



ROYAL
BALLET



MARCH 2018

PRESS RELEASE

**ROYAL BALLET ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHERS
CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN:**

WAYNE MCGREGOR – *Yugen* / set design by Emund de Waal

CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON – *Corybantic Games* / costumes by Erdem

LIAM SCARLETT – first revival of *The Age of Anxiety*

Thursday 15 March – Monday 9 April. Tickets £4 - £70

Live Cinema Screening Tuesday 27 March.

Leonard Bernstein is regarded as one of America's first classical composers, achieving both popular and critical acclaim across musical genres. To celebrate the centenary of his birth and as part of the global 'Leonard Bernstein at 100' celebrations, The Royal Ballet presents a mixed programme featuring all three Company choreographers, **Wayne McGregor**, **Christopher Wheeldon** and **Liam Scarlett**, united in a programme of world premieres and recent work.

Renowned for his creative collaborations, Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor's new ballet, *Yugen*, features designs by artist-ceramist **Edmund de Waal**, lighting by long-term collaborator **Lucy Carter** and costumes by fashion designer **Shirin Guild**. Set to Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, the ballet is a company-wide piece featuring Principals, Soloists and Artists of The Company. *Yugen* is a co-production with Dutch National Ballet.

Regarded as a choral masterpiece, *Chichester Psalms* was commissioned in 1965 for the Southern Cathedral Festival at Chichester Cathedral. The piece blends

Biblical Hebrew verse and Christian choral tradition, a musical depiction of the composer's hopes for brotherhood and peace.

The mixed programme also includes *Corybantic Games*, a new ballet by **Christopher Wheeldon** with costumes by fashion designer **Erdem Moralioglu**, set design by **Jean-Marc Puissant** and lighting design by **Peter Mumford**. Set to Bernstein's *Serenade, after Plato: Symposium*, this violin concerto was written in 1954 and draws inspiration from Plato's Symposium, a dialogue between a group of notable men in praise of love.

The programme includes the first revival of **Liam Scarlett's** *The Age of Anxiety* which premiered in 2014. **John Macfarlane's** lavish set designs and **Jennifer Tipton's** lighting recreate an evocative Manhattan of the 1940s, where four strangers meet in a bar beginning an evening of unexpected events. The ballet is set to Bernstein's Symphony no.2, *The Age of Anxiety*, inspired by W.H. Auden's epic poem of the same name, written in response to the disillusionment that followed the Second World War.

NOTES TO EDITORS

15, 17, 23, 27 March and 3, 6, 9 April at 7.30pm

27 March - Live Cinema Relay as part of ROH Live Cinema Season

#ROHbernstein

Box Office

+44 (0)20 7304 4000

Tickets £4 - £70 | roh.org.uk

Generous philanthropic support from Sarah and Lloyd Dorfman, The Taylor Family Foundation, The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund and the Bernstein Production Syndicate.

Yugen – Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor is generously supported by Linda and Philip Harley. Generous philanthropic support from Janine

Rensch and Nedim Vogt and The ROH Young Philanthropists. Co-production with Dutch National Ballet.

Age of Anxiety – Generous philanthropic support from Simon and Virginia Robertson.

Corybantic Games: Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon is generously supported by Kenneth and Susan Green. Generous philanthropic support from Mr and Mrs Edward Atkin CBE and Sue Butcher.

Leonard Bernstein at 100

Leonard Bernstein at 100 is the world-wide celebration of the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein, the composer, conductor, educator, musician, cultural ambassador, and humanitarian, officially beginning on August 25, 2017, Bernstein's 99th birthday, and continuing through August 25, 2019.

leonardbernstein.com/at100

Leonard Bernstein

American composer, conductor and pianist Leonard Bernstein (1918–90) was one of the most famous and successful figures in US classical music. He had a brilliant understanding of writing for dance, and with Jerome Robbins created several of the 20th century's greatest music theatre works, including *West Side Story*.

Bernstein was born in Massachusetts to Russian immigrant parents. At Harvard he met the composer Aaron Copland, who would become a lifelong friend and influence. He met Serge Koussevitzky in 1940 at Tanglewood and became his assistant in 1942, later taking over at Tanglewood in 1951. In 1944 the combined acclaim of his First Symphony, the ballet *Fancy Free* and the musical *On the Town* secured his international fame. Over the next decade he continued a diverse conducting and composing career, conducting regularly with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and becoming the first American to conduct at La Scala, Milan. His compositions from this period include the

theatre works *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Candide* and *West Side Story* and the film score *On the Waterfront*. In 1954 he made his first television appearance and went on to become a pioneering figure in the use of television for education. In 1958 he was appointed music director of New York Philharmonic Orchestra, retiring in 1969 to become conductor laureate of the orchestra. Though his compositions became more sporadic towards the end of his life (significant late works including *Mass*), he continued to conduct until his death, establishing a particularly strong relationship with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Through his innovative pedagogy, championing of concert repertory including Mahler, and his own compositions, Bernstein played a key role in making classical music a central part of 20th-century American cultural life.

YUGEN

Choreography	Wayne McGregor
Music	Leonard Bernstein
Set designer	Edmund de Waal
Costume designer	Shirin Guild
Lighting designer	Lucy Carter
Conductor	Koen Kessels/Tom Seligman

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Members of the Royal Opera House Chorus and Extra Chorus

A co-production between The Royal Ballet and Dutch National Ballet

THE AGE OF ANXIETY

Choreography	Liam Scarlett
Music	Leonard Bernstein
Designer	John Macfarlane
Lighting	Jennifer Tipton
Conductor	Barry Wordsworth

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

CORYBANTIC GAMES

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Music	Leonard Bernstein
Set designer	Jean-Marc Puissant
Costume designer	Erdem Moralioglu
Lighting designer	Peter Mumford
Conductor	Koen Kessels/Tom Seligman
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House	

PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS

Ashley Woodfield

Head of Ballet Press

Tel: +44(0)20 7212 9165

Mobile: +44(0)7984 513676

Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk

Sarah Farrell

Ballet Press and Communications Officer

Tel: +44(0)20 7212 9241

Sarah.Farrell@roh.org.uk

Katharine Morgan

Ballet Press Administrator

Tel: +44(0)20 7212 9725

Katharine.Morgan@roh.org.uk