

Press release – For immediate distribution

Parlami d'Amore: The Power of Life and Love to Bring People Together

Montreal, March 6th, 2018. “We have heard you.” That’s the message that Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal Artistic Director **Ivan Cavallari** wanted to send out to everyone who reacted to the announcement of the 2018-2019 season program.

Following the unveiling of the 2018-2019 lineup last February 26, some people wondered about the content of the show *Femmes*. The season is intended as an “ode to women,” with great female figures from the worlds of ballet, song and literature as its central theme. A case in point: British choreographer **Cathy Marston** will open the season with an adaptation of *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*.

The questions raised primarily concerned the work *Femmes*, a three-part choreography by three men.

Ivan Cavallari, who has invited three women choreographers and a female conductor to come and make their voices heard at Les Grand Ballets over the next six months, says he was initially surprised by the reaction.

“With this program, I wanted to open a dialogue. It’s an artistic choice: the company’s seasons play off one another, and building on that momentum we have approached three female choreographers for an upcoming season. The subject could vary depending on the discussions I have with these artists in the near future. That said, my intention is for the works presented by Les Grands Ballets to resonate in tune with one another. With *Femmes*, I didn’t want to talk about women as objects, but from a broader perspective: in relation to life, to love and to the Earth. I wanted to talk about the changes in contemporary society, whatever they might be. In keeping with that spirit of openness, and in light of the questions raised by the title, we have decided to put forward a new name which we hope will be considered more appropriate.”

Accordingly, the performance will be renamed ***Parlami d'Amore***.

“In its essence, that’s what this performance is truly about. Life and love. Love in all its forms in today’s society. Love in its broadest sense, as a driving force of life. I didn’t intend to offend anyone and I hope to make that clear with this change. We have listened, we have heard you, and we are reaffirming our openness to dialogue by continuing to give women their rightful place in the spotlight.”

The Grands Ballets’ 2017-2018 season features two works by women, *The Firebird* by **Bridget Breiner**, which will share the stage with *The Rite of Spring* by **Étienne Béchar**d starting next week, and *Vendetta: Storie di Mafia* by **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**, which will be presented in May.

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Information:

Natalie Dion, Public Relations and Media Manager
514 849-8681, ext. 239
ndion@grandsballets.com