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Columbia City Ballet Concludes Pandemic Season with *Beatles the Ballet*

In Historic Anniversary, Columbia City Ballet Safely Celebrates 60th Birthday with 60's Hits

Columbia, S.C. – Columbia City Ballet will conclude its 60th Anniversary season with *Beatles the Ballet* at the Koger Center on April 17th. The 2020/2021 season has looked different than in years past due to stringent public health initiatives implemented to encourage both safe practices as well as enthusiastic audience support. Because of these measures, ballet patrons were able to safely enjoy 22 Columbia City Ballet performances this season in record fashion.

“It took a lot of planning in order to get this season off the ground,” Artistic and Executive Director William Starrett said. “Because we were able to work in lock step with venues, government officials, and public health experts, we were able to successfully celebrate our 60th birthday in style.”

Beatles The Ballet, originally conceived by Starrett in 2018, blends classic music with modern dance and multi-media art forms. In many ways, it is among Columbia City Ballet’s most ambitious projects as it incorporates talent, artistic styles, and inspiration from all over the world. This year’s production features original pieces choreographed by 12 choreographers and is accompanied by Mark Rapp and his Big Little Band. *Beatles The Ballet*, the last production of their ballet season, will be the first time Columbia City Ballet performed with live music since the pandemic began.

“When *Beatles The Ballet* premiered in 2018, it was instantly a hit with audiences,” Starrett said. “I had always wanted to celebrate our 60th Anniversary Season with a ballet that means so much to me. After everything we faced, it just makes sense that we would end our 60th season with *Beatles*.”

Columbia City Ballet will perform *Beatles the Ballet* on April 17th, 2021 at 3 pm and 6:30 pm at the Koger Center for the Arts. 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.