

PROGRAM NOTES

The Richard B. Fisher Center for  
the Performing Arts at Bard College

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**Director** Tandra Dillon

*Presents*

two dance premieres to  
celebrate the 15th anniversary of the

# Donna Uchizono Company

SOSNOFF THEATER

**Thursday, June 29, 8 pm**

**Friday, June 30, 8 pm**

**Saturday, July 1, 8 pm**

*Special support for this program is provided by  
The Altria Group, Inc.; The Millbrook Tribute Gardens;  
and The Harkness Foundation for Dance.*

# BARD SUMMERSCAPE 2006

## **Donna Uchizono Company**

### **Artistic Director**

Donna Uchizono

### **Dancers**

Levi Gonzalez, Hristoula Harakas,  
Kayvon Pourazar, and Rebecca Serrell

### **Guest Artists**

Mikhail Baryshnikov and Jodi Melnick

### **Costume Designers**

Wendy Winters and Naomi

### **Lighting Designer**

Robert Wierzel

### **Company Manager**

Kim Doelger

## The Program

### *Moving Liszt* Premiere

Music by Franz Liszt

### Director

Donna Uchizono

### Choreography

Donna Uchizono with Levi Gonzalez, Hristoula Harakas, Kayvon Pourazar, and Rebecca Serrell

### Performers

Levi Gonzalez, Hristoula Harakas, Kayvon Pourazar, and Rebecca Serrell

### Pianist

Markus Groh

### Composer

Franz Liszt (1811–86)

From *Années de pèlerinage, première année, Suisse* (1836–54) and  
*Années de pèlerinage, deuxième année, Italie* (1838–49)

*Il penseroso* (II)

*Le mal du pays* (I)

*Eglogue* (*Hirtengesang*) (I)

*Sonetto 104 del Petrarca* (II)

*Chapelle de Guillaume Tell* (I)

*Au lac de Wallenstadt* (I)

*Sposalizio* (II)

### Lighting Designer

Robert Wierzel

### Costume Designer

Naomi

*Moving Liszt* was commissioned by The Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts.

Additional support for Donna Uchizono Company is provided by the generous contributions of David Hammons, David Kooy, A. C. Hudgins, Jim Hudgins, Lois Plehn, and Micki Wesson.

Additional rehearsal space was generously donated by Long Island University.

## Intermission

*Leap to Tall* Premiere

### Choreographer

Donna Uchizono

### Performers

Mikhail Baryshnikov, Hristoula Harakas, and Jodi Melnick

### Music

Michael Floyd and Iva Bittová

### Lighting Designer

Robert Wierzel

### Costume Designer

Wendy Winters

### Musical Engineer

Georgios Kontos

*Leap to Tall was commissioned by the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation.*

## Choreographer's note

At the time of this writing, we are in the midst of creating this work, and, as always, without a map. The journey is exhilarating, sometimes uncertain, with the piece itself acting as our guiding star.

I normally do not choreograph to preexisting music. I start with a concept, and then I develop material and commission music that is composed around that concept and dance. What a surprising opportunity provided by the Fisher Center, to choreograph a dance to Franz Liszt.

Liszt's music is the driving force, but I am interested in avoiding the familiar mode of choreography that mimics the music. I intentionally chose not to always match the drama or structure of the music, but rather to allow both mediums to come to the foreground at different times as well as simultaneously. I use rhythms in the music and find ways to play with counterpoint. Research on Liszt's life, his "rock star" status and highly public relationships with women, serve as springboards for material. As does, of course, the complexity and virtuosity of the music itself. If not directly, I'm always alluding to the music through various means—convoluted directional changes within the body, symbolic imagery, and/or narrative scraps.

My own interest in virtuosity is not revealed in obvious ways. Virtuosity may appear as intricate patterns of the feet or complex partnering work. Dancers Levi, Hristoula, Kayvon, and Becky are all specialists in techniques that are specific to contemporary dance. Their technical prowess and virtuosity lie in their knowledge of weight, partnering, release with strength, the ability to "see" with their ankles, and to make a seemingly unachievable idea possible.

This has been a unique opportunity for me, to work with the noted pianist Markus Groh and combine contemporary form with the work of a classical master. The manner in which I approach Franz Liszt may at times be unconventional, but it is always done with respect and integrity.

—Donna Uchizono

## Who's Who

### Donna Uchizono Choreographer

Hailed in *Ms.* magazine's end-of-the-century issue as "a choreographer making great leaps forward into the 21st century," Donna Uchizono, artistic director of Donna Uchizono Company, is known for work spiced with wit, rich invention, and unexpected beauty. Her company has toured throughout the United States, Europe, and South America. A Guggenheim Fellow, Uchizono has received grants and awards from many institutions, including the Rockefeller Multi-Arts Production Fund, National Dance Project, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Creative Capital Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Jerome Foundation, Arts International, National Performance Network, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, Greenwall Foundation, and Meet the Composer. In 2002 she received a New York Dance and Performance Award ("Bessie") for her piece *Low*, and she was the recipient of the 2005 Alpert Award in Dance. Uchizono's work is characterized by its numerous collaborative projects with visual artists, including David Hammons, and with composers such as Butch Morris, James Lo, and Guy Yarden. Her interest in original and live music for performance is evidenced by her former role as codirector and cocurator of *Bread to the Bone*, a live music/dance series at the Knitting Factory in New York. In 2004, Uchizono was the choreographer for *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, a play by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, at the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven. The Baryshnikov Dance Foundation recently commissioned Uchizono to create a new work.

### Mikhail Baryshnikov Guest Artist

A native of Riga, Latvia, Mikhail Baryshnikov began studying ballet at age 9; as a teenager, he entered the school of the Kirov Ballet, graduating from student to principal dancer in 1969. In 1974, he left Russia to pursue a career with ballet and modern companies around the world, settling in New York City in 1979 as a principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre, and from 1979 to 1980 with New York City Ballet. In 1980 he returned to ABT as artistic director, nurturing a new generation of dancers and choreographers. In his illustrious career, he has danced more than one hundred different works on the globe's greatest stages. Most of the world's foremost choreographers have created works especially for him. Baryshnikov has proved himself a capable actor, starring in five films and earning an Oscar nomination for his performance in *The Turning Point*. He has appeared many times on television, including three Emmy Award-winning specials. In 1989, he appeared on Broadway in *Metamorphosis*, earning a Tony nomination and a

Drama Critics Award. From 1990 to 2002, he was codirector and dancer with White Oak Dance Project, using his remarkable talents to expand the repertoire of American modern dance. Baryshnikov is currently devoting his time and energy to the Baryshnikov Arts Center, which is in its inaugural year. Among his most recent awards are the Kennedy Center Honors, National Medal of Honor, Commonwealth Award, Chubb Fellowship, and Jerome Robbins Award.

### **Iva Bittová** Composer

One of the most influential performers on the Czech music scene, Iva Bittová moves easily between folk and contemporary music in a style she describes as “my own personal folk music.” She studied music and drama at the Brno Conservatory and, as a violinist and vocalist, has since performed in solo concerts and with other artists and ensembles in the Czech Republic and throughout Europe, and in the United States. She was last seen at Bard College in the inaugural SummerScape festival in 2003, as Donna Elvira in *Don Juan in Prague* and as a solo performer in the NightScape cabaret.

### **Michael Floyd** Composer

Texas-born Michael Floyd began his career in music and sound as an apprentice to master producer and remixer Mark Saunders in New York. His remix credits include work with David Byrne, Sean Paul, Ron Blake, Femi Kuti, and the Cure. Floyd has also composed sound and music scores for choreographers and performance artists in the United States and Europe. His current work runs the gamut from roots to rock and from hip-hop to abstract electronica. Alongside dj f flood, he is one half of Transdub Massiv, a new-school dub project; he and f flood recently released their debut album, *Negril to Kingston City*.

### **Levi Gonzalez** Dancer

Originally from Los Angeles, Levi Gonzalez now lives in Brooklyn. He works with many dancers and choreographers, including Donna Uchizono, John Jasperse, Rosane Chamecki, Andrea Lerner, Greg Zuccolo, Michael Laub, Jeremy Nelson, and Dennis O'Connor. His own work and his choreographic collaborations with Luciana Achugar have been presented at various venues throughout New York City.

### **Markus Groh** Pianist

Frequently praised for his astonishing power and “sound imagination,” Markus Groh is particularly acclaimed for his interpretations of Liszt; his all-Liszt CD, including the *Totentanz* and B Minor Sonata, was released by Avie earlier this year. He has made orchestral appearances in the United States, Europe, and the Far East.

A frequent guest at international festivals such as Ruhr, Ludwigsburg, Bad Kissingen, and Schubertiade (Austria), Groh is also the founder and artistic director of the Bebersee Festival, near Berlin. He won the prestigious Queen Elisabeth International Competition in Brussels in 1995, the first German to do so. His other awards include first prize at the 1990 Artur Schnabel Competition in Berlin.

### Hristoula Harakas Dancer

Hristoula Harakas grew up in Athens, Greece, where she studied dance under Niki Kodaxaki. She moved to New York in 1996 as a recipient of scholarships from the Alexander Onassis Foundation and Merce Cunningham Dance Foundation; she is now on the faculty of the Merce Cunningham Studio. She joined Donna Uchizono Company in 2003. Harakas often works with the choreographers Maria Hassabi and Levi Gonzalez, and she performs and collaborates with Jeremy Nelson, Louis Lara, Amanda Loulaki, and Chantal Yzermans.

### Jodi Melnick Guest Artist

Jodi Melnick currently works with Trisha Brown, Sara Rudner, Vicky Shick, Susan Rethorst, and John Jasperse. Her own work was most recently seen in New York City at Dance Theater Workshop. This year she is commissioned to make new works for RexLevitates Dance Company in Dublin, Ireland, and Bates College. In 2001, she received a New York Dance and Performance Award (the “Bessie”) for Sustained Achievement. She is happy to be working with Donna Uchizono again; their first collaboration was in 1990.

### Naomi Costume Designer

Originally from California, Naomi was codesigner at Ultra-Violet, a firm that created women’s surfwear, before she moved to New York. For this Liszt piece, she was influenced by the costumes designed by Wendy Winters for *Low*, a trio choreographed by Donna Uchizono; she would like to thank Winters for the inspiration.

### Kayvon Pourazar Dancer

Kayvon Pourazar was born in Iran and grew up in Turkey and England. He has a B.F.A. in dance from SUNY Purchase. He has performed with Beth Gill, Levi Gonzalez, John Jasperse Company, Jennifer Monson, Doug Varone and Dancers, Gwen Welliver, K. J. Holmes, Metropolitan Opera, Wil Swanson/Danceworks, Gabriel Masson Dance, and Malashock Dance and Company. He has taught dance as a guest artist at Sacramento State University and the 92nd Street Y.



### Rebecca Serrell Dancer

Rebecca Serrell grew up performing with the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble in her hometown of Knoxville. She studied dance and art at Connecticut College and taught briefly at the Beijing Dance Academy. In New York, she has ongoing performing relationships with Donna Uchizono, Osmani Tellez, and Amanda Loulaki. She has been a member of Jeremy Nelson/Full Fat Dance since 2000.

### Robert Wierzel Lighting Designer

Robert Wierzel has worked with artists from diverse disciplines and backgrounds in theater, dance, new music, and opera on stages throughout the country and abroad. He has worked on operatic productions in Paris (Garnier), Tokyo, Toronto, Boston, San Diego, and New York City, among others, and on performance telecasts of *Tosca*, *Lizzie Borden*, and *Paul Bunyan* at New York City Opera and *Central Park* at Glimmerglass Opera. He has collaborated for 20 years with choreographer Bill T. Jones and the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, earning several Bessie Awards; other collaborations have included work with the composer Philip Glass (American Theatre Wing Lighting Design Award); the visual artists Paul Kaiser, Lesley Dill, Robert Longo; and choreographers Larry Goldhuber and Heidi Latsky (*Worse Case Scenario*, Bessie Award), Margo Sappington, Sean Curran, Molissa Fenely, Doug Varone; and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Trisha Brown Dance Company. In New York, he has been seen on and off Broadway in productions at the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theatre, Signature Theatre, Roundabout Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Mostly Mozart Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and Lincoln Center's Serious Fun! Festival, among many others.

### Wendy Winters Costume Designer

A graduate of the CalArts dance program and the Institute of Culinary Education (pastry design) in Manhattan, Wendy is a New York City-based costume designer and fashion stylist. She has worked with many inspiring artists, most notably Donna Uchizono, Jennifer Monson, Yasmeen Goddar, Luciana Achugar, Bill Young/Colleen Thomas, Levi Gonzalez, Jodi Melnick, and Chef Remy Funfrock, among others. Her costumes have had a life of their own, having been seen on stages in Europe, South America, Japan, Israel, and across the United States. Her styling work has ranged from working with NBA basketball stars (for Reebok) to styling Bill Murray for *Rolling Stone*. She most recently returned from an 18-city European tour with Lauryn Hill. This project marks her fifth collaboration with Uchizono, and she's honored to be designing for Mikhail Baryshnikov, her childhood idol.

## Special Thanks

Deepest appreciation to dancers Hristoula Harakas, Levi Gonzalez, Kayvon Pourazar, Becky Serrell, and Jodi Melnick, as none of this would happen without their incredible artistry, dedication, and sacrifices. Special thanks to Misha, for experimenting with me and commissioning this piece, and to Hristoula and Jodi, for stabilizing me. A big thank-you to Company Manager Kimberly Doelger, for her hard work and the many hats she has to wear. Deep appreciation for the artistry and friendship of my continued collaborative relationship with Wendy Winters, which deepens with each work, and for my new collaborator relationships with Robert Wierzel, Michael Floyd, and Markus Groh. Thank you to Georgios Kontos, for engineering the last-minute musical changes; to Christina Sterner, Huong Hoang, and Kim Mach at the Baryshnikov Arts Center; and Susana Meyer, Tammy Dillon, Bob Airhart, and Jean Schneider at the Fisher Center. A sincere thank you to David Kooy, president of the DUC Board of Directors. Heartfelt thanks to David Hammons and Lois Plehn, and to Judith Stuart, Dana Hash-Campbell, and Noel Hall at Long Island University for donating studio time.

**Donna Uchizono Company** depends on the generous donations of individuals. If you enjoyed the work, please show your support by making a tax-deductible contribution. Donna Uchizono Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. To contribute, please make your check payable to La Donna Dance, Inc., and send to the address below.

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 Tucker Taylor  
 Anthony Viscusi  
 Siri von Reis  
 Rosalind C. Whitehead  
 E. Lisk Wyckoff

+ *ex officio*

## SummerScape Staff (as of May 17, 2006)

### Administration

Tambra Dillon, *Director*  
 Nancy Cook,  
*Managing Director*  
 Susana Meyer,  
*Associate Director*  
 Debra Pemstein,  
*Director of Development*

Mark Primoff,  
*Director of Communications*  
 Stephen Millikin,  
*Development Manager*  
 Kimberly Keeley-Henschel,  
*Budget Director*  
 Jeannie Schneider,  
*Administrative Assistant*

### Production

Robert Airhart,  
*Production Manager*  
 Abigail Trarbach,  
*Associate Production Manager—*  
*Spiegel tent*  
 Paul LaBarbera,  
*Sound and Video Engineer*

Andrew Cappelli,  
*Technical Director—Sosnoff Theater*  
John Starmer,  
*Technical Director—Theater Two*  
Aaron Sporer, *Lighting Director*  
Stephen Dean,  
*Stage Operations Supervisor*  
Bonnie Anthony,  
*Production Manager Assistant*  
Evan Pritts '08,  
*Sound and Video Engineer Assistant*

### Carpenters

Larry I. Hall,  
*Scene Shop Manager*  
Michael Pizzi,  
*Head Flyman—Sosnoff Theater*  
Jamie Del Pino,  
*Master Carpenter—Sosnoff Theater*  
Kent Cyr,  
*Master Carpenter—Theater Two*  
Jeremiah Brown  
Todd Renadette  
Joseph Puglisi  
Dan Gibbons  
Christian Crum  
Joshua Foreman  
Kelly O'Donoghue  
Terrence Ring  
J. Michael Zally  
Sean Maloney '07  
Owen Conlow '06

### Props

Scott Brodsky,  
*Property Director*  
Susan Barras,  
*Property Master—Theater Two*  
Rick Berger,  
*Assistant Property Master—  
Sosnoff Theater*

### Electrics

Jeremy Wahlers,  
*Master Electrician—Sosnoff Theater*  
Justin McClintock,  
*Master Electrician—Theater Two*  
Brandon Koenig, *Assistant Master  
Electrician—Sosnoff Theater*  
Todd Giordano,  
*Assistant Master Electrician—  
Theater Two*  
Brenda Lijewski,  
*Light Board Programmer—  
Sosnoff Theater*  
Anup Aurora,  
*Light Board Programmer—  
Theater Two*  
Jodi Clemente

Kuuipo Curry  
Julia Guarino '07  
Kate Conover '06

### Sound and Video

David Cook,  
*Live Sound Engineer*  
Kelly Duncan,  
*Sound and Video Supervisor—  
Sosnoff Theater*  
Amy Altadonna,  
*Sound and Video Supervisor—  
Theater Two*  
Matt Cameron  
Ted Hudson  
Sebastian Schinkel '06  
Zach Dunham '08  
Jonathan Sargent '08

### Costumes

Maureen Schell,  
*Costume Shop Manager*  
Elizabeth Pangburn,  
*Assistant Costume Shop Manager*  
Claudia Diaz, *Draper*  
Molly Farley, *Stitcher*  
Mary Grusak,  
*Wardrobe Supervisor—Genoveva*  
Jill Sunderland,  
*Wardrobe Supervisor—Theater Two*  
Courtney Baskin  
Charles Peden  
Rob Mihalko '07

### Hair and Makeup

Melanie Steele,  
*Hair and Makeup Director*  
Maryanne Davis  
Heather Bickham  
Shirin Khosravi '06

### SpiegelMaestri

Nik Quaife,  
*SpiegelMaestro, Venue Manager*  
Maedhbh Ni Chonuladh,  
*SpiegelMistress, Assistant Manager*

### Company Management

Kate Pfeffer,  
*Company Manager*  
Daniel Bieber '07,  
*Assistant Company Manager*  
Jacob Nabel '07,  
*Assistant Company Manager*  
Markus Paminger '07,  
*Assistant Company Manager*  
Mark Perloff '07,  
*Assistant Company Manager*

Ashleigh McCord '08,  
*Assistant Company Manager*  
Bill Szigethy, *Driver*

### Front of House

Derrick Mead '03,  
*Box Office Manager*  
Austin Miller '06,  
*House Manager*  
Elena Batt,  
*Assistant Box Office Manager*  
Manon Hutton-Dewys '06,  
*Box Office Assistant*  
Grace Leavitt '07,  
*Box Office Assistant*  
Nathan Madsen '06,  
*Box Office Assistant*  
Rafi Nulman '09,  
*Box Office Assistant*  
Tom Shepherd '07,  
*Box Office Assistant*  
Alex Weinstein '07,  
*Box Office Assistant*  
Christina Reitemeyer '07,  
*Assistant House Manager*  
Sarah Elia '06,  
*Assistant House Manager*  
Joshua Tyler '06,  
*Assistant House Manager*  
Christopher Hazenbush,  
*Assistant House Manager*

### Facilities

Mark Crittenden,  
*Facilities Manager*  
Ray Stegner,  
*Assistant to the Managing Director*  
Doug Pitcher,  
*Building Operations Coordinator*  
Sean Smith '07, *Security*  
Mike Rich '07, *Security*  
Johanna Klotz '06, *Security*  
Jody Cerasano, *Housekeeping*  
Janet Arsenault, *Housekeeping*  
Stana Kvrjic, *Housekeeping*

### Piano Technician

Mark Moriarty



drink  
me

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