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**Columbia City Ballet to Culminate Black History Month with Ballet Celebrating SC Artist,
Jonathan Green**

*SC's largest professional performing arts organization combines visual and performing arts in *Off the Wall and
Onto the Stage: Dancing the Art of Jonathan Green**

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Columbia City Ballet is culminating the celebration of Black History Month with its production of *Off the Wall and Onto the Stage: Dancing the Art of Jonathan Green* coming to the Koger Center in early March. Initially created in 2005, the production is a synthesis of South Carolina's highest profile visual artist and South Carolina's largest professional performing arts organization.

"There is no better way to resurface from the heaviness of a pandemic than to safely experience the exhilaration of the convergence of visual, dance, and musical art forms on stage," internationally acclaimed artist Jonathan Green said. "The production is in splendid honor to the people who endured and persevered through the dark times of slavery in America, while simultaneously making unbelievable contributions to the building and sustainability of this country."

Columbia City Ballet Artistic and Executive Director, William Starrett received the SC Governor's Award for the Arts in 2002. Having met Jonathan Green at this time, Starrett was inspired to interpret Green's visual art through ballet. The great themes of Green's work: joy, diversity, faith, humanity, and racial harmony resonated with Starrett.

Off the Wall is one of Columbia City Ballet's most cherished productions in its repertoire. "Having been trusted to bring these complex pieces of art to the stage is a commitment we did not take lightly," says Starrett. "The careful thought that has been put towards each and every detail is sure to bring to Green's pieces to life in exhilarating color and boundless impact."

Columbia City Ballet will perform *Off the Wall* on March 5th at 7:30pm with a 3:00pm matinee on March 6th. The *Off the Wall* production features music from the Benedict College Choir under the direction of Elliot Brown. Tickets range from \$25-\$52 and are available online at www.kogercenterforthearts.com or by calling the box office at 803-251-2222. Tickets are only sold in pairs to adhere Covid-19 social distancing protocols and face coverings must be worn at all times.

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Columbia City Ballet's mission is to offer South Carolina and Southeastern audiences the highest quality ballet. We in South Carolina can proudly claim one of the strongest and most versatile ballet companies in the Southeast. Since the Columbia City Ballet's founding in 1961, it has fully integrated the world of dance within the community as the largest performing arts organization in the state.