



PHOTO: SASHA ONYSHCHENKO | DANCER: STEFANO RUSIELLO

WORLD PREMIERE OF *REQUIEM* FROM MARCH 23 TO 26, 2023

Montreal, February 28, 2023 - Les Grands Ballets is happy to present the double bill *REQUIEM* from March 23 to 26, 2023 at Place des Arts with a choir, soloists and Les Grands Ballets Orchestra directed by Adam Johnson.

Commissioned by Ivan Cavallari, artistic director of Les Grands Ballets, Andrew Skeels' creation *Requiem* on Brahms' music will be unveiled as a world premiere before being presented at The Université de Sherbrooke's Centre culturel on March 28, 2023. Between the playfulness of Mozart and the intensity of Brahms, this mesmerizing double bill brings the audience into a true emotional vibrato.

A monumental work, Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem* is one of the most deeply personal and powerful compositions ever written. With *Requiem*, choreographer Andrew Skeels offers spellbinding staging with contemporary choreography inspired by the stirring notes of Brahms's composition. The creation of this piece had started before the pandemic and its presentation to the public had been postponed. It is therefore a great pleasure for the choreographer and the dancers to unveil the world premiere of *Requiem* in Montreal.

A German Requiem is an elegy created following the loss of his mentor, composer Robert Schumann, and of his mother. Inspired by the solemn beauty of the piece, choreographer Andrew Skeels presents a poignant work that explores the profundity of human connections. In this strong, meditative creation, he evokes the memory of those who leave but who stay with us nonetheless.



« The audience is the final element that gives life to a dance.»

Andrew Skeels, choreographer

Presented in the first part of the show, *Jeunehomme* is a piece for 21 dancers by Uwe Scholz (1958-2004) that pays homage to the beauty as well as the melancholy of the great composer's works. Along with *Symphony No 7*, this piece is the second one by the belated German choreographer – who trained at John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart – to be added to Les Grands Ballets' repertory.

The pas de deux from *Jeunehomme* had fascinated the audience as a part of the mixed bill *CARMEN*, back in October 2022. The complete piece, which shows great musical subtlety, will enthral spectators through its three movements. The discipline of the six couples in perfect harmony and the three soloists' beautiful technique complete the graceful and emotional pas de deux.

The *Piano Concerto No. 9 in E ♭ major, K. 271*, known as the *Jeunehomme* concerto, is said to have been composed for Victoire Jenamy (incorrectly understood by Mozart as "Jeunehomme"), daughter of dancer and ballet master Jean-Georges Noverre. Composed in 1777 when Mozart was 21, the concerto met critical acclaim and is now considered as his first undisputed masterpiece in any genre. It is not only the earliest of Mozart's piano concertos to remain in the popular repertory, but one of the finest by any standard.

REQUIEM

Double bill

FROM MARCH 23 TO 26, 2023

Salle Wilfrid Pelletier, Place des Arts - Montreal

With Les Grands Ballets Orchestra directed by Adam Johnson, choir and soloists

Jeunehomme

Choreography: Uwe Scholz | Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - *Piano Concerto No. 9 in E ♭ major, K. 271*, known as the *Jeunehomme* concerto | Piano solo: Rosalie Asselin | Costumes: Uwe Scholz |

Run time: 34 minutes

Soloist dancers: Raphaël Bouchard, Célestin Boutin, Rachele Buriassi, Roddy Doble, Alexandra Eccles, Kiara Felder, Anna Ishii, Mai Kono, José Morales, Anya Nesvitaylo, Esnel Ramos, Maude Sabourin, Yui Sugawara

Requiem

Choreography: Andrew Skeels | Music: Johannes Brahms | Solo Soprano: Jacqueline Woodley | Solo Baritone: Dominique Côté | Sets and costumes: Marija Djordjevic | Run time: 60 minutes

Soloist dancers: Jean-Sébastien Couture, Étienne Delorme, Vanesa G. R. Montoya, Mai Kono, Tetyana Martyanova, Stephen Satterfield, Yui Sugawara, Rose Trahan

MARCH 28, 2023 (Requiem only)

Centre culturel de l'Université de Sherbrooke - Salle Maurice-O'Bready

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Les Grands Ballets are supported by **Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada Council for the Arts**, and **Conseil des arts de Montréal**.

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About Les Grands Ballets

A creation and production company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens is devoted to the development of dance in all its forms, building on the discipline of classical ballet.

Under the artistic direction of Ivan Cavallari, some fifty Canadian and international dancers - accompanied by Les Grands Ballets Orchestra - bring the great classics of ballet to the stage, as well as the creations and repertoire of established and emerging contemporary artists.

Located in the heart of Montréal's Quartier des spectacles, Les Grands Ballets is wholly committed to give to as many people as possible access to dance, whether through the Nutcracker Fund for Children, leisure activities in Studios GB or with the National Centre for Dance Therapy (NCDT), which is devoted to greater wellbeing through the benefits of dance.

Through the excellence of its productions and the scope of its cultural and social actions, the company seeks to inspire discovery and conjure emotions, stimulate the imagination, convey a passion for dance and create a lasting impact.

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