawa  
Lauren Bramlett                      Spencer Seebach  
Donny Collinson                      Jacob Wiederrich  
Macy Deppe

## LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING

Choreographer: Meghan Caito, in collaboration with the dancers

Music: *Dawn Chorus* by Thom Yorke  
*Roses on a Breeze* by Bear's Den

Dancers: Lauren Anderson              Tayler McGuire  
Isabelle Boyer                          Lauren Wong  
Madison Heniff                         Karen Yamasaki



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# PROGRAM

## COLLECTING MOMENTS

Choreographer: Max Prosser, in collaboration with the dancers  
*To my family, friends, lover, and myself— thank you for everything. This moment is for you.*

Music: Stereoscope—Marty O'Reilly and the Old Soul Orchestra

*Easy to Love*—The Jezabels

*The Good Side*—Troye Sivan; written by Alexandra Hughes, Bram Inscore, Jack Latham, Brett McLaughlin, Troye Sivan Mellet, Ariel Rechtshaid; published by (21.87%) Bob Ochoa's Homemade Salsa, EMI, April Music, Inc. (ASCAP) (78.13%) Kobalt Songs Music Publishing, Songs of Kobalt Music Publishing

*Gold*—James Vincent McMorrow; written by James McMorrow; published by (100%) EMI Music Publishing (PRS)

Dancers:	Taylor Fine	Nate Milledge
	Kaia Goddard	Bri Noe
	Kevin Ivins	Morgyn Pottorf
	Alyssa Johnson	Spencer Seebach
	Rosemarie Marabella	

## INTERMISSION

# PROGRAM

## OTHERWORLDLY

Choreographer: Dani Mullan  
Music: *Synthetica* by Robert Gaar  
Projection Artists: Artem Beliakin, Philip Kapadla, Davis Vidal,  
Luis Quintero, and Cottonbro  
Dancers: Lauren Blunt                      Cole Neville  
                  Meghan Caito                     Max Prosser  
                  Anne Elise Garrison                Bethany Violet  
                  Rosemarie Marabella                Karen Yamasaki  
                  Valentina Marcano

## ODE: A SIREN SONG

Choreographer: Anne Elise Garrison  
Music: *Siren Song* by Jacqueline Botz  
*Iceland*, The Infinity Orchestra (PRS)  
*The Deep*, Ian Anderson  
Dancers: Lauren Bramlett                Makaila Teagle  
                  Emerson Donohoe                     Ashton Titus  
                  Jen Ledbury                                Jacob Wiederrich  
                  Nate Milledge



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# PROGRAM

## WANDERING...

Choreographer:

Bethany Violet

Music:

*Deep Impulse (Underscore)*—Matthias Ullrich &  
Raffael Gruber

*Beneath Still Waters* (Piano and Strings Version)  
—Jay Price

*Dizzy Spells*—Pascal Lengagne

*Tense City*—Claude Samard

*Tension Builds*—Ty Unwin

*Dispossessed Soul*—Ty Unwin

Dancers:

Chloe Andersson

Dani Mullan

Coco Backshall

Cole Neville

Taylor Bolger

Ione Ogawa

Emerson Donohoe

Savannah Sauer

Ally Hwu

# PROGRAM

## STAGES

Choreographer: Josh Escover  
*For the sake of nostalgia, living presently, and embracing what is to come.*

Music: *Zhao Hua* by HVAD  
*Helix (edit)* by Kelly Moran  
*Evensong* by Sarah Davachi  
*Starwood Choker* by Bing & Ruth  
*Grafts* by Kara-Lis Coverdale  
*Stage* by Raine Tenerelli

Dancers: Lauren Blunt                      Brianna Gonzalez  
                 Isabelle Boyer                      Olivia Liberati  
                 Kelsey Cockerham                      Camryn Mandelbaum  
                 Grace Eberflus                      Morgyn Pottorf  
                 Julia Gaspari

# PROGRAM

## MAFIOSI

Choreographer: Olivia Rose Liberati

*If you're not at the table, you're on the menu.*

—Michael Enzi

Music: *Kastilla, the Tractor's Revenge*

*Tarantella*

*Neopolitan Mandolin*

*Florentine Whistle-Backing*

Universal Production Music

Dancers:

Jack Bianchi

Ande Godwin

Amy Magsam

Tayler McGuire

Daisy McMillen

Harris Weiskopf

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

Co-Directors.....**Jennifer Backhaus**  
**Liz Curtis**

Costume Designer.....**Kim DeShazo**

Lighting Designer.....**Camille Roberts**

Photographer.....**Alissa Roseborough**

# **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Stage Manager.....**Shea Litle**

Assistant Stage Managers.....**Serena Mello**  
**Marci Mills**

Light Board Operator.....**Taylor Funk**

Sound Board Operator.....**Caroline Carton**

Deck Crew.....**Sarah Hurley**  
**Da'Keem Johnson-Shinault**

Costume Crew.....**Joey Armijo**  
**Riley Canterbury**  
**Sommer Edgeron**  
**Charlotte Foldes**  
**Kamryn Funk**  
**Chloe Libert**  
**Raina Manzanares**  
**Aaron Sun**  
**Blythe Thompson**  
**Elle Tosh**  
**Vivian Unkart**

Ushers.....**Grace Beach**  
**Kacie Collins**

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**JENNIFER BACKHAUS** (Co-Director) is the founder and artistic director of Backhausdance, Orange County's award-winning contemporary dance company. Jennifer was included in OC Metro's "40 Under 40" in 2009 and was honored by Chapman University, where she is a faculty member of the dance department, as Alumni of the Year for her success with Backhausdance. As a choreographer, Jennifer's works have been commissioned and produced by the Los Angeles Ballet, Orange County Regional Ballet, McCallum Theatre, Orange County Performing Arts Center, Utah Regional Ballet, Chapman University, Mount San Antonio College, Santa Ana College, Impact Dance Theater, TDC of the Bay Area, and Brigham Young University, among others.

Many of Jennifer's works have been honored by Regional Dance America, and her piece *Disintegration* was selected for national performances with the American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. For Backhausdance she has created 12 pieces, three of which (*Sitting on January*, *Love and Other Impossibilities* and *Shift*) have received multiple Lester Horton Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography. At the McCallum Theatre's Dance Under the Stars Choreography Festival, Jennifer has been the recipient of three consecutive choreography awards for her work with Backhausdance.

**LIZ CURTIS** (Co-Director) is a dance educator, performer and multimedia choreographer who received her MFA and B.A. in Dance from California State University, Long Beach. She is an adjunct faculty member at Chapman University and CSULB, teaching modern, ballet, improvisation,



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## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

composition, dance history, dance filmmaking and Pilates. She is also faculty advisor to the Chapman Dance Film Club. In addition, she has taught at summer intensives for Backhausdance and various studios. Her experience spans both the concert and commercial dance worlds having performed in works by Doug Varone, Gloria Newman, Gerald Casel, John Pennington, Susan McLain, Cyrus Parker-Jeannette and Rebecca Bryant, and also in film, television, music videos, international tours, and Las Vegas and cruise ship shows. Her choreography has been produced for stage, television, screendance, site-specific works, national dance festivals and conferences. Liz is a BASI-certified Pilates Instructor with Dance Specialization and a graduate of The Sanford Meisner Center's Acting Certificate Program.

**KIM DESHAZO** (Costume Designer) is a costume instructor for the Theatre and Dance Departments at El Camino College as well as resident costume designer for International City Theatre. Other theatres that have showcased her skills include Pasadena Dance Theatre, L.A. Opera, Long Beach Opera, Shakespeare Festival/LA, the Gary Marshall Theatre, the Odyssey Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, PCPA and Ebony Rep. College collaborations include designing for the Department of Theatre at Chapman University (*Avenue Q*), as well as Cal State Dominguez Hills, College of the Canyons, LB City College, and Mt. San Antonio College. Her work has been seen at industrial shows for Nike, Adidas, Skechers, Cherokee and Diesel clothing. Commercials include AFLAC, Target, McDonald's, and Mattel. Television credits range from *The Real*, *The Price is Right*, and an *Ozzy Osbourne's Variety* show, to work for the Academy Awards, Nickelodeon and the Disney Channel.

## ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

**CAMILLE ROBERTS** (Lighting Designer) is an L.A.-based designer and recent alumnus of Chapman University. Nominated for OCTG and Broadway World awards for lighting design, she has had the privilege to design for a multitude of productions, most recently with iLuminate, a dance-specified technical design company, on projects including “iLuminate at the STRAT Casino and Hotel” in Las Vegas, and “Share Your Light,” an educational collaboration with the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi. She has also designed for many shows in the greater L.A. area, including Palm Desert Dance Festival at the McCallum Theatre, “The Nether” with The Wayward Artist, and “SheLA Summer Theatre Festival” at the Zephyr Theatre ([camilleroberthdesign.com](http://camilleroberthdesign.com)). Additionally, she has worked as a lighting technician on many shows, including EDC Las Vegas, Countdown 2021, HARD Summer, and others with Insomniac Events.



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## ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

**ANNA CLAY:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, Minor in Entrepreneurship. Anna is originally from Denver, CO. While at Chapman she has enjoyed expanding her creative and artistic voice through amazing performance and choreographic opportunities. She has also found a deep love for modern dance while studying at Chapman, pushing her to pursue a concert dance career in New York City this fall. Later on, Anna wishes to obtain her master's in dance movement therapy. Her lifelong dream is to partake in meaningful work that facilitates healing within communities.

**MEGHAN CAITO:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, minor in creative and cultural industries. Meghan is from Coto de Caza, CA. While at Chapman, she has had the wonderful opportunity to explore her artistic vision in both choreography and performance that has expanded her movement vocabulary in many different forms. She has also fallen in love with the production side of the creative industry, in many different forms of media, and hopes to pursue this passion alongside performing. After graduation, Meghan will be staying in Southern California to pursue a performance career, with the hope of travelling all over the world for new experiences and to expand her dance knowledge.

**JOSH ESCOVER:** senior, BFA Dance Performance, minor in business administration. Josh is originally from Gilroy, CA. Since being at Chapman, he has been able to push the boundaries as a dancer and performer, and develop an affinity for choreography. He will hold his Chapman experience and the people who shared it close to his heart as he enters the professional world. Post-graduation, Josh plans to move to New York City to pursue a career in performance and choreography. He is excited for the world that awaits.

## ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

**ANNE ELISE GARRISON:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, Minor in Nutrition. Anne Elise is from North Augusta, SC. While at Chapman, she has enjoyed diving into the rich history of modern and jazz dance and in turn has found a love for contemporary dance in Israel. She has collaborated with visual artists, musicians, and dancers on and off campus to create multi-media art that continues to push the limits of reality and the sensory world. After graduation, Anne Elise is excited to continue to work within nutrition and wellness for dancers while she works towards her goal of dancing in Israel.

**SARA IISAKA:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, B.A. in Psychology. Sara is from the San Francisco Bay Area, CA. While at Chapman, she has enjoyed exploring her creative lens and finding confidence in her artistic perspective. Sara also hopes to combine her love and passion for dance with her knowledge of human psychology to better support individuals' mental and physical well-being. After graduating, Sara is excited to be moving to New York City to join Gibney PRO in the fall to pursue a career in concert dance.

**OLIVIA ROSE LIBERATI:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, Minor in Disability Studies and Entrepreneurship. Olivia is originally from Detroit, MI. During her time at Chapman, Olivia was nurtured by the most incredible faculty who opened her eyes to the different facets of the dance community and the endless opportunities it has to offer. She has made lifelong connections that she will treasure forever, and is eternally grateful for the performance, choreographic, and leadership



## ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

opportunities this department has given her. After graduation, Olivia is excited to move to the Los Angeles area to pursue a career in commercial dance and continue to research the world of dance integration to make the industry a more inclusive space.

**DANI MULLAN:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance and BA Integrated Educational Studies. Dani grew up in Huntington Beach, CA, and Canton, GA. While at Chapman, her passion has grown in dance performance, choreography, multimedia dance, dance film, and mental health advocacy. After graduation, Dani will be pursuing a career dancing, choreographing, and teaching. In the future, she hopes to pursue a contemporary dance career in Los Angeles while remaining open to any creative endeavors that come her way. She aims to continue strengthening her artistic voice while leading with empathy and curiosity.

**MAX PROSSER:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance. Max is from Santa Rosa, CA. While at Chapman, he has enjoyed making connections with the talented dance artists of the Chapman community. Max has most enjoyed the opportunity to strengthen his choreographic voice and produce work during his time at Chapman. After graduation, Max plans to pursue a professional dance career in performing, choreographing, teaching, and any other experiences that may come his way.

**MATTHEW SCHROEDER:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, minor in leadership studies. Matthew is originally from Chicago, IL. While at Chapman, he has enjoyed expanding his artistry and creative voice through choreographing and performing. Additionally, he has enjoyed

## ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

exploring other areas of dance and different creative avenues that have impacted his work. After graduation, Matthew will be staying in Southern California to dance, choreograph, teach, and work in the dance industry as well as apprenticing with Backhausdance. In the future, he hopes to continuing his training and career in a contemporary ballet company.

**BETHANY VIOLETT:** senior, BFA in Dance Performance, Minor in Leadership Studies. Bethany is from Parker, CO. While at Chapman, she has enjoyed developing her artistic voice through choreography and performance. She also has gained a deeper understanding of who she is and what she uniquely brings to this world. After graduation, Bethany plans on moving to Los Angeles where she will pursue a career in both performance and choreography.

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## [SUPPORT CoPA](#)

One of the best ways to help support CoPA students is to give to the Fund for Excellence. This invaluable program gives students access to a variety of high-caliber resources so they can create and perform their best work.

Every dollar donated to the Fund has an immediate impact on the performing arts student-experience. Donations are used exclusively to help CoPA students through enhancement of student productions, recruiting professional artists for master classes, and supporting touring student ensembles, to name a few. For example, last year the Fund allowed us to bring Complexions Contemporary Ballet to campus for a week-long intensive with our dance students, giving them a valuable opportunity to train with working professionals from an award-winning, internationally renowned company.

If you're already a CoPA supporter, THANK YOU! And if you haven't yet joined hands with others in supporting the performing arts at Chapman University, please, *consider making a gift today. Any amount helps!* Simply click on the support button above or contact Bobby Reade: [reade@chapman.edu](mailto:reade@chapman.edu)

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# NEW SANDI SIMON CENTER FOR DANCE

## OPENING FALL 2022

**Exciting things are happening in Chapman's Department of Dance!**

Consistently ranked among the "Best College Dance Programs" in California and the nation by [danceus.org](http://danceus.org), Chapman's dance program's national reputation is the result of our joining theory and practice to produce practice-ready dancers who are able to perform in a variety of styles and genres and who graduate with considerable experience as both choreographers and dancers.



Our ongoing upward trajectory made even more apparent the crucial need for a new dance center: the Sandi Simon Center for Dance will be further proof of Chapman's commitment to providing the finest facilities in which to hone the skills and talents graduates need to be immediately productive in their chosen careers.

What's more, it will both accommodate the department's growing student population and it will provide a space that can match the quality of work being produced by both our students and faculty.

**[Visit this link](#)** to learn more about our remarkable new facility and how you can help support the future of dance at Chapman!

**[CHAPMAN.EDU/DANCE](http://CHAPMAN.EDU/DANCE)**